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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Topsail Beach Announces Retirement of Police Chief Samuel Gervase After 25 Years of Dedicated Service

Topsail Beach, NC – The Town of Topsail Beach announces the retirement of Police Chief Samuel Gervase, effective August 1, 2026, following more than 25 years of dedicated service to the Town and its residents. Chief Gervase’s departure will conclude an exemplary law enforcement career spanning over 25 years with the Town, characterized by steadfast leadership, deep jurisdictional knowledge, and unwavering dedication to public safety.

Originally from upstate New York, Chief Gervase graduated from St. Bonaventure University before serving in the United States Army. His military service helped shape the leadership, discipline, and sense of duty that have defined his law enforcement career.

Chief Gervase began his career with the Topsail Beach Police Department on May 28, 2001, as a police officer. Through his commitment, professionalism, and exemplary leadership, he was promoted to Lieutenant in 2005. He was appointed Interim Police Chief on March 1, 2009, and was officially named Chief of Police in June of that same year.

Throughout his distinguished tenure with the Town, Chief Gervase has worn many hats in service to the community. In addition to leading the department, he has served as the department’s criminal investigator, general instructor, specialized firearms instructor, hazmat instructor, training coordinator, field training officer, and in numerous other capacities essential to the daily operation and success of the department. His extensive knowledge, dedication to officer training, and commitment to public safety have left a lasting impact on both the department and the Town of Topsail Beach.

"Chief Gervase’s years of dedicated service have made our community safer, stronger, and better. His commitment to Topsail Beach was not only to protect and serve, but to build trust with the community, be a mentor to the officers, and lead by example. We wish him the best on his well-earned retirement." –
Christina Burke, Town Manager

Under Chief Gervase's command, the Topsail Beach Police Department navigated structural growth, technological updates, and the seasonal ebbs and flows unique to a coastal resort community. He earned the respect of his fellow officers, Town staff, elected officials, and countless residents and visitors. His leadership fostered a culture of professionalism, preparedness, and service that ensured Topsail Beach remained a safe, welcoming haven for permanent residents and visitors alike.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Chief Gervase is a precision marksman and state-certified law enforcement sniper. He has also dedicated many years to the study of martial arts, earning black belts in three separate martial arts disciplines.

Following his retirement on August 1st, Chief Gervase looks forward to long-distance motorcycle touring and extensive travel. He eagerly anticipates spending well-deserved, quality time with his family and close friends.

The Town of Topsail Beach extends its sincere appreciation to Chief Samuel Gervase for his many years of faithful service and wishes him happiness, good health, and many adventures in retirement.

The Town of Topsail Beach will host a public retirement celebration in honor of Chief Gervase closer to his effective retirement date, with details to follow. Town Administration is currently finalizing plans of the search process for the next Chief of Police.

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