



HONORING LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS & MILITARY PERSONNEL



**HEROES
UNITE**



**RANGE FORE HOPE
FOUNDATION**

An Inaugural Community Event and
Heroes Awards Ceremony

Presented by:



Saturday, June 14, 2025

The Meeting Place Church- Parking Lot
201 Columbia Mall Blvd., Columbia, SC 29223

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



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Michael Barkley has dedicated over two decades to serving the community as a firefighter with the Columbia-Richland Fire Department. Rising through the ranks of the department, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain in 2018 and currently leads the department's fire prevention efforts.

With a deep-rooted passion for firefighting, Captain Barkley is committed to mentoring the next generation of fire service professionals. He has been a member of the Columbia Firefighters Association since 2005 and has served on the association's board of directors.

Captain Barkley is also a member of the Columbia Firefighters Association Local 793. He has been a member of the association since 2005 and has served on the association's board of directors. He is currently serving as the 2nd Vice President of the association.

His career is marked by distinction, including a recent Company Award for his Engine 14 crew in early 2024 for their life-saving CPR and fire suppression at a residential address on Pickens Road. Beyond his professional achievements, he is a member of Trinity Baptist Church, where he has served as a junior warden. A proud husband, father, and grandfather, Captain Barkley's commitment to service—both in his community and in his faith—remains unwavering.

11:00 AM → *Community Arrival*

1:00 PM → *Hero Awards Ceremony Starts*

2:00 PM → *Event ends*

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Captain
Michael Barkeley

Captain Michael Barkeley has dedicated over two decades to serving the community through the Columbia-Richland Fire Department. Rising through the ranks since joining the department, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain in 2020 and currently leads a team of four firefighters at Station 14 in Dentsville. Known for his deep-rooted passion for firefighting, Captain Barkeley is committed to inspiring and mentoring the next generation of fire service professionals. He also contributes to the department's leadership as a member of the Fire Chief's Advisory Committee and previously served as 2nd Vice President of the Columbia Firefighters Association Local 793.

Captain Barkeley's career is marked by distinction, including a recent Company Citation awarded to his Engine 14 crew in early 2024 for their life-saving CPR efforts on North Brickyard Road. Beyond his professional achievements, he is a dedicated member of Trinity Baptist Church, where he has served as a junior deacon since 2005. A proud husband, father, and grandfather, Captain Barkeley's life is a testament to service—both in his community and in his faith.



Master Deputy
Cole Miller

Master Deputy Cole Miller enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2008, just days after graduating from Lampeter-Strasburg High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. As a Motor Transport Operator, he trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and later deployed with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), traveling to nearly 20 countries and providing humanitarian aid in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. During his four-year enlistment, Cole earned several commendations, including the Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, and a Meritorious Mast for exemplary transport performance.

Following his honorable discharge, Cole moved to Columbia, South Carolina, in 2014 and spent several years working in construction and volunteering with AC Flora High School's baseball teams. Inspired by fatherhood and a continued call to serve, he joined the Richland County Sheriff's Department in 2022, first as a School Resource Officer and now as a Master Deputy in Region 1. Cole takes pride in building strong connections with the Lower Richland community and is dedicated to keeping its residents safe. He and his wife, Kelsey, are the proud parents of three daughters—Morgan Jane, Ellie Mae, and Laura James.

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EMT Crew Leader
Kiara Brandon

EMT Crew Leader Kiara Brandon is a dedicated healthcare professional and rising leader in emergency medical services. A Sumter, South Carolina native, she graduated early from Sumter High School before earning her Bachelor of Science in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. After beginning her career in environmental science where she analyzed environmental samples for metals in soil and water at Pace Analytical, Kiara discovered her true passion for direct patient care and joined Richland County EMS through their inaugural EMT Academy. She quickly rose to the role of EMT Crew Leader and now plays a key role in training and mentoring new EMT Student Trainees.

Driven by compassion and a commitment to service, Kiara is pursuing further healthcare goals, including plans to enter the dental hygienist program at Midlands Technical College. While looking ahead, she remains deeply engaged in EMS, finding fulfillment in supporting both patients and future EMTs. Outside of her professional life, Kiara is a proud mother to her daughter Bayla and enjoys exploring nature with her family. Her energy, leadership, and heart for helping others make her a standout figure in her field and community.



Special Deputy
Debora Hayes

Special Deputy Debora Hayes serves as Senior Coordinator for Project H.O.P.E. and Project Lifesaver in Richland County, South Carolina, where she works tirelessly to protect and support seniors and individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's, autism, and Down syndrome. Through the use of tracking technology, she helps ensure at-risk individuals can be located quickly and safely if they wander from caregivers. Based in Columbia, she brings decades of dedication, professionalism, and heart to her role in public safety and community outreach.

Beyond her professional work, Deputy Hayes is deeply involved in service organizations. She holds leadership roles with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics S.C., Columbia N.E. Kiwanis, F.U.N.D.S. Inc., Columbia Urban League, NAACP, and the South Carolina D.A.R.E. Association. Her commitment has earned her numerous honors, including the 2025 SC State AARP Community Impact Award and multiple "Top Cop" recognitions. A proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she holds degrees in Criminal Justice and Human Resources and is a lifelong member of St. James A.M.E. Church. Her life's mission is simple: to make a positive difference wherever she goes.

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Lieutenant
Kevin Caldwell

&

Chief
Ryanne Caldwell

Kevin, a Lexington native, has served in public safety since 1999 and is currently a Lieutenant with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. He holds a degree in Emergency Management from Columbia College, graduating summa cum laude. Throughout his career, Kevin has received numerous honors, including South Carolina Highway Patrol State Trooper of the Year, the Ben W. Strickland Award, and recognition from MADD and SCHP for his efforts in DUI enforcement and traffic fatality prevention.

Ryanne, originally from North Augusta, is an Investigator and former Chief of the South Carolina State Ethics Commission. A magna cum laude graduate of USC-Aiken and a cum laude graduate of Seattle University School of Law, she has held roles in prosecution and investigation, including work on a death penalty case in Washington State. In South Carolina, she broke new ground as the first Attorney General's Office employee to attend and graduate from the Criminal Justice Academy and led landmark investigations into white-collar crime and patient abuse. Together, Kevin and Ryanne founded The Haven, a nonprofit providing mental health support and peer mentorship to law enforcement families. Married since 2016, they are the proud parents of twins and active members of Mt. Horeb Church in Lexington.

A proud husband, father, and grandfather, Captain Barkley's commitment to service—both in his community and in his faith—

MILITARY HONOREES



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Lieutenant Colonel
Alan Jones

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Jones is a highly decorated combat veteran and dedicated mental health professional with over 40 years of service to the United States. He began his military career in the Marine Corps infantry, serving in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. During his deployment, he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with a combat "V" for valor following a heroic assault on an enemy machine gun position. His unit endured heavy losses, with 48 Marines killed in action during his year-long tour. After his honorable discharge, Lt. Col. Jones earned a Master's in Social Work and returned to service through the Army Medical Service Corps, where he spent 25 additional years and received the Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, and numerous other distinctions.

Lt. Col. Jones also earned the Airborne, Air Assault, and Expert Field Medical Badges while on active duty. Following his retirement in 2002, he continued his mission of care as a psychiatric social worker at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, SC. He was recalled to active duty in 2007 to serve as Chief of Mental Health at Fort Jackson, where he led mental health services for three years before returning to the VA. His lifelong dedication to treating active-duty soldiers, veterans, and their families exemplifies a career of compassionate service and enduring impact.



Command Sergeant Major
Jelani Edwards

Command Sergeant Major Jelani Edwards is the Midlands Regional Integration Officer for the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs, bringing nearly three decades of distinguished military leadership to his role. A retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major, Jelani served 29 years in the Field Artillery, culminating in a nominative assignment as the senior enlisted advisor at the Mission Command Center of Excellence at Fort Leavenworth. There, he guided Army-wide leadership initiatives and oversaw command and control doctrine, contributing to strategic policy development and operational excellence across the force.

Jelani holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maryland and has completed advanced leadership training through the U.S. Army War College and the Command and General Staff College. His numerous military honors include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Parachutist Badge, Combat Action Badge, and he is a proud member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Known for his passion for people and inclusive leadership, Jelani remains committed to serving veterans and fostering environments that empower individuals and communities alike.

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Senior Master Sergeant
Nikki Allmann

Senior Master Sergeant Nikki Allmann is a decorated U.S. military veteran, wellness coach, and passionate advocate for adaptive fitness and inclusion. With over 22 years of service as a senior enlisted paralegal—including multiple combat deployments—Nikki’s leadership and resilience have earned her numerous honors, including multiple Meritorious Service Medals and the title of Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Her personal journey, marked by 29 surgeries and facing possible limb amputation, has deepened her dedication to empowering others through health and recovery.

As the founder of Warrior Axe CrossFit and the Workout Warriors Foundation, Nikki leads programs that support veterans, adaptive athletes, and individuals of all abilities in reclaiming strength and purpose. A certified personal trainer and wellness coach with a degree in Health and Wellness from American Military University, she blends lived experience with professional expertise to foster inclusive, community-driven fitness. Above all, Nikki is a proud wife, mother of four, six fur babies, and an advocate for belonging—at the gym, in the community, and beyond.



Sergeant First Class (SFC)
Lisa Vingua

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Lisa Vingua has proudly served in the South Carolina Army National Guard for nearly 20 years, exemplifying leadership, dedication, and a commitment to the well-being of her fellow service members. As the current Senior Enlisted Advisor to the State Surgeon’s Office, she plays a key role in shaping health and wellness programs for soldiers across the state. Over the course of her career, she has served in various units—including the Recruiting and Retention Command, 1050th Transportation Battalion, 4-118th Infantry Regiment, and the 218th Regional Training Institute. In 2014, she made history as the first female to integrate into the 4-118th Infantry Regiment, breaking barriers and paving the way for women in combat arms roles.

SFC Vingua’s service has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and the prestigious Shield of Sparta. Beyond her military duties, she is a passionate advocate for maternal health and is developing a pregnancy wellness program tailored to the needs of service members. Married to SFC Manuel Jose Vingua, she is also a proud mother, balancing her impactful military career with family life. Her journey continues to inspire those around her and shape a more inclusive, supportive future within the National Guard.

MILITARY HONOREES



Sergeant First Class
Leroy Tyson Sr.



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Captain Barkley has dedicated over two decades to serving the community as a member of the Columbia, Richland Fire Department. Rising through the ranks of the fire department, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain.

Sergeant First Class Leroy Tyson Sr. was born in 1945 in Bradford County, Florida, to the late Albert and Miriam McCall Tyson. After graduating from RJE High School in 1963, he began his career at Cape Kennedy, Florida, working on the historic U.S. space program that prepared for the first manned moon landing. Following five years at the space center, he was drafted into the U.S. military, where he served with distinction until retirement. He later worked internationally in Saudi Arabia and, upon returning to the U.S., took a refresher course at Clemson University before earning his teaching certification.

Mr. Tyson spent 18 years as a Culinary Arts Teacher in Bamberg, South Carolina, training students nationwide in food management and professional cooking. His academic background includes studies at Ocean County College and Central Texas College. He is deeply committed to service, volunteering at Harvest Hope Food Bank, serving on his neighborhood HOA, and contributing to various church committees. He and his wife, Dorothy R. Tyson, are proud parents of four children, grandparents to ten, and great-grandparents to seven.

Mr. Tyson is a member of the First Baptist Church of Columbia, South Carolina, where he has served as a junior warden. He is a proud husband, father, and grandfather. Captain Barkley's commitment to service—both in his community and in his faith—has been a lifelong pursuit.

★ Thank You ★

On behalf of Range Fore Hope Foundation we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this awards program possible.

To our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and community supporters—thank you for your unwavering commitment and generosity. Your contributions have not only elevated this event but have also amplified the impact of the individuals we celebrate today.

To our honorees—your dedication, excellence, and leadership inspire us all. And to everyone behind the scenes—your hard work and passion brought this vision to life.

Thank you for making this celebration of achievement truly unforgettable.



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