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MEDIA ADVISORY FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS

Commissioner Echols to Attend Saint Patrick's Day in Savannah

Who: Commissioner Tim Echols
Where: Savannah, Georgia
When: March 16-18, 2011

ATLANTA – March 10, 2011 – Newly elected Commissioner Tim Echols will spend St. Patrick's Day in Savannah. Echols will take his famous Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) car and participate in the historic March 17th St. Patrick's Day parade along with 45 bands and thousands of other participants. He also will attend the wreath-laying ceremony at Madison Square at the statue of Revolutionary War hero Sgt. William Jasper Green on March 16th at 4:30pm as well as the Hibernian Society Annual Dinner the evening of March 17th.

Echols also plans to meet on March 18 with airport officials, vehicle for hire officials, and School Board officials to discuss his ideas to see CNG and LNG utilized in mass transit. "We have a chance to help school systems, transit authorities and taxicab companies to save money," said Echols. CNG and LNG is the cleanest fossil fuel available and will go a long way to helping us keep our cities clean. Echols, an ordained minister himself, has long been an admirer of St. Patrick and the work he did to serve the people of Ireland.

Echols will also be promoting Project Share, H.E.A.T. and the Salvation Army during his visit as he talks about how Georgia citizens can aid their needy neighbors with utility bill assistance. "In the Spirit of St. Patrick, I am asking Georgia citizens to join me in checking the box on their utility bills and give to Project Share," said Echols. "Charity is not the government's job, but something just about every rate payer can easily participate in through this important Salvation Army program."

Echols will also appear on the Bill Edwards show and is available for a number of other interviews during his time in Savannah, March 16 to 18.

Echols says he has a sliver of Irish roots from his mom's side of the family. "My great grandmother, Alice Lucille Dinkens, was Irish," said Echols. "Her dad, John T. Dinkins, married Molly Hearn, and farmed in southwest Georgia, and I am proud to honor the work of St. Patrick."

Background: The Hibernian Society of Savannah was organized by forty-four prominent Savannah gentlemen for the purpose of tendering aid to needy Irish immigrants. In 1813 the Hibernian Society held a private St. Patrick's Day celebration at Independent Presbyterian Church. In 1824 James Hunter, President of the Hibernian Society, invited all local Irishmen to attend mass and then join in a parade through the streets of Savannah in honor of St. Patrick's Day. This was the birth of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah.

Commissioner Echols is the newest member of the Georgia Public Service Commission, having been elected statewide to a six-year term in November, 2010. His complete biography is at <http://tiny.cc/y5ktq>.

The Commission web site is www.psc.state.ga.us.

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