

Today marks a historical day in Bamberg County which began back in the spring of 1978.

It was that year when our Daddy was appointed by Governor James Edwards to be the next Sheriff of Bamberg County. I doubt many of us thought about being here today, nearly 42 years later, to recognize and honor his continuous public service. In fact, Daddy is currently ranked #3 nationally with his continuous years of service. Wow.....Little ole Bamberg County near the top!!

Over the years, our Daddy has managed to be the Sheriff of this county for SO long by doing things the right way. I cannot recall one time where his integrity has ever been questioned which makes us all proud. As someone once told me, "your Daddy has been the sheriff of this county for so long because he is a good man who treats people with respect and tries to treat all people the same way." The man who told me this said that he has always voted for our Daddy and would continue to do so as long as he continued to run for re-election. I will never forget what this man said that day.

In my opinion, becoming a public servant is more than just a job.....it's a "calling" and I truly believe that our Daddy answered that calling in 1972 when he began his law enforcement career with the Denmark Police Department. I'm quite sure there have been some tough days during his career as Sheriff but with the help of good, hard working and committed employees, his career has continued to move along. I know we see our Daddy as "Big Ed" and can "do all" but without his employees his department could not function. It has taken a team!! Thanks to all the BCSO staff (*ask current and former staff to stand and be recognized*).

Our Daddy is a 100 % committed family man. He loves his Lord, loves his family and friends, and loves his job. He is not only a Daddy, he's a husband,

a granddaddy, a great granddaddy and yes he's even a great great granddaddy.

Those of you who know our Daddy, know that he is a humble man who does not seek attention. In fact I told Mr. Preston when I first got word of this celebration, "you know he's humble and doesn't like to be recognized and put on a pedestal" and he knew that. I went on to tell him that our Daddy has earned and deserves this recognition and that he would get over it.....Mr. Preston agreed. Of course, he's probably gonna want to cut someone's back side when it's over.

Dad, we love you and are very very proud of you and your distinguished career.

On behalf of our family, I want to thank Council Chairman Kinard and the Bamberg County Council along with Administrator Preston for making this day possible. It is truly a great day in the life of our family.

God Bless