

## Boy who provides help to police dogs made honorary Glynn deputy



Glynn County Sheriff Neal Jump (left) recognized Chris Carswell, 16, as an honorary deputy.

Chris Carswell, 16, with service dog at his side, gets special recognition day before hospitalization

By Terry Dickson Tue, Jan 6, 2015  
Georgia Times Union

BRUNSWICK | A day before his hospitalization for brain surgery, 16-year-old Chris Carswell took the oath Tuesday as an honorary Glynn County deputy in recognition of his efforts to help save law enforcement dogs and other good works.

Glynn County Sheriff Neal Jump administered the oath of special deputy as Chris' service dog, Bronx, lay at his feet. Jump also advised Chris of the office's doughnut policy that requires rookie deputies to provide doughnuts for the staff each Friday for four weeks.

Jump gave Chris a waiver, however, because he is traveling to Orlando Wednesday for two brain surgeries and a hospital stay

that could last three months.

Not that Chris hasn't already done plenty for Glynn County and other law enforcement offices, as Jump tells it.

"He's taken a leap forward beyond anything any of us could do," Jump said in front of an audience of deputies, detention officers and others in the Sheriff's Office training room. Among them were deputies from Camden County, where Sheriff Jim Proctor had already named Chris a special deputy.

Through his foundation 1Boy4Change, Chris joined We Ride to Provide to provide first-aid kits to police dog handlers. The \$85 kits provide treatment for dogs that are under heat stress, poisoned, shot or otherwise wounded, among other things.

He is also working with American Aluminum to provide heat alarms that will detect when police vehicles get too hot and protect the dogs inside. If a car shuts off while a dog is inside unattended, the windows will drop automatically, a fan comes on and the horn sounds to give an officer time to get back to save the dog.

Chris provided both kits to Sheriff's Office canine Ace and his handler, Deputy Sheriff Brian Faulk.

Jump praised Chris for providing awareness, assistance and hope.

Faulk said he first met Chris in September in Camden County and said he has been a blessing since then. He thanked him for help he provided Ace.

"Thanks, Chris. You're an inspiration, buddy," Faulk said.

By the 10 a.m. start of the ceremony, Chris had already experienced an eventful day riding with Faulk.

Faulk made a traffic stop on Interstate 95 and Chris probably heard one of the better radio transmissions of the day.

“There was some woman on the [St. Simons Island] causeway in a black Jeep doing 70 mph, flipping other people off,” he said.

Chris said the day was exciting before he and Faulk took to the road.

“He took me out to the range, and I got to shoot some,” Chris said. “An M16.”

“He sent me a message” from the range, said Chris’ mother, Janet Carswell. “Full auto is fun.”

Chris didn’t take full advantage of the opportunity, however, firing only a half dozen rounds from a 30-round magazine, Faulk said.

The special deputy awards aren’t the first. He and Bronx traveled to Hollywood, Calif., in October 2013 for the American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards. Bronx, a German shepherd, senses when Chris has a seizure coming and won the Top Service Dog award.

The stay at Florida Hospital for Children, which could last three months, is intended to rid Chris of the seizures, Janet Carswell said.

He had a stroke that left lesions on his brain, and physicians hope to remove the lesions with two surgeries, she said.

“The hope is he won’t have the seizures anymore,” she said.

He had his first Oct. 11, 2007, in the cafeteria at Satilla Marsh Elementary School.

After administering the oath of special deputy, Jump did all he could to ensure Chris felt like he was a member of the department. Everyone at the ceremony said the Pledge of Allegiance just as the deputies do at briefings, and then, Jump, a devout Christian, said, “Y’all know prayer works.”

Undersheriff Ron Corbett led a prayer for Chris’ healing as Jump stood with his left hand on Chris’ shoulder while patting Bronx with his right.

Janet Carswell said Bronx and Chris are coming up on their fourth anniversary together, but will observe it in the hospital.

Once Chris is home from the hospital, Jump said he expects him at a briefing, “with the doughnuts.”

For more information on the causes the foundation supports, consult the website [1boy4change.org](http://1boy4change.org).

Terry Dickson: (912) 264-0405