



FIRST RESPONDERS HONORED ON 9/11

SUBMITTED

Dear Editor,

On some anniversaries we celebrate. On others we reflect.

The 23rd Anniversary of the attack on America and New York’s World Trade Center is one of the times for reflection. There is truly nothing to celebrate in the extraordinary tragedy of 9/11.

As much as I would like to forget some of them, the images from that day will never be out of my mind, nor will the victims and their families.

But there is one memory I want to hold on to, one that I want to cherish as the deepest and most lasting of September 11, 2001. It is the memory of the heroism and selflessness demonstrated by law enforcement officers, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians who went about their business that day without concern for their own

safety and without consideration for the magnitude of what they were confronting.

I suppose the term ‘first responders’ was around before 9/11 but I can’t remember ever hearing or using it before then. It caught on with me because it succinctly and accurately captures not only what these public servants do, but it says something about who they are.

They are people willing to respond without question or hesitation when our community needs them. Men and women willing to make someone else’s emergency or crisis their own and to put their lives on the line doing it.

If that doesn’t deserve our respect, nothing does.

Most of us have always had an appreciation for first responders whether we called them that or not. At one time or another, what

little boy or little girl didn’t want to grow up to be a police officer or a fire fighter? As time passes and most of us go on to do other things with our lives, we tend not only to outgrow our hero worship, but also to start taking things for granted. Then some tragedy happens, and our attention is drawn to them again.

I am not sure where the tradition of delivering a Dessert to first responders on the anniversary of 9/11 started in our company, but I’m glad it did. It started out of someone’s caring and appreciative heart and spread from employee to employee and location to location until stores all over Kentucky and Tennessee were involved.

No one ever imagined that taking a meal to first responders as a way of showing our appreciation would turn out to mean so much to the people in our company. As more and more people and locations

became involved, a simple gesture became an annual Salute to First Responders.

The way we show our appreciation differs from community to community and location to location, but everyone involved knows they have the support and encouragement of our company.

We value the opportunity to show their appreciation to First Responders. One of our goals is to encourage others in the community to be involved as well.

Using the 9/11 anniversary as an opportunity to refresh and rekindle our feelings for first responders is a good thing. It’s a simple but meaningful way to say, “Thank you First Responders. We salute you.”

Garry McNabb
Chief Executive Officer
Cash Express LLC

SHERIFF’S TAX SETTLEMENT AUDIT RELEASED

From OFFICE OF KENTUCKY STATE AUDITOR

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball today released the audit of the sheriff’s settlement – 2022 taxes for Magoffin County Sheriff William Meade. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff’s reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff’s tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office. Auditing standards require the auditor’s letter to communicate whether the sheriff’s settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The

sheriff’s settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor’s opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff’s settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky. The sheriff’s financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period January 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023 in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting. The audit contains the following finding: The sheriff’s office does not have adequate segregation of duties: The Magoffin County Sheriff’s Office lacks adequate segregation of duties and internal

controls over tax receipts and disbursements. The office manager and deputy clerks collect tax receipts. The office manager or a deputy clerk prepares daily bank deposits, reconcile daily receipts to the daily collection report, and posts items to the receipts ledger. The office manager prepares month-end tax reports, prepares checks for tax distribution based on the month-end tax reports, and posts checks to the disbursements ledger. The sheriff and the office manager sign tax distribution checks. We recommend the sheriff’s office implement internal controls and segregate duties as much as possible. If these duties cannot be separated due to limited staff or limited budget, the sheriff’s office

should implement strong oversight over these areas, either by an employee independent of those functions or by the sheriff. Sheriff’s Response: We are going to have each front-end clerk review each other’s daily collections to monitor any discrepancies. I have also separated to the front-end clerks’ duties from the bookkeepers. I will also review and sign off on monthly reconciliations. The audit report can be found on the auditor’s website. #### The Auditor of Public Accounts ensures that public resources are protected, accurately valued, properly accounted for, and effectively employed to raise the quality of life of Kentuckians. Call 1-800-KY-ALERT or visit our website to report suspected waste and abuse.

Congressman Rogers Invites Students from Southern and Eastern Kentucky to Compete in the Congressional App Challenge

SUBMITTED

SOMERSET, Ky. – U.S. Rep. Harold “Hal” Rogers (KY-05) announced the kick-off of the 2024 Congressional App Challenge for middle and high school students. The challenge provides a national spotlight for Eastern Kentucky students who are learning to write code and design mobile apps.

“Eastern Kentucky students have submitted excellent mobile app demos for the Congressional App Challenge in recent years, proving our mountain students can compete at the highest levels of competition,” said Congressman Rogers, Dean of the House. “I’m always proud of the students who represent our region in Washington and I’m excited to see the apps that our students submit this year.”

Students from Belfry High

School won the last two consecutive years. Last year, Belfry seniors Natalie Fite and Reese Varney designed an app called CONNECT to help students with mental health needs. Their winning app combined creativity, community information and mental health resources to actively help local students.

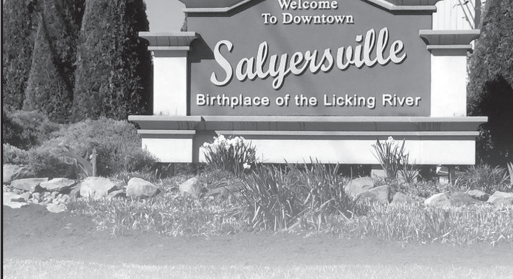
Each entry requires a student video tutorial of the app, along with a demonstration of how it was created and how it works. Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four students. A panel of local judges from the region will select the winning application from Kentucky’s Fifth Congressional District to be featured in Washington, DC during the annual #HouseofCode festival.

Congressman Rogers has

teamed up with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) for this year’s challenge to promote STEM education and computer science in Kentucky’s Appalachian region. Students who participate in the Congressional App Challenge will also be invited to display their work at the 2024 SOAR Summit in October in Pikeville, Kentucky before the winning app is selected.

To participate in the Congressional App Challenge, students can register at congressionalappchallenge.us. The competition deadline is October 24, 2024 at 12:00 pm/ET.

For more information about Congressman Rogers’ work in Washington and at home in Kentucky, visit halrogers.house.gov and follow him on social media.



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by Ritt Mortimer

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