

Newton County Schools created the Almond J. Turner Tribute and Award video as the culminating moment of the district's first-ever State of the District program. More than just a tribute, it was a powerful reflection on the life and legacy of Mr. Almond Turner, a retired assistant chief of police for the Covington Police Department and a longtime member of the Newton County Board of Education. Mr. Turner dedicated more than 20 years to serving Newton County Schools before his life was tragically cut short by a senseless act of violence five years ago. His death shocked the community, leaving a void that has never truly been filled. Under the direction of Superintendent Dr. Duke Bradley and in alignment with the school board's commitment to enhancing communication and transparency, Newton County Schools developed its first State of the District program to engage stakeholders in a meaningful way. As part of this initiative, the district and school board established the Almond J. Turner Legacy Award, the highest honor Newton County Schools will bestow. The announcement of this award was reserved as the final moment of the event, making it the emotional highlight of the evening. The video played just before the award was presented, with Mr. Turner's family in attendance, surrounded by a community that deeply respected him. It told the story of his commitment to education, leadership, and lasting impact. The tribute honored not only his contributions but also the profound loss felt by those who knew him. As the video played, the room was silent, and by the time it ended, there was not a dry eye in the house. This video was not just about remembering what was lost; it ensured Mr. Turner's name and legacy would continue to inspire others. By establishing the Almond J. Turner Legacy Award, Newton County Schools reaffirmed its commitment to recognizing individuals who embody the same dedication to service and leadership. After the program, the video was shared on all social media platforms along with information about the inaugural award recipient, a retired educator whose career mirrored Mr. Turner's commitment to students and the community. The video immediately became a conversation starter, sparking discussions about Mr. Turner's impact and the importance of continuing his work through this honor. The video served as a powerful tool for communication, connecting the district's past with its present and future. It reinforced the idea that true leadership leaves a lasting legacy and that Newton County Schools is committed to honoring those who

dedicate their lives to education and service. The overwhelmingly positive response to the tribute demonstrated the deep respect the community holds for Mr. Turner. It was a moment of reflection, celebration, and commitment to carrying forward his legacy, making this video one of the district's most meaningful productions.