

Safety and Heroism



(From left) *Billy Joe Gilley, Susan Glover, Jennifer Jones and Brian Lackey*

PIEDMONT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION GROUP AWARD Department of Adult Correction

Staff within the Department of Adult Correction are trained to respond quickly and calmly in an emergency. On January 17, 2023, four state employees at the Piedmont Correctional Institution in Salisbury – Billy Joe Gilley, Susan Glover, Jennifer Jones and Brian Lackey – used that training in an unexpected way.

While they drove back to Salisbury after a regional meeting in Winston-Salem, Glover witnessed the overturning of a tractor-trailer and alerted her colleagues to the emergency that lay ahead. The four remained level-headed as they approached the scene and jumped into action upon arrival. With the smell of diesel in the air, they noticed gasoline leaking from the engine. Smoke wafted up from the rig as it lay on its left side, the driver unable to get out. It became apparent that rescuing the driver before a fire or explosion could occur was crucial.

Gilley boosted Lackey onto the passenger side of the cab where he tried to open the door. Meanwhile, Jones retrieved a fire extinguisher from their state vehicle and sprayed it onto the smoking engine. Lackey managed to rock the passenger door open to reach the driver. With the help of another good Samaritan passing by, Lackey freed the driver and eased him down to Gilley on the ground. As they helped the driver contact his family from a safe distance, emergency services arrived.

The Piedmont Correctional staff who found themselves at the scene of a potential tragedy rushed into harm's way without hesitation to rescue another person from danger. Such quick thinking and selflessness in protecting the public are commendable. The State of North Carolina proudly recognizes Billy Joe Gilley, Susan Glover, Jennifer Jones and Brian Lackey for their admirable work.

