

SC Troop 5 Hosts Annual Charity Golf Tournament



L to R: Retired Cmdr. Jo Nell, Hood Temple, Sheriff TJ Joye, Sgt. Chuck Lowder

On Wednesday, October 18, 2024, the South Carolina Highway Patrol, alongside various law enforcement officials, gathered for Troop Five's annual charity golf tournament at the Country Club of South Carolina. Presented by the Hatfield and Temple Law Firm and supported by many others, this cherished tradition has been going strong for 30 years, starting when troopers from all eight counties in Troop Five came together for a friendly game of golf. A wide array of sponsors and volunteers were instrumental in ensuring the success of this event.

Retired Cmdr. Jo Nell and Sgt. Chuck Lowder recalled that the inaugural tournament took place at the Darlington Country Club, with proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. After 15 years of supporting that cause, Nell and other troopers established the T5 Charity Group, refocusing their efforts on local charities representing each of the eight counties served by the troop.

"Troopers are integral to the communities we serve, and this tournament is our way of giving back," Jo Nell emphasized. "I have always encouraged my fellow troopers to engage with their communities, to show people we are here to help."

Sgt. Chuck Lowder echoed this sentiment, noting, "We couldn't achieve this without the tremendous support we receive from our sponsors and community members." Hood Temple added, "This charity event means a lot to me personally, as I began prosecuting for the Highway Patrol in 1989. It's my way of honoring and supporting this important initiative."

Nell and Lowder highlighted that being a trooper involves more than just responding to calls and accidents. "We're not just there for crashes; we see needs, we witness hardships, and we want to support our fellow troopers," Nell explained.

Troop 5 started with a \$1,500 donation during its first tournament, and over the years, that amount has grown to an average of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per event. After the tournament, the proceeds will be allocated, with T5 reaching out to each county to decide which county needs will benefit from the donations. Additionally, if there are other areas or troopers in need, those needs will also be considered.

“We’re incredibly grateful for the many generous donors and volunteers who made this event such a success. Their support is invaluable,” said Sgt. Lowder.