

Press Release

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## **Jury Commissioner Recognized for Outstanding Service**

Charles M. "Chuck" Gaskin, Jr. was recognized by local court officials on September 14, 2009 for outstanding and meritorious services he rendered as a jury commissioner.



Liberty County Clerk of Courts F. Barry Wilkes, presented a service award to outgoing county jury commissioner Chuck Gaskin (second from right). Assisting with the service were Tom Durden (Atlantic Judicial Circuit District Attorney) (third right) and Superior Court Judge Robert L. Russell, III (far right).

He was appointed as a member of the Liberty County Jury Commission on July 14, 1999 to fulfill a partial term of office and was subsequently reappointed to succeed himself for a term beginning on July 1, 2002 and ending on June 30, 2008. "Ultimately, he served almost nine years on the jury commission, which I believe is a record for any Liberty County jury commissioner," explained F. Barry Wilkes, clerk of the courts. Persons appointed to the commission serve a six-year term. When a commissioner serves a partial term of office, he or she can not be reappointed unless the partial term is less than three years.

During ceremonies held in conjunction with impaneling of grand jurors for the September term of superior court, the presiding judge, Robert L. Russell, III, read a resolution prepared on behalf of the judges of superior courts of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, the clerk of superior court of the Liberty County, and the citizens of Liberty County commending Gaskin for nine years of exemplary service as a jury commissioner, performing his duties altruistically, steadfastly, and in the best interests of the citizens of Liberty County and those who avail themselves to the local judicial system. Wilkes presented a plaque commending Gaskin for his accomplishments as a jury commissioner and as an individual of exceptional abilities and character.

Georgia law requires appointment of local jury commissioners for the purpose of compiling a jury pool that contains a sufficient number of the names of persons who are statutorily eligible to serve as trial or grand jurors, or both, Wilkes explained. The local jury commission consists of six members who serve staggered terms of office. By law, the clerk of superior court serves as the clerk of the jury commission. "I've been privileged to work with many dedicated individuals on the jury commission during the past 26 years but Chuck has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. He not only distinguished himself as one of the longest-serving jury commissioners in our history but also as one of the most conscientious and hard-working," Wilkes said.

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