



NEWSLETTER
SUMMER EDITION 2011



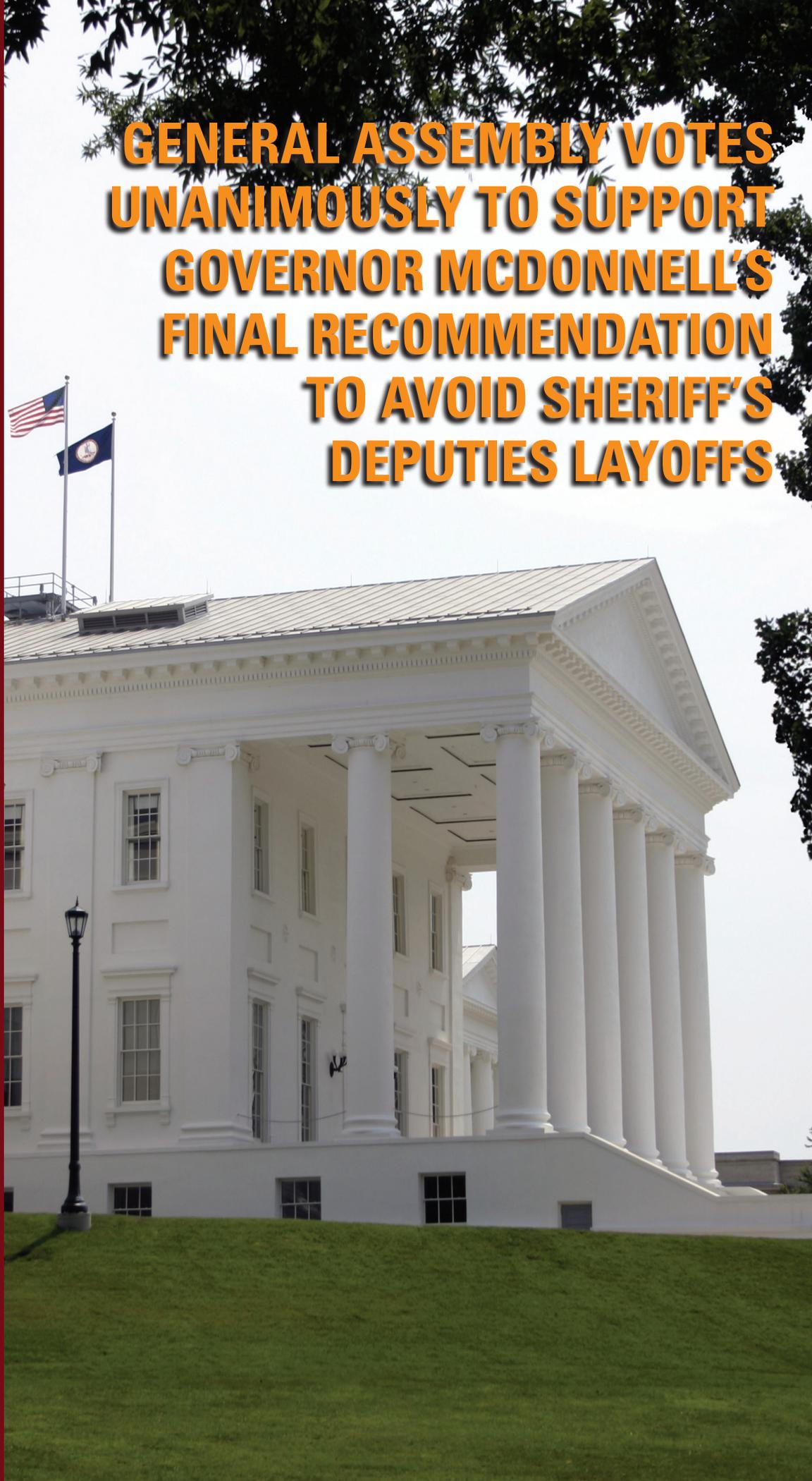
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2011-2012

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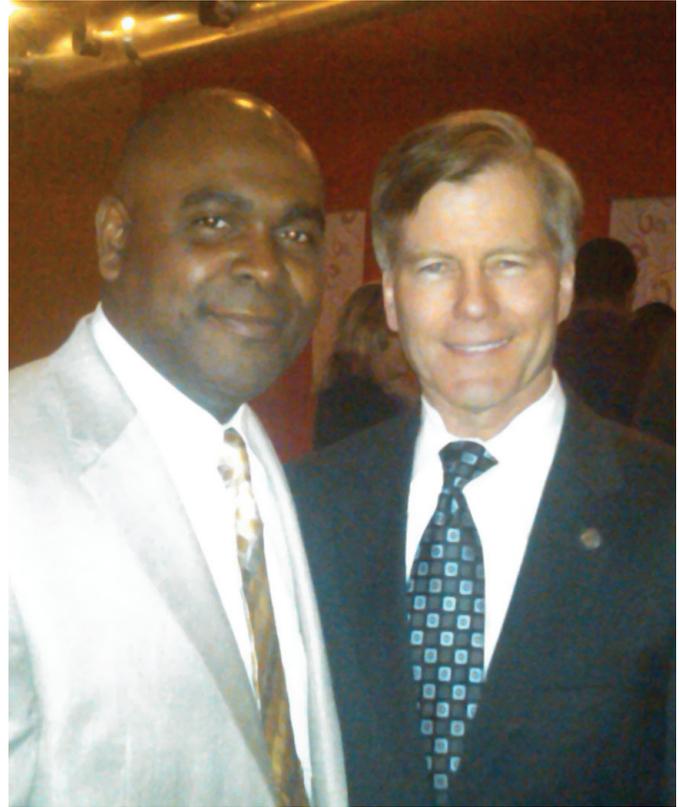
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GOVERNOR MCDONNELL SUPPORTS AMENDMENT TO FUND SHERIFFS \$7.4 MILLION AND AVOID LAYOFFS

Thank you to all of those who called the General Assembly and Governor McDonnell's office on the Sheriff's budget situation. By way of an update, the General Assembly approved in the House of Delegates, 100 to 0, and in the Senate 40 to 0, Governor McDonnell's final recommendation to fund the Sheriffs \$7.4 million to prevent the layoff of 200 Sheriff's deputies. Under the Governor's amendment, funding for Sheriff's deputies for this effort will come from surplus funds expected after July 1st and revenues generated as a result of the improving economy.

The amendment for funding the Sheriff's deputies was presented by Delegate Watkins Abbitt of Appomattox on behalf of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and Governor McDonnell. Many thanks go to all of the members of the House of Delegates and the Senate who voted for this important public safety amendment.



Shown here are Fluvanna County Sheriff Ryant Washington, President of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (left) with Governor Bob McDonnell (right), during one of the legislative events held in conjunction with the 2011 General Assembly.

COURAGEOUS DEPUTIES NOMINATED FOR VALOR AWARDS

Deputy Sheriff William E. Stiltner, a seven-year veteran of the Buchanan County Sheriff's office and Deputy Sheriff C. Neil Justus, a ten-year veteran of the Buchanan County Sheriff's office, were among four Deputies shot by a sniper as they responded to a larceny call at a local business on March 13, 2011. Tragically, Deputy Stiltner and Deputy Justus did not survive the shooting and died at the scene. Two other Deputy Sheriffs, Shane E. Charles and Eric W. Rasnake, were also shot, but amazingly survived this active-shooter situation.

All four Deputy Sheriffs have been

nominated for VSA's 2011 *Deputy Sheriff Valor Award* along with several other heroes from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office who will be recognized for their role in that tragic day.

VSA is honored to recognize the life and sacrifice of Deputy Stiltner and Deputy Justus, as well as the selfless and courageous actions of Deputy Charles, Deputy Rasnake, among others. Their acts of bravery in a life-threatening, active-shooter situation demonstrate their dedication to the calling of the public safety profession and its mission to serve and protect.

NEW LAWS TAKE EFFECT — HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) monitors all legislation that impacts the office of the Sheriff. VSI would like to touch on a few key pieces of legislation that will promote the public safety of Virginia residents and aid law enforcement officers in our efforts to fight crime. In particular, the following laws combat drug dealing and possession, provide stiffer penalties for providing alcohol to minors, promote highway safety, and help make Virginia a safer place to work and raise our families.

HB 1434 Cannabinoids, synthetic; penalties for transport, possession, sale, or distribution, etc. Lists those chemicals that comprise synthetic cannabinoids and makes possession a Class 1 misdemeanor. Possession with intent to distribute and manufacturing are felonies. The first offender statute applies as it does to marijuana and controlled substances. The bill adds chemicals known as "bath salts" to Schedule I of the Drug Control Act. There is an emergency clause. Effective 3/23/11

HB 1496 Providing alcohol to an underage person; person who purchases is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Provides that any person who purchases alcoholic beverages for or otherwise gives, provides, or willfully assists in the provision of alcoholic beverages to another person, knowing or having reason to know that such person was less than 21 years of age is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Effective 7/1/11

HB 1407 Underage drinking and driving; punishable as Class 1 misdemeanor. Provides that "zero tolerance" (0.02% BAC) underage drinking and driving is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Currently, the punishment is loss of license for six months and a fine of no more than \$500. This bill provides that the punishment must include forfeiture of such person's license to operate a motor vehicle for a period of one year from the date of conviction and either a mandatory minimum fine of \$500 or 50 hours of community service. Effective 7/1/11

HB 1411 Reckless handling of firearms; revocation of hunting license. Provides that a person's hunting or trapping license, or privilege to hunt or trap while possessing a firearm, may be revoked for a period of one to five years for a violation of § 18.2-56.1 (reckless handling of firearms) while hunting. Revocation for a person whose privilege to hunt has been revoked who hunts with a firearm will be for a period of one year to life. Effective 7/1/11

HB 1412 Vehicles damaged by water; increases threshold for reporting water damage, etc. Increases threshold for reporting water damage from \$1,000 to \$3,500 and requires insurance companies to report payment of such a claim to the Department of Motor Vehicles. This bill incorporates HB 1924 and is the same as SB 1416. Effective 7/1/11

HB 1432 HOV lanes; use by vehicle with clean special fuel license plates. Extends until July 1, 2012, the sunset on use of HOV lanes by clean special fuel vehicles, regardless of the number of occupants. This bill incorporates HB 1754. Effective 7/1/11

HB 1558 Overweight farm machinery, etc.; prohibits operation on any Interstate Highway System component. Prohibits the operation of overweight farm machinery or agricultural multipurpose drying units on any Interstate Highway System component when the axle and gross weights are over certain amounts. Effective 7/1/11

VSI DONATES \$10,000 TO ASSIST TORNADO-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES IN VA

TO HELP VICTIMS of April's devastating tornadoes in Virginia, VSI is donating \$10,000 to assist in the rebuilding efforts. Governor McDonnell has pledged state resources to localities who are rebuilding following the outbreak of storms that left 10 dead, more than 100 injured, and destroyed 212 homes, and damaged more than 1,050 homes and businesses.

TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT to these impacted communities, Governor McDonnell is calling on private companies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, faith-based organizations, and citizens like you to do what you can to help.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management has established a webpage to make it easier for citizens to offer their assistance. If you'd like to offer your support, go to **WWW.VAEMERGENCY.COM**.

NEW VSI LICENSE PLATES OFFERED

Show your support for law enforcement by displaying a specialized DMV license plate on your car. The proposed "I Support Sheriffs" theme and design has already received approval from our Board of Directors. But before DMV can develop and issue these specialized license plates, the General Assembly now requires us to accumulate a minimum of 450 paid applications! (See enclosed application.)

The \$25 annual fee for your specialized plate will serve as a highly-valuable source of revenue sharing for the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute and would help to support all of our critical training and public education efforts, and your display of this unique plate on your car shows your support of Virginia law enforcement.

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!!

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM VSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN W. JONES



On behalf of all of us at VSI, I hope you and your family are excited to jumpstart your summer plans in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Here are some safety tips to keep you and your family safe during these busy summer months.

If you're traveling out of town as so many Virginia families are planning to do this summer, keep your travel plans private — don't "broadcast"

when you are traveling away from home, when you are home alone, where your children are if they aren't with you, etc.

Sadly, Facebook and other social media outlets are providing would-be criminals with a wealth of information and knowledge that they can use to commit crimes against people in our community. Just as important, now that school is out, know who your children are with and know the parents of their friends.

We all can do our part to reduce crimes of opportunity by keeping your garage doors closed and locked, back doors and windows locked, and cars locked. Remember to keep your valuables OUT of plain sight.

As always, it is my privilege to serve as Executive Director of VSI and I urge you to contact your Sheriff's office if you have any concerns about crime prevention efforts in our community. Make no mistake, I will continue to strive to do everything in my power to promote the interests of Sheriffs, deputies, and residents of Virginia.

And please, I hope you'll continue to be an important partner in our efforts to keep all of our communities secure by reporting crimes and suspicious activity when you see them so that we can do our very best to keep this community a safe place to work, play, live, and raise our families.

I deeply appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

John W. Jones, Executive Director
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THE VIRGINIA SHERIFFS TAKE PRIDE IN OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

With the help of residents like you throughout the Commonwealth, VSI secures the critical funding needed to continue providing desperately needed scholarships to Virginia citizens to pursue Criminal Justice degrees — a great source of pride for us all and a vital step in ensuring our safety. VSI is the only organization in Virginia helping the state's law enforcement students with Criminal Justice scholarships.

One of our most recent scholarship award recipients is Robert Haskiell of Bridgewater, Virginia. Robert is planning on attending Bridgewater College where he will be pursuing a course of study in Criminal Justice.

With the help of loyal members like you, we've awarded 64 scholarships for 2011-2012 to Virginia's youth. The full-time recipients received \$500 and the part-time recipients received \$250 for a total of \$31,250.

And the "Deputy of the Year" Award Goes to ...



First Sergeant Eric Jessee, Stafford County

Congratulations for personifying the "Committed to Excellence" motto and thank you for fifteen years of dedicated law enforcement in the Commonwealth.

We Want to Hear from You ...

Drop us a note, give us a call, or send us an email.



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The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute does not solicit donations by telephone.