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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



WHITFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOLDS ANNUAL OLD TIMER'S

Whitfield County, Ga – On Wednesday, March 15th, the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office held the annual Old Timer's Qualification Day. The event was held at the Whitfield County Sheriff's Firearms Training Center.

The Old Timer's Qualification Day became a tradition in 2004, after the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) (a.k.a. HR 218) was signed into law. The law allows qualified active, and honorably retired, law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms nationwide. One condition of the law is the retired officer must qualify with their firearm on the range.

“It is a great reunion to see each other, but we do have to have the mandatory classes if as a retired officer you want to carry your weapon,” said Whitfield County Sheriff Scott Chitwood. “They are in the classroom the first part of the day and they have to qualify and meet certain standards.”

With more than 1,000 years of collective experience, over 40 retired law enforcement officers, from different agencies, gathered together at the range. The retirees represented the Whitfield County Sheriff’s Office, City of Dalton Police Department, Federal Air Marshals, Georgia State Patrol, and more. A retired Captain from the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) was one of the original retirees to meet qualifications at the Whitfield County range in 2004.

“I started coming in 2004 and been here ever since. This is a great program for a retired officer and we really appreciate Whitfield doing this,” said retired Captain Carlton Stallings of GSP. Stallings served as captain over the Specialized Collision and Reconstruction Team (SCRT), and retired after an impressive 34-year career. “It [Old Timer’s] keeps us brushed up on our skills that we’ve had for so many years, and want to stay fresh. We want to stay current, effective and stay as safe as we can be.”

If you’re a retired law enforcement officer and would like more information on Old Timer’s, please contact Whitfield County Training Lieutenant Jarrod Hayes at WCSOTraining@WhitfieldCountyGa.com or 706-694-4111.