



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County
90 North Street, Canton GA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Attorney's Hero Award Presented to Kelsey Montgomery, Cherokee County School District Teacher

CANTON, GA (May 20, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway is pleased to announce that, on May 19, a Cherokee County School District teacher was honored with the District Attorney's Hero Award, for the vital role she played in the prosecution of a child abuse case.

District Attorney Treadaway presented the award to Kelsey Montgomery during the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners' work session.

"Ms. Montgomery embodies the profound impact teachers can have beyond the classroom," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "By creating a safe and supportive environment, she became a hero to a student in her class. We are grateful to have educators like Ms. Montgomery serving our community."

Three years ago, Ms. Montgomery observed signs that a student in her class was being physically abused at home. When she gently asked the child about visible bruises, the child was hesitant to talk. Ms. Montgomery did not push the matter. Instead, she documented her observations through the proper channels and told the child that she was available to talk whenever the child was ready. Through her patience and support, Ms. Montgomery became a trusted adult in this child's life.

When the child eventually disclosed the abuse, Ms. Montgomery was ready to help. Her actions ensured the child was no longer in danger and contributed significantly to the successful prosecution of the case.

"Teachers are so often unsung heroes in the lives of students. Kelsey Montgomery is an exemplar in the care, commitment, and professionalism she puts into her role as a teacher," said Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis, Cherokee County School District. "Thank you to the District Attorney's office for its dedication to protecting our community's children and the much-deserved recognition of Kelsey."

The Special Victims Unit handled the prosecution of this case, with the trial team consisting of Assistant District Attorney David. J. Bailey, Investigator DeAnna Jarrett, and Victim Advocate Jasel Villanueva.

###

The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

CONTACT:

Cyndi Crossland

Public Information Officer

cbcrossland@cherokeecountyga.gov