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## Gilchrist County Sheriff Schultz begins race for reelection

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**GILCHRIST COUNTY** – Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert D. “Bobby” Schultz III has announced his intention to seek reelection in 2016.

A 24-year veteran of law enforcement, Sheriff Schultz was elected to his first term as sheriff of Gilchrist County in November of 2012.

He is a 1988 graduate of Bell High School and received both his law enforcement, and corrections certification, from Lake City Community College (now named Florida Gateway College). Sheriff Schultz is the son of the late Bob and Sharon Schultz of Bell, and the brother of Richard Schultz (USMC) of North

Carolina, Suzie (Schultz) Douglas of Bell, and the late Rusty Schultz (USMC).

Sheriff Schultz is the devoted father of Keagon Weatherford (deputy sheriff in Levy County), Kyle Schultz (deputy sheriff in Lafayette County), Kasidy Schultz and Kolby Schultz. He is the proud grandfather of Aubrey and Jett Weatherford.

During his first term, Sheriff Schultz worked tirelessly to bring strong leadership, trust, professionalism, consistency, and fiscal responsibility to the office; while successfully establishing strong working relationships with other county, state and federal agencies. After being elected, Sheriff Schultz implemented the “ONE TEAM - ONE MISSION” concept, which encourages everyone to work together to make Gilchrist County as safe a place as is possible to live, work, and to raise families.

The same concept has been embraced or implemented by other Gilchrist County agencies and civic organizations, as well as citizens. Sheriff Schultz points to an overall decrease in crime and higher crime clearance rate in Gilchrist County over the past three years, as proof that the sheriff’s office is headed in the right direction.

During his first three years in office, Sheriff Schultz established new programs and initiatives that allow law enforcement to be proactive in their efforts to prevent and investigate crimes. An AGRICULTURE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT along with the AGRICULTURE WATCH program was created to better serve our agriculture community. A CRIMINAL INTERDICTION TEAM was created to gather intelligence on criminal activity and pending criminal investigations; and to help deter the flow of illegal narcotics and contraband within Gilchrist County.

This unit also aids in the protection of the residents and visitors of Gilchrist County by enforcing traffic laws in areas of concern throughout the county.

Sheriff Schultz added three K-9 Teams to assist the Patrol and Investigations Divisions (bringing the total to 5 K-9 Teams) in their efforts to enforce a policy of “Zero Tolerance” of illegal narcotics activity. With the help of the Gilchrist County School District, an additional School Resource Deputy was added to better protect and serve our students and teachers in both Bell and Trenton Schools.

Community outreach, communication and accessibility have been a priority for Sheriff Schultz since taking office.

“The citizens deserve and need to be kept informed of what is going on and to be informed of what the Sheriff’s Office is doing to keep them safe,” Sheriff Schultz said recently. “I believe communication is essential, and it takes everyone working together to achieve what we all

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desire—which is a safer community.

Sheriff Schultz has conducted numerous town hall style meetings, demonstrations, and crime prevention talks at churches, school activities, youth programs, and civic organizations throughout the county. Local media sources and social media have also been successfully employed to communicate with Gilchrist County citizens, and to help solve crimes.

The Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office Explorers Post was started as a way give the youth of our county opportunities to learn and to serve, also the GILCHRIST FAMILY FUN FEST was established as a way to give back to families in our community by providing a free, fun, safe and informative day of activities. Sheriff Schultz was able to partner with the Suwannee River Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) to bring this much needed self-defense course to the women of our county and he continues to provide Concealed Weapons Courses for all residents.

Sheriff Schultz was able to initiate all of these new programs and initiatives with little or no cost to the tax payers and with an overall reduced budget.

Sheriff Schultz's leadership has been put to use by other organizations as well. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Partnership For Strong Families. He also serves on Florida Gateway College Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Sheriff Schultz also serves on other committees to include the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Donor Relations Committee. Sheriff Schultz was named the 2015 Gilchrist County Citizen of the Year, by the Gilchrist County Chamber of Commerce and received the American Legions 2014 award for Outstanding Service to Gilchrist County.

"While I believe we have accomplished many great things during this first term," he said, "even in the face of some very tough adversity, I believe the greatest days are in front of us. Through working together, consistency, perseverance and continued strong leadership, we can make our sheriff's office even better. I am asking the people of Gilchrist County to allow me the honor and privilege to once again serve as the Sheriff of the greatest county in the State."