

# SCDOT remembers fallen workers during ceremony

By Bob Kudelka

Before April 28, 2022, there were 89 names on the SCDOT Workers Memorial Wall honoring those who gave their lives in service to SCDOT and the state of South Carolina.

On that morning, at the largest-ever turnout for the SCDOT Workers Memorial ceremony, a 90th name was added.

“It’s with a very, very heavy heart that we will be adding another name to this Memorial Wall,” Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** told those gathered for the solemn ceremony in front of Headquarters in Columbia.

The name of SCDOT Greenwood Maintenance employee **Charles “Chuck” Kennedy**, who died in the line of duty on June 10, 2021, while on the way to

a work site, was unveiled on the wall as family members looked on.

Hall described how Kennedy, a father figure for many of his Greenwood crew, usually preferred not to drive. That fateful morning, however, Kennedy hopped in behind the wheel of the vehicle.

“Halfway into their journey, everything changed,” Hall said. “Without warning and in the blink of an eye, a vehicle crossed the center line and struck their vehicle - not quite head-on.

“It is widely believed, by the folks that were with him that day, that he intentionally turned that vehicle away in order to protect the rest of the crew,” Hall

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Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall** talks to the crowd gathered to remember and honor the fallen employees. The family of **Chuck Kennedy** was seated on the front row.



A family member looks at names on the SCDOT Workers Memorial Wall. Since the early 1920s, SCDOT has lost 90 employees while they were working.

A plaque with Charles ‘Chuck’ Barry Kennedy was unveiled during this year’s ceremony. Kennedy died in a vehicle accident on his way to the worksite on June 10, 2021.

CHARLES “CHUCK” BARRY KENNEDY  
GREENWOOD MAINTENANCE  
JUNE 10, 2021



Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration **Justin Powell**, left, and Deputy Secretary for Intermodal Planning **Brent Rewis**, right, read the names of those on the wall as Chief Engineer for Project Delivery **Randall Young** rings a bell after each name was read.



Near the end of the ceremony, Director of Maintenance **David Cook** and **Hall** place a wreath on the memorial wall.



The audience included family members and coworkers of those on the memorial wall.