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Man gets probation in '08 crash that killed Bibb deputy

The man who struck a Bibb County deputy with his truck, killing the deputy in 2008, has been sentenced to serve a year on probation and pay a \$500 fine, according to the Bibb County District Attorney's office.



Levi Bonner, 50, pleaded guilty Monday in Bibb County Superior Court to vehicular homicide in the second degree, said John Regan, an assistant district attorney.

The charge is a misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail, he said.

As a condition of his probation, Bonner can't drive while he serves his sentence, Regan said.

Deputy Michael Sean Thomas, 32, died May 25, 2008, following the April 26, 2008, traffic crash.

Thomas's patrol motorcycle was traveling west on Emery Highway near Lakeside Road when

Bonner exited the Thunderbird East Package Store parking lot, according to the sheriff's office.

Bonner failed to yield the right of way to Thomas and the passenger side of Bonner's pickup truck hit Thomas's motorcycle, according to the sheriff's office.

Regan said Bonner admitted to authorities he had a beer prior to driving. His blood alcohol content was "well under the legal limit," Regan said.

Thomas's parents addressed the court during the proceeding and spoke of their pain and

loss. Bonner apologized to them before being sentenced, Regan said.

"We feel a just outcome was reached," Regan said. "Michael Sean Thomas was an exemplary deputy, a wonderful asset to Bibb County and a true and loyal deputy."

Credit: The Macon Telegraph)



February Birthdays

Harold Dickey: 02/18
 Carlos F. Ortiz: 02/28

WEB SITE UPDATE

After much effort to find a competent person to manage the GAXII web site, the chapter is happy to report that one has been found! Mr. Lou Crouch has volunteered to manage the GAXII web site. In addition to lending his time to maintain the site, he will also host it at a substantial savings. He has already developed the web page and is prepared to update the information contained in it.

Lou is no stranger to volunteering and motorcycles. He is a member of Middle Georgia REACT and is a Life Member of Harley Owners group and owns three motorcycles. The Chapter is fortunate to have him

Georgia Chapter XII NEWS

New Chapter & Heaven 1 Patches

The final sew-out proofs of the new GAXII shoulder and Heaven 1 patches have been approved by the chapter members. The patches should be delivered on February 16. Members who have prepared can expect to be contacted to facilitate receipt. As soon as the final art work on the rockers and

center patches are approved an order will be placed for them.



Ride with Pride

Chapter Events:

- **March Meeting : 03/05**
- **Chapter Picnic: 03/21**
- **April Meeting: 04/02**
- **GPMR: 04/25**
- **May Meeting: 05/07**
- **Poker Run: 05/16**
- **June Meeting: 06/04**

**Blue Knights Law
Enforcement Motorcycle Club**

Georgia Chapter XII

Visit Us At: www.blueknightsgaxii.com

Ride with Pride



Presidents Corner: *I applaud all of you for keeping up the great attendance during the February meeting. I promise to make the March meeting as short as possible so we can go eat at Buffalo's. We will also have a 50/50 drawing.*

We will be getting our official membership roster from International soon. Start thinking about who you would like to nominate for Honorary Membership. We will present the nominations before the chapter and put it to a vote.

*Remember to R.S.V.P. for the chapter picnic. I know we will all have a great time.
Be safe and see in you March.*

Chapter Member in the Spotlight

Gregory Phillips. GAXII is proud to introduce our newest member of the chapter family Gregory Phillips. Greg is currently serving his community as a Forsyth, Georgia police officer. He is currently assigned to their PACE Team working drug interdiction and is the Assistant Team Leader for the departments SRT team. In the past four years Greg has been successful in seizing for the 3.5 million dollars through of illegal drug and money with the help of his trusty K-9 partner Kazan. He is also a certified instructor and has provided training in drug interdiction techniques, tactical tracking and impaired driving. He recently accepted a position as a driver training instructor at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. When he is not "taking a bite out of crime", Greg enjoys hitting the gym and lifting weights. He rides a Harley and you can find him on good riding days on his hog to destinations unknown. Please extend a warm welcome to our new brother and we look forward to having him ride with us soon.



Guidelines For Carrying A Passenger On Your Motorcycle

General Safety Considerations. **1.** You need to be experienced in the motorcycle's operation and have a safety-oriented attitude before taking on the added responsibility of carrying a passenger. **2.** Practice low-speed clutch/throttle control as well as normal and emergency braking in a low-risk area like an open parking lot, with a passenger. **3.** Use caution in cornering and develop cornering skills over time to ensure passenger comfort and safety. **4.** Use caution in corners as clearance may be affected. **5.** Use a Search, Evaluate, Execute (S.E.E.) strategy to increase time and space safety margins. **6.** Allow time for a passenger to adjust to the sense of speed and the sensation of leaning; speeds should conservatively safe and reasonable until a passenger acclimates to the proper riding techniques. **7.** Ensure passengers follow safety procedures. **8.** Allow more time for passing. **9.** Be ready to counter the effects of wind. **10.** Avoid extreme speeds and dramatic lean angles. **11.** Be ready for a passenger "bump" with their helmet when stopping quickly. **12.** Start the motorcycle before the passenger mounts. **13.** Have the passenger mount after the motorcycle's stand is raised and the motorcycle is securely braced. **14.** Annually complete an ERC Skills Plus Rider Course SM with a passenger. **15.** Have frequent passengers complete a Basic Rider Course so they can better understand the operator's task.



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Among the Blue Knight members, "There are no strangers, only friends you haven't met"