



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWS RELEASE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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DNR Law Enforcement Game Warden Receives Governor’s Award for Heroic Act

On December 3rd, Governor Brian Kemp presented the Acts of Heroism Award to Game Warden Matt Tsiklistas during the Governor’s Public Safety Awards ceremony at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.



“We are very proud of the heroic actions of Game Warden Tsiklistas,” said Colonel Mike England, director of Georgia DNR’s Law Enforcement Division. “This is a well-deserved award.”

Tsiklistas, along with GSP Sgt. Ty Brooks, received the award for their brave and selfless actions on November 22, 2023. As they were both patrolling their respective areas in Glynn County, a call came out about a two-vehicle crash nearby on GA Hwy 25. Both

officers pulled up simultaneously and saw a pickup truck lodged under a dump truck and beginning to catch fire. As the truck burst into flames, Tsiklistas grabbed the injured driver and began giving aid and pulling him away from the burning truck, while Brooks was shielding Tsiklistas and the driver, while fighting the flames with a fire extinguisher. As both officers and the driver were attempting to get away from the fire, gun shots began to ring out from the truck, due to ammunition that was heating up and discharging in the raging fire. Both officers and the driver made it to safety.

There is no doubt that the quick response of both officers, and the disregard for their own personal safety, saved the life of the pickup driver and possibly others.

The Governor’s Public Safety Awards Program recognizes those men and women who have gone “above and beyond the call of duty” to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Georgia and those who have made significant contributions to their profession.

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Acts of Heroism

Ty Brooks & Matt Tsiklistas
GA State Patrol & DNR-Law Enforcement

On November 22, 2023, Game Warden Matt Tsiklistas and Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Ty Brooks were both on patrol in their respective areas in Glynn County. As GW Tsiklistas was heading southbound on GA 25 a call came out about a two-vehicle crash on the highway in the immediate area. As they pulled up, the pickup truck that was lodged under the dump truck was emitting a heavy cloud of black smoke. Prior to the officers getting up to the vehicles, the truck burst into flames and fire erupted from the front of the truck.

Both officers immediately jumped into action, with no regard for their safety, but considering only the safety and wellbeing of the civilians that were involved in the crash. GW Tsiklistas grabbed the driver of the truck who had sustained substantial injury and began giving aid and getting him away from the smoke and flames that were continuing to grow.

Sgt. Brooks was doing everything he could to keep the flames away and shield GW Tsiklistas and the driver as he was actively lighting the flames with his fire extinguisher and assisting getting everyone to safety. Both officers and the driver of the truck were attempting to get away from the fully engulfed vehicle when gun shots began to ring out from the truck, due to the firearms and ammunition that were heating up and discharging in the raging fire. Both officers and the driver of the truck safely made it away from the fire as Fire and EMS began arriving to subdue the flames and get the injured driver to safety.