Caldwell County, North Carolina

Commendation

honoring

Sergeant Dustin Ethridge

WHEREAS, *Caldwell County believes in the recognition of law enforcement officers for their heroic actions and outstanding efforts in service to the community. In keeping with this belief, Caldwell County is honoring NCWRC Sergeant Dustin Ethridge for his valor and lifesaving efforts; and*

WHEREAS, *On July 20, 2024, Sergeant Dustin Ethridge was patrolling the Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River Wilderness Area and responded to a child in the roadway saying his parents were in the water drowning; and*

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Dustin Ethridge ran down to the river to assist Master Officer Jonathan Kiger and Lieutenant Isaac Hannah. Upon arriving he found Master Officer Kiger performing CPR on a drowning victim that he had pulled from the water. Sergeant Ethridge ran back to the vehicles to gather throw bags and a life jacket that would later be instrumental in saving lives; and*

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Dustin Ethridge upon his return to the river was being made aware of a second infant victim downstream, when he selflessly entered the water with Master Officer Jonathan Kiger, who together swam the infant to the shore where lifesaving efforts were started; and*

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Dustin Ethridge was performing CPR when Master Officer Kiger reentered the water to rescue a man who was trapped in a recirculating current against a steep slippery rock face; and*

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Dustin Ethridge prevented the loss of an additional life during this tragic incident by dragging both the victim and Master Officer Kiger to the safety of the shore with the life saving equipment he retrieved earlier in response to the drownings.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, *Randy T. Church, Chairman of the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners, North Carolina, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Caldwell County, do hereby commend NCWRC Sergeant Dustin Ethridge for his great courage and disregard for his own safety and present him with the law enforcement awards for Valor and Life Saving.*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of Caldwell County to be affixed this twelfth day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four.*