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For more information:

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**DOUGLASVILLE'S 15TH ANNUAL GEORGIA COWBOY POETS GATHERING:
A TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF MAC ABERCROMBIE - "REMEMBERING MR. MAC"**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to sponsor its 15th annual Georgia Cowboy Poets Gathering at Chapel Hill High School on Saturday, March 5th, 2011. The evening performance begins at 6:30 p.m. Showcasing local performers and members of the Douglas County Cowboy Poets as well as West Georgia musicians who will sing and yodel, playing guitar, fiddle and harmonica for Old West and traditional cowboy songs, this special event is presented by the Douglas County Cowboy Poets in partnership with the Cultural Arts Council. Tickets are \$12 per person (\$10 for CAC members, seniors and students). Door prizes include framed and autographed posters, "Remembering Mr. Mac" commemorating the 2011 Georgia Cowboy Poets Gathering.

For the Saturday night performance, Douglas County Cowboy Poets founders Charlie Holloway and Joel Hayes have organized a fun-filled evening of song, rhyme and verse in tribute to Sheriff Mac Abercrombie, "Remembering Mr. Mac." Showcased performers in 2011 include cowboy poets Bill Mattison from Colbert, Georgia; Harry Yeomans, Colonel John H. Hutcheson who raise Morgan horse at Gab Creek Farm, Kenny McClure from Fairburn, Charlie Holloway who authored *Old Saddles & Good Advice* and who is as well and widely known and respected for his traditional cow camp cooking as for his poems, and Joel Hayes who is known as the father of Georgia Cowboy Poetry and who has performed at every Douglas County Cowboy Poets Gathering since the first one held at Hudson's by the Lake in 1997. The gathering's master of ceremonies Frank B. Wood has been performing cowboy poetry for the past forty-five years. The 15th annual Georgia Cowboy Poets gathering will feature musical performances by guitarist Bill Turnipseed, Douglasville native harmonica player and poet Justin Hicks now living in Jacksonville, Florida, singer and songwriter John Linville also from Florida, fiddler Thomas Ingram from Cedartown, and author and musician David Fillingim from Rome. More Georgia Cowboy Poets are also expected to perform at the 15th Annual Douglas County Cowboy Poets Gathering, and this year as every year no doubt the Gathering will include some surprise guests including members of Sheriff Mac Abercrombie's "Barn Rats."

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

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15TH ANNUAL COWBOY POETS GATHERING

Cowboys and cowgirls are ever-popular American icons, and folklorists trace the practice of composing verse about life and work on the range back to the trail drive era after the Civil War. Most of this nation's first cowboys, the cowboys of the trail drives during the late 1800s, had Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Gaelic roots. Their distinctive lingo and their songs and poems were largely based on traditions of British balladry. It has been ever since those early days that their poetry has circulated orally and in print, sometimes anonymously but often with a known author. Many of these verses are still recited and sung today. The American cowboy culture is a fascinating amalgam of Irish storytelling, Scottish seafaring and cattle tending, Moorish and Spanish horsemanship, European cavalry traditions, African improvisation and Native American experience.

The modern Cowboy Poets movement began in 1979 when the Library of Congress and National Endowment for the Arts convened a meeting of American folklorists where Arizona folklorist Jim Griffith began to develop the idea of a national gathering of cowboy poets. The first Cowboy Poets Gathering was held in 1985 in Elko, Nevada; more than 8,000 people now attend that event which produces a \$5.5 million impact on the local economy each year. There are now more than 150 Cowboy Poets Gatherings around the U.S. The Douglasville celebration of cowboy life and culture is the 10th such annual gathering in Douglasville, Georgia sponsored by the Cultural Arts Council in partnership with the Douglas County Cowboy Poets, which is a satellite organization of the Arts Council.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in downtown Douglasville, Georgia. Chapel Hill High School is located at 4899 Chapel Hill Road, Douglasville 30135. Douglasville is 18 miles west of Atlanta; from I-20 West, take exit 36 (Chapel Hill), follow signs to Chapel Hill Road staying left off the interstate and then turn right off the exit ramp onto Chapel Hill Road; the high school is about 5.5 miles south of the interstate on your right. Contact the Cultural Arts Council for further information, directions and to purchase tickets 770/949-2787.

(PLEASE NOTE: Photographs of last year's Cowboy Poets Gathering performers are available upon request. Contact Laura C. Lieberman at 770-949-2787 or culturedirector@earthlink.net.)

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