



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# NEWS RELEASE

## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



Visit us on Facebook, Twitter & YouTube

Contact:  
Mark McKinnon, Public Affairs Officer  
Office: (706) 557-3106 Cell: (404) 387-7780  
[mark.mckinnon@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:mark.mckinnon@dnr.ga.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 8, 2017

## DNR Law Enforcement Game Wardens Receive Governor’s Award for Heroic Act



Cpl. Bobby White

**FORSYTH, GA** – Yesterday, Governor Nathan Deal presented Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Corporal Bobby White and Ranger First Class Patrick Gibbs with the Governor’s Public Safety Award for Act of Heroism for saving the life of a young child in a dramatic river rescue last year. The awards were presented during the 2017 Governor’s Public Safety Awards ceremony at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth.

On July 2, 2016, RFC Gibbs was on vessel patrol with Cpl. White on the Altamaha River in Long County when they observed something unusual bobbing in the water down river and decided to investigate. They quickly determined it was a small child, with only his face above the water line, struggling to get air.

Cpl. White maneuvered the vessel closer as the four-year-old boy, who had drifted downstream from his family, went under the water. As they approached, RFC Gibbs could only see a small, yellow, toy fish the child was holding as he went down and recognizing the grave danger to the child, Gibbs dove into the river from the boat, swam under the boy and brought him to the surface. He handed the child to Cpl. White, who pulled him into the vessel, where after coughing up large amounts of water, the boy was stabilized and began talking to the Rangers.

Without the calculated, selfless and heroic actions of Cpl. White and RFC Gibbs on that July evening, the child most assuredly would have lost his life.

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.

Cpl. White has been with Georgia DNR since 1998 and resides in Wayne County and RFC Gibbs is 5-year veteran of the Department and resides in Long County.



RFC Patrick Gibbs

###

*The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division is committed to conserving our natural resources and protecting the people we serve through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement.*

TRUST, FAIRNESS, PROFESSIONALISM

**Law Enforcement Off the Pavement**