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News Release

Neal Speer Receives The Order of the Long Leaf Pine

January 28, 2015, Monroe, NC – Union County Fire Marshal Neal Speer was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Rep. Dean Arp and Rep. Mark Brody at the Jan. 20 Union County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Among the honors and awards the Governor of North Carolina can bestow, none is more valued than The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. The award honors persons who have a proven record of service to the state of North Carolina or some other special achievement and to others as a gesture of friendship and good will.

Speer, who will retire on January 30, has served as Union County Fire Marshal since July 2003. He also served as Union County Emergency Management Coordinator for six years. Before becoming Fire Marshal, he held several positions with the City of Monroe Fire Department - Public Safety Officer, Sergeant Fire Marshal/Inspector, Lieutenant and Fire Captain. He was the only Captain of the Monroe Fire Department until he left for Union County in 2003. He has been a member of the Town of Unionville Volunteer Fire Department since 1981, serving in positions from Firefighter to Assistant Chief. He has also served multiple terms on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Board.

Speer holds multiple certifications from the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission, including Firefighter 1-3, Driver/Operator, Certified Fire Investigator and Instructor. He is also an instructor of Incident Command for North Carolina Emergency Management and is a member of a state Incident Management team serving as Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief and Logistics Section Chief. As a member of this team, he could be called anywhere in the state to assist on a disaster or incident.

Since 2003, Speer has served on the Catawba Nuclear Taskforce. He is the longest serving Fire Marshal for Union County and is active in his church, Benton Heights Presbyterian.

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