FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  THURSDAY, AUGUST 08, 2013

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT RECEIVES JAIL COMMENDATION FROM MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

The Medical Association of Georgia’s Committee on Correctional Medicine awarded the inaugural Herman E. Spivey, MD, Award for Excellence to the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department for its quality of inmate health care. Sheriff Phil Miller accepted the award and called it a "great honor and very proud day for himself, the Sheriff’s Department and the citizens of Douglas County”.

The Committee on Correctional Medicine is dedicated to improving inmate health care. Some of its members work as responsible physicians in jails and prisons. The physicians, along with a support team from the Medical Association of Georgia, conduct surveys every three years on the health section of all State prisons, several private ones, and numerous County jails. The Committee accredits facilities using standards developed by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. In order for the jail health care unit to be accredited, it must meet 100 percent of 33 essential standards and 85 percent of 29 important standards.

The Medical Association of Georgia felt it important to recognize outstanding compliance and superior health care to inmates. The award was established in 2012 and named in honor and memory of Dr. Herman E. Spivey who practiced Family Medicine in Summerville, Georgia, for 48 years, was the physician for the Chattooga County Jail, and who was a long-time and valuable member of the Committee on Correctional Medicine. The award was named at the suggestion of Dr. Marc Wall, who attended the presentation with his grandson, Caleb Chambers. Mrs. Sue Spivey, widow of Dr. Spivey, and Kathy Bridges, daughter, attended the presentation and noted that the family was "extremely humbled” by the award name designation. Mr. Clyde Maxwell, Jr., the Director of Correctional Medicine for the Medical Association of Georgia, was also present.

The award was presented to Sheriff Miller by Dr. Patton Smith, Chairman of the Committee, who noted that the Spivey Award will be given "only when achieved”, to which Sheriff Miller responded that he is proud of the accreditation and achievement. Dr. Smith and Sheriff Miller both thanked the Jail’s correctional staff and CorrectHealth, which operates the jail medical facility. They applauded CorrectHealth’s "professionalism in difficult circumstances”. CorrectHealth was represented by Dr. Carlo Musso, President; Deborah Eason, RN; and Susie Hatfield, RN.