

By: Representatives Wardlaw, Beaty Jr.

By: Senator Gilmore

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO CONGRATULATE GAME WARDEN AUSTIN POWELL ON
RECEIVING THE MONTY CARMIKLE OFFICER OF THE YEAR
AWARD AND THE 2024 ROBERT M. BRANTLY LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Subtitle

TO CONGRATULATE GAME WARDEN AUSTIN
POWELL ON RECEIVING THE MONTY CARMIKLE
OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD AND THE 2024
ROBERT M. BRANTLY LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

WHEREAS, in July 2024, Game Warden Austin Powell was presented with the Monty Carmikle Officer of the Year Award at the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission Enforcement Division's Awards Banquet in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, at just twenty-six (26) years old, Powell became one of the youngest game wardens to ever receive this honor; and

WHEREAS, after playing college baseball at Arkansas State University, Itawamba Community College, Ole Miss, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Powell entered into the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission's Enforcement Cadet School in 2021; and

WHEREAS, while Powell has been working as a game warden for only four (4) years, he has already made a huge impact on the community through both the cases he has worked and the additional time he has spent spreading his



love of the outdoors at events such as the National Wild Turkey Federation's JAKES Day in Rison; and

WHEREAS, Powell was also named the National Wild Turkey Federation's Arkansas Officer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these impressive awards, Powell received a Lifesaving Award along with fellow Game Warden Aaron Dillard for their bravery and heroic efforts to save a girl being swept downstream by the Mississippi River current and barge wakes by working quickly to get her into their boat and back to shore safely; and

WHEREAS, Powell was also featured in a "Scales of Justice" article in the June 2024 issue of Arkansas Wildlife for his work in using shot shell forensics and DNA analysis to prove that two (2) Mississippi turkey hunters were using Arkansas hunting licenses to illegally hunt turkeys; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Brad Young, the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission Chief of Enforcement said this about Powell: "We're very, very proud of him. He had some very hard to make cases. It took a lot of hours to apprehend some of those violators"; and

WHEREAS, Powell's hard work in focusing on major violators resulted in twelve (12) charges of night hunting, thirteen (13) charges of road hunting, seventeen (17) charges for hunting during a closed season, four (4) charges for boating while under the influence, five (5) cases of hunting turkey over bait, eight (8) cases for hunting without permission, four (4) cases for hunting waterfowl over bait, and three (3) cases for falsifying information; and

WHEREAS, in December 2024 in Augusta, Georgia, Powell was once again recognized for his hard work and dedication when he was named the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2024 Robert M. Brantly Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Powell is only the fourth Arkansas State Game and Fish

Commission game warden to win this prestigious honor, which is awarded to one (1) law enforcement officer out of the fifteen (15) states in the association who excels in teamwork and public outreach, excellence and innovation, attitude and leadership, and achievements and accomplishments in job-related duties,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring recognize Game Warden Austin Powell for his outstanding work and to congratulate him on being named the Monty Carmikle Officer of the Year and the 2024 Robert M. Brantly Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Game Warden Powell by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.