

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG HOLDS 15th ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT

(MONTGOMERY)— Attorney General Luther Strange today presented the 15th annual Attorney General’s Law Enforcement Summit, carrying on a tradition since 2000. This year’s theme was “Protecting Alabama Citizens Against Crime.” A record attendance of more than 725 law enforcement officers from throughout Alabama were registered to attend, receiving practical information and professional training with a focus on recent developments in legislation, case law and investigative procedures for some of the most prevalent and fastest-growing crimes. The 2014 summit was held in Montgomery at Frazer United Methodist Church.

Attorney General Strange welcomed law enforcement officers and discussed the event’s theme. “The protection of our citizens is foremost in my mind and the primary focus of my office,” he stated. “Today’s criminals target our state’s most vulnerable citizens to prey upon, including the young, the elderly, and the meek or mild. Many of these victims are targeted repeatedly by the same or multiple offenders.”

This year’s conference featured a series of presentations from experts: “Developing a Coordinated Community Response to Crime,” from Steve M. Searcy of One Place Family Justice Center; “Domestic Violence/Strangulation/Stalking,” from Carrie Gray Shaw of the District Attorney’s Office for the 15th Judicial Circuit; “Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act,” from Trisha L. Mellberg of the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services; “Human Trafficking: A State Perspective,” from Assistant Attorney General Andrew Arrington; “Criminal Law Update,” from Assistant Attorney General Michael Dean; and “Elder Abuse,” from John Craft of the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law and J. Seth Gowan of the District Attorney’s Office for the 15th Judicial Circuit. Attorney General Strange thanked those who provided valuable information in these presentations, as well as his Law Enforcement Coordinator, Louis Zook, and all staff members of the Attorney General’s Office who provided valuable assistance.

In addition, Attorney General Strange announced a new telephone number and email address to receive citizen tips that could help solve cold cases and bring justice. People who may have evidence or clues about cold case sexual assaults and murders are encouraged to call the Attorney General’s Office and share this information by leaving a recorded message. The toll-free hotline number is 1-866-419-1236 and email messages may be sent to coldcasetips@ago.state.al.us. The Attorney General’s Cold Case Unit targets unsolved or unresolved violent sexually motivated assaults and homicides in which probative DNA exists.



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A somber highlight of the day came with the commemoration of fallen officers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year. The Attorney General recognized the sacrifices of the following officers with the presentation of memorial flags and certificates of honor:

Deputy Sheriff Allen Kay of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office died on October 19, 2013. He suffered a fatal heart attack following an incident in which he arrested offenders, held them at gunpoint and transported them to jail. Deputy Kay served the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office for eight years.

Sergeant Daniel V. Davis of the Phenix City Police Department died on November 10, 2013. He was removing weapons from his patrol car when a firearm discharged, hitting him in the leg and severing an artery. He bled to death before he could call for help. Sergeant Davis served the Phenix City Police Department for eight years.

Investigator Jeffrey Hugh Bryant of the Centre Police Department died on December 20, 2013. He was en route to meet with another officer when another vehicle hit his patrol car head on and killed him. Investigator Bryant served the Centre Police Department and other law enforcement agencies for more than 20 years.

Deputy Sheriff William Heath Kelley of the Covington County Sheriff's Office died on April 18, 2014. He was killed in a vehicle crash while responding to an accident with injuries call. Deputy Kelley served the Covington County Sheriff's Office for eight years.

Attorney General Strange thanked the officers in attendance today, and expressed appreciation to their fellow officers in communities throughout Alabama. "I am grateful and proud of the bravery and unselfish dedication that law enforcement officers give to people of Alabama in their service to us each day," he said. "It is my hope that this summit has provided valuable instruction and shared information that you will take back to your communities and that it may be of assistance as you carry out your noble task of protecting the people of Alabama."

The Attorney General's Office also distributed updated copies of the Alabama Criminal Code to be given to law enforcement officers throughout Alabama. Those departments that did not have a representative at the summit may contact the Attorney General's Office by calling 334-242-7300 to arrange receipt of Criminal Code books for their officers.