



Greg Champagne
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N e w s R e l e a s e

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MONEY DONATED TO SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR PURCHASE OF BULLET-RESISTANT VESTS

A St. Charles Parish family has donated \$25,000 to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office for the purchase of enhanced bullet-resistant vests for sheriff's deputies.

The Smith family, whose members include the owners of The Magnolia Companies of Louisiana, including state Senator Gary Smith Jr., made the donation in December.

The new-model vests include ceramic plates that are designed to protect officers from criminals using high-powered rifles, said Lt. Joe Ganote, commander of the Sheriff's SRT/Special Response Team. Other members of the family are company C.E.O. Glen Smith, and Gary Smith, Sr., the firm's president.

"This generous donation will help the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office to provide our officers the extra level of protection needed to survive an attack," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "We appreciate the concern that Magnolia Companies and the Smith family has demonstrated to enable our officers to return home safely."

