



## CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2022

#### **Chatham County Police Department Chief Approves Updated Official Photo for Sergeant Jacob Gililand**

*Gililand Passed Away Yesterday After Brain Cancer Battle*

**Chatham County, GA** -- (May 27, 2022) — Chatham County Police Department Chief Jeff Hadley has approved an updated official photo for Sergeant Jacob “Jake” Gililand after his death from brain cancer yesterday.

The photo, which was originally taken when Gililand was still at the rank of officer, has been edited to reflect a Sergeant’s badge and stripes.

During his final visit with Gililand one week before he died, Chief Hadley surprised him with a promotion to the rank of Sergeant from his previous rank of Corporal. Chief Hadley, along with the Chatham County Police Department Training Unit that Gililand served with, presented Gililand with a uniform shirt outfitted with a Sergeant’s badge and stripes. Sergeant Gililand was also presented his promotion certificate. Sergeant Gililand died exactly one week after this visit, and never had an official photo taken of him in his uniform reflecting his new promotion.

Two Hundred Club of the Coastal Empire President and CEO Mark Dana, along with his wife, were also at Gililand’s home during the promotion presentation. The Two Hundred Club of the Coastal Empire has provided the Gililand family with substantial support during Sergeant Gililand’s illness, and are continuing to do so in the wake of his death. During a conversation with Sergeant Gililand’s wife, Melissa, she told Dana that she would like a photo of Sergeant Gililand in his Sergeant badge and stripes. Dana contacted Chief Hadley, who approved the request to update Sergeant Gililand’s photo, and Dana facilitated the process.

“The Chatham County Police Department and the people of Chatham County deserved a strong and healthy Sergeant Jacob Gililand patrolling and protecting our streets for many years to come. Cancer robbed us of that,” said Hadley. “This photo preserves the legacy that rightly belonged to Sergeant Gililand and his family. Moving forward, this will be the official Chatham County Police Department photo of Sergeant Gililand for all purposes.”

Jacob Gililland joined the Chatham County Police Department at the rank of Officer in June 2019, and was promoted to the rank of Corporal in November 2021. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on May 19, 2022.

NOTE TO EDITORS: The updated photo of Sergeant Gililland is attached. The Chatham County Police Department would appreciate you using this photo in all future stories about Sergeant Gililland, if possible.

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