

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE RESOLUTION

Acknowledgement of Historical and Dedicated Service to the United States of America, the City of Savannah, and the State of Georgia

Submitted by President Joseph Wirthman, the Executive Board, Executive Director Frank V. Rotondo, Staff, and an appreciative State-Wide Membership of the Association.

WHEREAS, John White served his country in World War II as a United States Marine. John White was one of “The Original Twenty Thousand” African American Marines that served in some of the most critical points of the Pacific Theatre, specifically the 51st Defense Battalion, the first African-American combat unit; and

WHEREAS, After the war John White returned home to Savannah Georgia where he studied at Georgia State College and was recruited by Savannah Police Chief James Rogers to be the first sworn African-American Police Officer for the City of Savannah on May 3, 1947 as along with eight other African American officers; and

WHEREAS, John White was one of the “Original Nine” who were the first African-American Officers in the state of Georgia, blazing a trail for those who would follow; and

WHEREAS, John White was instrumental in the successful policing of the civil rights movement in the 1960’s, excelling in his ability to do so while preventing violence that was seen in many jurisdictions during that time in history; and

WHEREAS, John White went on to serve the people of Savannah for thirty-seven years, as an honored Police Officer, proud of the many times he steered young men away from a life of crime before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant in 1984; be it hereby

RESOLVED, That the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, upon the request of President Joseph Wirthman, the Executive Board, Executive Director Frank V. Rotondo, and the State-Wide Membership of the Association, desire to express their admiration and respect for Lt. John White, and honor the exceptional service and achievements of his service to the United States of America, the citizens of the City of Savannah and the people of the State of Georgia.

Adopted this 13th day of November 2018

Joseph Wirthman, President
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police