

D. Paul Sommerville
November 9, 2012
Coursen-Tate Park Dedication

Thank you Sheriff Tanner. It's an honor to be here today and be a part of this special dedication ceremony.

I would like to first thank my fellow Council members who approved the purchase of this land to make this Park possible. The first suggestion of a new Park on Lady's Island was mentioned many years ago but then there was the task of finding land large enough to accommodate such a facility. Then luckily the land we stand on now was found at a price the County could afford and the steps to make this Park what it is today were put into motion.

Lady's Island is predominately made up of young families and who more enjoys or needs a Public Park than families. Over the last 10 years, the population growth on Lady's Island has seen a 35% increase and most of that growth comes from families relocating here or couples expanding their families. With that type of increase it shows you how needed this Park is and how much it will be used for years to come. While Parks are beneficial for families to have a place to come and enjoy the outdoors, Parks also have true economic benefits. Studies show the closer homes and businesses are to parks, the property value goes up. When a park is built, jobs are created. Park and recreation areas are true economic engines that improve the quality of life and make communities livable and desirable for businesses and homeowners.

This Park will have so many positive impacts on Lady's Island and I could go on listing more benefits but more importantly what this Park will do for Lady's Island is make people remember two men who gave the ultimate sacrifice. This Park stands apart from all other Parks because it is named after Corporal Coursen and Lance Corporal Tate. These two men called Lady's Island their home. They were both raising families on Lady's Island and were part of this Community. This Park will immortalize what AJ and Dana and will remind the families who come here that their own neighbors are the deputies that died protecting them.