



Board of County Commissioners
Office of the County Administrator
P.O. Box 99 / 200 East 4th Street
Woodbine, Georgia 31569

Contact: Renee' Crews
912.510.0464 (office)
912.576.5648 (fax)
mrcrews@co.camden.ga.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camden County Earns National Achievement Awards

WOODBINE, GEORGIA – June 22, 2016 – Camden County has been recognized at the national level for two (2) Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The Annual Achievement Award program began in 1973 and was designed to honor and recognize innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

NACo recognized the following programs in Camden County:

- *“Shine, Make your Community Its Best”* in the category of Health - **McKinney Medical Center.**
- *“Saving Taxpayer Dollars – Refitting Capital Assets – Cost Saving Results”* in the category of Emergency Management and Response - **Camden County Fire Rescue.**



Having access to health care is an important component of addressing the community's health care needs. Opened in Camden County in the summer of 2015, the McKinney Medical Center (MMC) is an affordable and accessible health care facility that meets the primary health care needs of the uninsured, under-insured and underserved of our area. MMC can address issues for all members of the family, from adults to pediatrics. Here in Camden, residents experience high rates of diabetes, obesity, suicide and depression prevalence and high mortality rates due to cardiovascular disease and cancer. Those without insurance now have a resource they can use to receive excellent care.

When an emergency call originates in Camden County, the last concern an Emergency Technician, Paramedic or other First Responder needs is to be worried about whether or not the emergency vehicle will break down while in route to help a citizen. The safety and protection of all Camden County citizens is paramount to staff, rapid response teams, and all Emergency personnel. So, when the ambulances began to suffer mechanical breakdowns and emission control problems due to high mileage, the Board of Commissioners authorized repairs to the ambulances. In order to save tax payer money, a refit of the chassis was the most economical way to keep the equipment as part of the future fleet. Camden County enlisted ETR (Emergency, Tactical, Rescue) Vehicles, L.L.C. to control the refurbishment and refitting

“Leadership that Listens”

STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

JOHN S. MYERS
County Attorney

WILLIS R. KEENE JR.
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Commissioner, District 5

process of a 2008 ambulance. By utilizing the existing compartment and only replacing the chassis, ETR was able to return the existing ambulance back to Camden County Fire Rescue in like new condition and in a timely manner. The refit program produced a new chassis and completely refurbished patient compartment for 60% of the cost of a new ambulance, saving taxpayers nearly \$80,000.

“I am thrilled with the announcement! To be recognized nationally allows Camden County to share our accomplishments with other counties across the nation. I’m excited to have employees who are able to develop innovative programs that promote the progress and advancement of County services,” said County Administrator Steve Howard.

Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more. The awards will be presented at NACo’s 2016 Annual Conference and Exposition July 24, 2016 in Los Angeles County, California.



About NACo: The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America’s 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public’s understanding of county government, and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

About Camden County: Located in the extreme southeast corner of Georgia, Camden County truly is “Georgia’s Coastal Community of Choice.” Originally formed in 1777, Camden County is best known for its rich history, natural scenic beauty and Southern hospitality. Our vision is helping to make this the best place to live by preserving and enhancing the history and quality of life, while promoting smart growth and providing an efficient, effective and responsive government.

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