In Rotary’s ideals of Vocational Service, our Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, First Responders, and other public safety personnel serve above self within their profession each day. They ask for a fair wage and the opportunity to serve, yet their level of service has the potential to far exceed normal expectations of “Service Above Self.” In 2021, Rotary International developed a method for Rotary Clubs to honor those community heroes who share our creed of “Service Above Self” within their professions and the club reached out to leaders in law enforcement and public safety for nominations.

In this second year of awarding the Rotary National Medal of Honor, the Rotary Club of Americus wishes to recognize four public service personnel for providing exemplary service to the citizens of the Americus and Sumter County community. We are honored to award these individuals who share a core value of the 1.2 million Rotary International members, worldwide, which is ***“Service Above Self”.***

**SUMTER COUNTY DEPUTY OF THE YEAR**

From the nomination received:

On behalf of the members of the Sumter County Sheriff’s Office, please allow me to identify this individual on being selected to receive the “The Rotary Club of Americus Deputy of the Year Award, for providing exemplary service to the citizens of Sumter County. This deputy has been with Sumter County Sheriff’s Office since July of 2011 and is a dedicated public servant who does his job well. He is not a man of many words; however, when he speaks, we listen. He comes to work early and is ready to take every call that is dispatched. Though he can’t work as much as he would like, he is faithful to his work schedule and assists at other times whenever possible. He is very punctual and timely on his job assignments and is even very courteous when writing a ticket. It is Rotary’s honor to award Rotary International’s “Service Above Self” National Medal of Honor to CORPORAL SHERMAN ANTHONY.

*Ask Sheriff Bryant (and any members of the Sheriff’s dept) to come up and assist with pinning*

**SUMTER COUNTY FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

From the nomination received:

When asked what dedication to a position and passion look like, we think of this young man. Over the years, he has attended a vast variety of classes and specialized trainings to better his knowledge for the many titles that he holds. He is always willing to go the extra mile in everything he does. His dedication to his job is shown in every detail of his daily life. He works closely with all members of the department and always make time to add training for others when asked. There is never any hesitation when the opportunity arises to help paid staff or volunteers. He is one of the department's biggest assets when it comes to hands-on skill and technical knowledge. His sterling knowledge of public safety and county codes and laws have caused him to stand out as one of our true “go-to” guys, as well as a reliable resource of knowledge. He has recently been deputized as a Local Fire Marshal and has already become a major asset for our inspections department as a result. He is also the Division Leader for our department's High Angle Rescue and Instructor, the Division Leader and Instructor for our department's Dive Team. He is an EMT and also holds several distinguished certifications such as Underwater Criminal Investigator and Dive Instructor. He is the prime example of "Service above Self'. Anytime extra work or help is needed, he is ALWAYS there. He is continuously working on his education and proudly shares new knowledge with everyone as it comes available. He takes pride in training and makes it quite obvious that he loves his job. He exemplifies professionalism on every call that he works, will not hesitate to jump in and work on any scene, and treats each medical patient as he would his own family. We are beyond lucky to have him within our department and are extremely thankful for his service to not only us but to the citizens of Sumter County. It is Rotary’s honor to award Rotary International’s “Service Above Self” National Medal of Honor to THEO BALDWIN.

*Ask Chief Jerry Harmon (and Theo’s family) to come up and assist with pinning*

**AMERICUS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

From the nomination received:

On behalf of the members of Americus Fire and Emergency Services, please allow me to identify this firefighter to receive the “Rotary Club of Americus, Firefighter of the Year Award” for providing exemplary service to the citizens of the Americus Community. This engineer was hired on July 9, 2007 with the Americus Fire Department. Since being hired, he has applied himself in gaining training and education to achieve success within our department. He has obtained his National Professional Qualification as a Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Fire officer 1, Fire officer 2, Apparatus Operator, Live Fire Instructor, Fire Safety Educator, Hazardous Materials Technician and several other National Fire Academy Certifications. He has demonstrated a great work ethic in obtaining and completing the courses needed to complete his Career Matrix. He is also a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. With this knowledge, he handles medical calls as needed on shift and interacts with every member of the public with high professionalism that is expected of each member of our department. He has 15 years of exemplary service with the department and embodies a “can do” attitude and a true spirit of service. He has successfully navigated the ranks of the department over the years, and he has consistently put the citizens, City of Americus and the fire department needs as a primary goal. He is hard working, selfless, and considerate to everyone he interacts with and embraces his role, influence, and duties with a quiet but service-driven mindset. He always has a smile on his face that is usually contagious to those around him. From responding to calls, to fire safety education, to the task at hand. His work habits and compassion serve as a good example for everyone and he is very well-respected within the department. He exemplifies a good employee as well as a good person. A family man as well, he married and has three children.

It is Rotary’s honor to award Rotary International’s “Service Above Self” National Medal of Honor to ENGINEER SCOTT MANUCY

*Ask Chief Roger Bivins (and any members of the AFD) to come up and assist with pinning*

**AMERICUS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

From the nomination received:

On behalf of the members of the Americus Police Department, please allow me to identify this individual to receive the “The Rotary Club of Americus Police Officer of the Year Award”, for providing exemplary service to the citizens of the Americus Community. This individual has served the citizens of Americus through the police department for 16 years. He began at the police department as a patrol officer and was later assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division as a Detective. In April of 2019, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Uniform Division as a Patrol Supervisor. When an opening occurred in the CID, he was selected to return as the Detective Sergeant supervising Criminal Investigations. He has been recognized by his peers as the Employee of the Month, was selected as Officer of the Year in 2018, and has received the department’s Meritorious Service award. He can best be described as hardworking, dependable, and positive. He approaches every task and assignment with a “can-do” attitude and is always the first to sign up for extra assignments. His BBQ skills are widely recognized and he frequently fires up the grill for department luncheons and for community activities. He has volunteered his time in the community for several years as a Boy Scout leader. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to you for the opportunity to recognize this officer.

It is Rotary’s honor to award Rotary International’s “Service Above Self” National Medal of Honor to SGT. CEDRIC SMITH

*Ask Chief Scott (and any members of the APD) to come up and assist with pinning*