



Officer Troy Monroe with Karen Saunders addresses the problem of drinking and driving. Police Chief George Sweat (right) looks on.

## City Police Officers Honored for Catching Drunk Drivers

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Patrol Officer Troy Monroe said getting drunk drivers off the road is just as important as catching a murderer. In fact, he says, police officers are actually preventing a possible death each time they stop a drunk driver.

"Many times, the people are so drunk they can't even stand up straight when we talk to them," he said. "It's so important to catch them because you are saving the driver's life or some innocent person's life."

Monroe has been with the Winston-Salem Police Department for eight years and he patrols the Southwest part of town. He was one of five officers honored by the North Carolinians Against Intoxicated Drivers (NC-AID) last Thursday at Polo Park Recreation Center for helping to keep drunk drivers off the streets.

Robbie Neal, president of

NC-AID, said the group began honoring the officers about five years ago to show their appreciation and to encourage them to catch even more.

Neal formed the group 12 years ago after her son, Chip, was hit by a drunk driver. He is now confined to a wheelchair and his speech is slurred, but he graduated from St. Andrew College in Laurinburg last December and currently does production work and puts out the newsletter for WTOB radio.

The five officers who made the most arrests were Christopher Woodall, Steven Snyder, Richard Necessary, Darren Conrad and Monroe. Together, they arrested 314 drunk drivers in 1993.

Police Chief George Sweat said there were 995 total arrests for drunk driving in 1993. Over the last five years, the number of arrests has dropped from 1,554 in 1988 to 995 for 1993. Sweat

attributes the decline in the number of arrests to stricter enforcement, education programs and more people having a designated driver or calling a taxi.

"We're seeing a decline because stricter enforcement is making an impact. These guys are really the cream of the crop when it comes to getting drunk drivers off the streets," he said.

Sweat said a car is like a "four-thousand-pound bullet" when under the control of an intoxicated driver. He held the officers in high regard and said everytime they catch a drunk driver, they have potentially saved an innocent person's life.

"It's just like taking a murderer off the streets," he said. "The only difference is that many times the victim is an innocent person and they have a slim chance of getting away. I'm really proud of all the officers and the work they have done."

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## Alumni to Host X-mas Celebration

The Slaten Chapter of the Winston-Salem State University Alumni Association and the Better Ideal Community Club joined forces in their annual Christmas Activity celebration on Saturday, Dec. 3, at Bethlehem Center, Cleveland Ave. Both groups found out several years ago the acute interest of each in working for Better Community and family relationships, also educational opportunities throughout the city, hence the joint celebration was instituted. Brady Houser, retired professor of Winston-Salem State University, was the first speaker for the joining of the two groups in the celebration and he emphasized the importance of community clubs in the black community being involved in the alumni activities for the support of the college in its efforts to reach out to community youth and families.

The program opened with

prayer, led by Thurmond Ford, president of the Slaten Chapter. Barbara Benson (Slaten Chapter), served as program chairperson and the pianist led us in our Christmas caroling and appropriate games for the season.

The potluck dinner (provided by members of both groups) set up in buffet style consisted of chicken, dumpling, fried chicken, turkey, ham, vegetables, congealed salads, cooked green beans, collards and green garden peas, homemade cakes and pies, coffee and soft drinks.

Helen W. Falls, chaplain for the Community Club, served as mistress of ceremonies. Falls presented members and guest, thanking all for taking time out for the Christmas celebration at the beginning of Advent week.

Officers for Slaten Alumni Club are: Thurmond Ford, president; Bernice Parker, vice-president; Helen Gwyn, secretary; and

Gloria Jones, treasurer.

Officers for Better Ideal Community Club are: Veronica Scales, president; Flora Massey, vice president; Hazel W. Hauser, recording secretary; Lucille Gwynn, correspondence secretary; Wyvetra Canter, financial secretary; Ernestine Cathcart, treasurer; and Helen Falls, chaplain.

Others in attendance from Slaten Club and Community Club were, Mary Mason, Sylvia Ford, Adline R. Hodge, Evelyn Holmes, Luther Woods, Mildred Woods, Birdie Vaughn, Ruth Cassenberry, Austin Blackmon, and Nikki Young.

Special guests were Ruth Staplewood, Margaret J. Holden, Naomi Cassenberry, William P. Wilson, Karolyn Thompson, and Goldia Anderson.

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