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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Horne Honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD)

Union County Deputy Sheriff Chris Horne was formally honored and recognized Thursday evening during the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) annual Awards of Excellence ceremony in Cary, North Carolina. MADD recognized Horne as the 2017 Deputy Sheriff of the Year for his outstanding service to the citizens of Union County as a deputy assigned to the SAFE (Sheriff's Alcohol Field Enforcement) Unit.

Deputy Sheriff Horne, other SAFE Unit deputies, and Union County Assistant District Attorney Jere'l Hough attended the ceremony. ADA Hough was also recognized by MADD as the Prosecutor of the Year for 2017.

Horne's selection for this honor was supported by nomination letters submitted by SAFE Unit Sergeant Jonathan Philemon, Assistant District Attorney Megean Moyer and Assistant District Attorney Jere'l Hough. In her nomination letter, ADA Moyer wrote, in part, "It is rare to find an officer, deputy, etc. that has the drive, passion and dedication to this line of work that Deputy Horne has. Being a good DWI investigator requires effort but being a great one requires going above and beyond taking valuable time away from their home life." Sgt. Philemon wrote, "Overall, Chris has a passion for what he does that is unparalleled by any other officer that I know of." ADA Hough commented, "I use Deputy Horne as an example when I talk to other officers about how to investigate a driving while impaired matter because he is the officer willing to take the necessary time to do what is right in each case."

Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey expressed similar sentiments about Deputy Horne and his passion for keeping Union County roads safe. He stated, "Chris puts his heart and soul into his job. His expertise goes beyond just arresting drunk drivers. He has

developed a knack for finding drug impaired drivers as well. He takes the time to thoroughly investigate every traffic stop to be sure the driver is not impaired. Not only that, he goes out of his way to educate young people and others on ways to avoid accidents. He is an asset to this agency and very deserving of this award.”

The SAFE Unit is grant funded through the NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program. The unit is funded for a period of four years and consists of four Deputy Sheriff’s and one Sergeant. In its first fiscal year of operation, the unit made 267 DWI arrests and in year two, the unit made 354 arrests. At the halfway point of the 2017-18 fiscal year, the unit has already made 219 arrests and is on pace to eclipse more than 400 DWI arrests.



Deputy Sheriff Chris Horne



UCSO SAFE Unit



D/S Horne and ADA Hough

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

