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Florida Sheriff Awarded At NASCAR All-Star Race

5/26/2006

Just a few weeks ago, St. Augustine, Fla. Sheriff David Shoar was wondering if he'd be able to fulfill a promise he'd made to his community earlier this spring.



John Walsh and Nextel executive Leon Frazier presented Sheriff Shoar as the AMW All-Star in front of thousands of NASCAR fans in Charlotte, N.C. on May 20, 2006.

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Sheriff Shoar Wins AMW All-Star Competition
Donates \$10,000 Prize to Help Deputy
See page 4

MEET THE
2006 AMW
ALL-STAR



Meet Your 2006 All-Star

David Shoar
Sheriff, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
Saint Augustine, FL



FUGITIVES TO DATE



Deputy
Steve Bailey

...Bailey and his
...have \$40,000 to begin their new life.

...give back to our community.

From the desk of . . .

*Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association*



Anyone living in Florida today can't help but heed the message of hurricane preparedness. Even if you've never been personally affected, the news coverage of devastation in the last few years has likely been enough to get your attention.

Going into this hurricane season, which started June 1, the Florida Sheriffs Task Force hosted its annual statewide workshop with preparedness in mind. We brought together law-enforcement leaders to critique past performance and make sure plans are in place to respond as the need arises in the future.

Planning and activities such as these have helped put Florida at the forefront and earned us national recognition as a model state in the area of disaster response. When it comes to multi-agency coordination and mobilization of manpower and resources to affected areas – within our state and beyond our borders – you won't find anyone better prepared than Sheriffs.

Of course, much of the credit goes to a networking infrastructure that came as a result of Homeland Security measures established after the attacks of September 2001. Sheriffs have led the charge on those measures as well.

Because of its reputation, our Task Force now responds to requests from law-enforcement agencies in other states that want to model their response programs after Florida's.

Something we did differently at this year's workshop was invite the Police Chiefs of Florida, through their professional association, to join us. When it comes to the safety and defense of our citizens, there are no corporate secrets. Our goal was to share our effective blueprint and other details, so that police departments could benefit from what we've already created and established. This also should result in smoother joint operations, as both the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs have a desk at the Emergency Operations Center, where response is coordinated.

Natural or man-made, doesn't matter

Some people have inquired about Florida's preparedness for other threats, including acts of terrorism, violent protests or even an outbreak of the bird flu. The good thing is that our hurricane

response model can be easily tailored to address needs in any type of disaster or threat.

In fact, Florida is better prepared than most other states to respond to any type of emergency situation because we have been through real-life testing. We've not only planned and practiced, we've executed our plan repeatedly, so we know what works. And the emergency response plan has a universal application, no matter what event triggers the need. We know how to get manpower and resources to an area in a timely manner and secure it for the protection of lives and property in the community.

Session ends

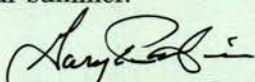
This also is the time of year when we include our legislative wrap up in the issue. I'm happy to report that, just as in years past, the Florida Sheriffs were able to maintain a strong presence in the legislative process. I'd like to emphasize that it's not just the Sheriffs that command attention, but the fact that – through this association – they represent a much broader voice 100,000 strong.

We're grateful when our honorary members also make their voices heard by corresponding directly with legislators. We've included a letter from one such member in our Letters column. It's always nice to know that our January/February Annual Guide To Government is useful in furthering efforts of the citizen activist.

Boot Camp reform was a topic that commanded attention in the news media this legislative session. There are only four Sheriffs in the state operating Boot Camps and these Sheriffs worked directly with the Governor's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice to craft the next solution. Called "Sheriffs' STAR" program, which stands for "Sheriffs Training And Respect," the approach is designed to be less confrontational.

We've included a brief summary of legislation in this issue and will continue to keep our members updated as more information becomes available.

Meanwhile...enjoy your summer.


Gary Perkins, Executive Director

CASE: Fraud Easier to Prevent Than to Catch and Prosecute

The Lee County Sheriff's Office is one of 23 model sites and the only law-enforcement agency nationwide chosen to implement an innovative senior protection program.

Communities Against Senior Exploitation (CASE), started by the Denver District Attorney's Office in 2002, promotes partnerships between law enforcement and the faith community. It is designed to prevent fraud and exploitation of older adults, increase fraud detection and reporting, and provide victim support.

The CASE program worked so well that the U.S. Bureau of Justice supported replicating the program across the United States. LCSO Crime Prevention Coordinator Stacey Payne completed training in February and is in the planning stages of implementing the CASE program locally and statewide.

"Older adults are more likely to be targeted for scams and fraud," says Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott. "This program gives



older consumers the tools they need to empower and protect themselves."

Reaching the pulpit

The CASE program educates clergy and faith leaders on how to recognize signs of elder financial crimes and steps to take to reduce fraud. Partner groups also distribute monthly *Fraud Alerts* to their members, monitor older adults, report suspected fraud to CASE staff members and hold seminars.

"The decision to partner with the faith communities was easy because a high percentage of older adults are members of (them)," says Payne. "And older adults place a high level of trust in their clergy and (place of worship)." In addition, older adults receive much of their information and support from their faith communities, she says.

LCSO plans to distribute monthly *Fraud Alerts*, conduct *Power Against Fraud* seminars and provide handbooks and other materials to

older adults and their families to help prevent fraud and exploitation. LCSO also will provide a fraud hotline to assist callers with services that include crisis intervention, information and referral and victim advocacy services. This hotline will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; an important benefit to older adults who often will not leave recorded messages.

CASE partnerships are not only limited to faith communities, but are open to anyone who would like to learn more about how to prevent senior exploitation. LCSO also has partnered with the Tanger Outlet Mall (to educate customers), the Veteran's Administration Clinic, Neighborhood Watch groups, senior centers and other groups and associations.

LCSO expects the program to reach thousands of older adults, family members and caregivers through the *Power Against Fraud* seminars and monthly *Fraud Alerts*.

To find out more about CASE, including how to start one in your area, please contact Stacey Payne at (239) 477-1481 or e-mail Spayne@sheriffleefl.org. Information can also be found at www.sheriffleefl.org. ☼

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Florida Sheriff Awarded At NASCAR All-Star Race

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Just a few weeks ago, St, Augustine, Fla. Sheriff David Shoar was wondering if he'd be able to fulfill a promise he'd made to his community earlier this spring.

Sheriff Shoar became a finalist during the



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Meet Your 2006 All-Star

David Shoar

Sheriff, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
Saint Augustine, FL



Sheriff Wins, Deputy Benefits

When he received a call from the America's Most Wanted All-Star Competition for First Responders, St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar thought it might be a hoax. After a little investigation, though, he learned that a man he had mentored from childhood had nominated him for the contest. He also learned that there was a \$10,000 cash prize involved.

"I made the immediate decision that if we won, the money would go to Steve Bailey," he says.

Well, in spite of coming to

the contest late in the game – three-fourths of the way through – Sheriff Shoar won the top spot and, true to his word, the money is going to his deputy, Steve Bailey.

Bailey was a School Resource Officers until last September, when he suffered a debilitating stroke. His fiancé, Joyce Holliman, moved him into her home and became his caregiver. She's been working three jobs to try and make ends meet, including covering out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Things have become even more difficult since Easter



Deputy Steve Bailey

Sunday, when a fire ripped through their apartment complex and leaving Holliman, her five children and Deputy Bailey homeless. Virtually all of their belongings were ruined.

Winner times two

Sheriff Shoar didn't make a big deal of the nomination, but it seems his employees and community did. Word got out to the news media about the Sheriff's pledge to donate the winnings. "It just kind of took on a life of its own, he says." He added that the Florida Sheriffs Association network also helped gain support.

In the end, Sheriff Shoar says he's convinced that concern for Deputy Bailey is what propelled the win. "We won this thing not because of me; we won because of Steve Bailey," he says. "Steve is a life-long public servant. He's worked a lot with youth in our schools. He's a wonderful guy and a wonderful

employee."

Although the nomination and win was a unique experience, something Sheriff Shoar didn't quite count on was the fame that came with the contest. He's enjoyed numerous appearances on television and in the news media, and his story has been posted all over the Internet. And that was *before* the win was announced during the May 13 episode of *America's Most Wanted* television show.

A week later, Sheriff Shoar was presented the check in front of a stadium full of screaming fans during the May 20 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series All Star Challenge in Charlotte, North Carolina. He took brother-in-law Pat Mulligan along with him, since his 13-year-old son and wife weren't NASCAR fans.

Everyday heroes

When talking about the fame that comes with winning such a

high-profile national contest, Sheriff Shoar shrugs it off, saying, "I'm glad to have gotten the attention for (Deputy) Steve Bailey." By elevating the case through the competition, he says one person is considering making a 100-percent match of the prize money to help the deputy.

The only Florida finalist of the eight chosen, Sheriff Shoar says the AMW recognition is good for our state. "Florida brought home the prize," he says proudly.

The prize truly belongs to "all those men and women who go out there every day and get the job done," he says.

"That's who it's about. Everybody in public safety's a hero." ☼

At press time, FSA learned that, after hearing of Deputy Bailey's situation, three individuals stepped forward and matched the \$10,000 gift. Deputy Bailey and his new family will now receive \$40,000 to help them get back on their feet.

PAL-ing Around in Lake County

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Police Activities League (PAL) team won a trophy for the largest team (7 kids, ages 8 to 13) in a recent "Officer Down Memorial Ride." The cycling event took the team from Titusville to Apopka.

The Lake County PAL is a not-for-profit group established with the support of Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels in 2004.

According to their Web site, the Police Activities League is a youth crime prevention program that relies on educational, athletic and other recreational activities to cement a bond between police officers and youth within the community. It is based on the premise that young people – if reached early enough – can develop strong, positive attitudes towards police officers and the law. Studies have shown that if a young person respects a police officer on the ball field or in the gym, he or she will likely come to respect the laws that police officers enforce. Such respect is beneficial to the young person, law enforcement and the entire community.

In Florida, Sheriffs' Offices that have PALs



Lake County PAL's cycling team winners at the Officer Down Memorial Ride

include: Brevard, Charlotte, Clay, Escambia, Flagler, Jacksonville/Duval, Lake, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Sarasota, Seminole and St. Johns.

Find out more on the State of Florida Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. Web site: <http://www.sfapal.com> or the Lake County Sheriff's Office PAL site: <http://www.lakecountypal.com>. You may also contact Lt. Peyton Grinnell for more information: pgrinnell@lcsa.org. ☼

Alachua County SO's Olympic Hopeful, Cara Evans

Working full-time in the challenging field of law enforcement is enough to sap the energy out of even the most youthful among us. So, who would think of combining a Sheriff's Office career with training for – say – the Olympics?

Meet Cara (pronounced "Carr-uh") Evans, a 27-year-old U.S. track and field Olympic contender. Evans, the assistant Teen Court Coordinator at Alachua County Sheriff's Office, qualified for nationals this past April. She ran 57.54 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles. For those of us who don't know much about the event, that's one time around the track, while leaping over 10 hurdles.

It seems Evans has a few other hurdles to overcome before making it to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. For starters, she has to keep competing. That requires weekend travel to sites where "unattached" athletes can compete – mostly with college teams. It's not a sport like football, where you have programs and activity all over the country. She often travels to destinations such as Arizona or California, though occasionally the meets will be within driving distance from Gainesville, at locations such as Auburn or Atlanta.

Each year, Evans also must earn her spot. Then, in 2008, her times for the Olympic Trials must be good enough to make the top three.

Evans has come close before. In the 2004 trials, she was ranked 12th. It's important to note, too, that age 30 is the "peak" for most track-and-field athletes, which means she'll have an edge in 2008.

Making ends meet

The fact that the peak comes rel-



In addition to training for the 2008 Olympics, Cara Evans works with the Teen Court program at the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

atively late in life usually narrows the competition, Evans says, as not many people are able (or willing) to make the sacrifices needed to maintain the rigors of training.

For instance, Evans' day begins at the gym lifting weights at 6 a.m. She is at work by 9. She then takes a mid afternoon break for a three-hour track workout, and returns to work the early evening shift until around 8 p.m.

"It's quite draining," Evans says. She tries to surround herself with other athletes in training to stay focused and not get discouraged.

Finding a sponsor would make the going easier, of course, but to date she hasn't attracted the attention of a sportswear company like Nike or Reebok. And, while some athletes are supported by their



employers, working in public service puts Evans at a disadvantage.

Still, she says Alachua County Sheriff Stephen Oelrich has been very supportive, and so have her co-workers and supervisors. It helps that she's known in the agency. After attending the University of Florida on scholarship, she graduated and went to work with ACSO first in Dispatch, then Records. She's now enjoying working in the diversion program for first-time offenders, called Teen Court.

To keep tabs on Evans, visit the U.S.A. Track & Field Web site: USATF.org. Choose "Stats," at the top, then "Top Marks Lists." Look for the Outdoor Track & Field "Women" link. At last check, Evans was ranked 9th in the U.S.

Contact Cara Evans via e-mail, clevans@alachuasheriff.org, or call: 352-367-4129 ☎

Support for Cara Evans

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is hoping to recruit sponsors for employee Cara Evans while she trains for the Olympics. If you'd like to help, send checks payable to ACSO Employee Fund, to the attention of: Aimee Rush, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 S.E. Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641-7546.

Agriculture Crime Stoppers: A Different Kind of Patrol

By Sgt. Roger Mills
Pasco County Sheriff's Office

With just over 37 percent of Pasco County Florida zoned as agricultural, a unit dedicated to serving the rural community is a necessity, not a luxury. In 2005, there were 178,209 acres of agriculture land in Pasco County. The agriculture classification is made up of citrus groves, dairy/feedlots, timberland, horse farms, and swamps – which make up the biggest portion of the 178,000 acres.

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office has six certified Deputy Sheriffs (two part-time) who patrol certain roads in Pasco County made of logging trails and two rut roads. These officers are provided the same training as other sworn Deputy Sheriffs, but then receive special training and equipment to provide a service outside the scope of the average officer. They use four-wheel drive trucks with winches, ATVs, and even ride horseback when necessary to provide services.

Their patrol area may take them into a section of land covering several thousands acres. There are no street signs, traffic signals or fast moving cars, but don't think crime isn't present. With violations ranging from simple trespass to murder, these areas can be a haven for illicit activity. One of the fastest grow-



ing problems with the rapid population growth is illegal dumping, consisting of everything from household garbage, tires and yard trimmings to stolen and stripped cars; you name it—they have seen it.

When not patrolling these vast properties, the deputies manage to help keep the livestock off the roadways. It's just another service they provide. They also carry fencing tools to secure livestock, which helps ensure the safety of motorists, too.

Partnership with FHP

Pasco County is ranked 12th out of 67 counties in Florida in beef production. There are roughly 28,000 beef cattle in Pasco County, an increase from 3,000 in the year 2003. Deputies assist the Florida Highway Patrol when there are livestock -involved vehicle accidents. At these accident scenes, they help ensure there is no other loose livestock, and check the quality of the fencing so motorists can travel safely without the concern of cattle or other large livestock running loose on the roadways. The deputies also assist FHP by attempting to locate the owner of livestock in these crashes. Maintaining a working relationship with the ranchers and livestock owners throughout the county puts them a step ahead of the process.

The officers investigate cruelty to livestock also, a job that

requires a close working relationship with the local veterinarians of Pasco County. Dedication from both deputy and vets help to provide the community with a service that would not be available if this union did not exist. Many times, the veterinarians have provided services at no charge to help see these animals receive quality care with nothing in return, except service to the community and the love of animals.

In one case, a goat had been attacked by dogs and had life-threatening injuries. The goat was roaming at large and no owner could be located. The veterinarian bill was going to be astronomical, as he kept the goat for several weeks. The vet was able to save its life and there was no charge for the service. This savings would not have been possible without the mutual respect and bond that has been forged by the Pasco Sheriff's Office Agriculture Unit.

The service provided to the community by the Pasco Sheriff's Agriculture Unit is substantial not only in protection of citizens, but the environment as well.

Sgt. Roger Mills is a 25-year veteran of the Pasco Sheriff's Office and has served as a member of the Pasco Agricultural Unit for seven years. Contact him by writing: RM266RM@aol.com. ★

Deputy Donates Kidney to Ailing Mom

By Hugh Graf
Public Information Officer
Broward Sheriff's Office

Forget the flowers and never mind the brunch, a Broward Sheriff's Office deputy has given her mom perhaps the ultimate gift for Mother's Day; she donated a kidney to the woman who gave her life.

Since she was a little girl, 23-year-old BSO Detention Deputy Ashleigh Dillard knew that her mother suffered from diabetes. For many years the disease was manageable, but in 2003, when 55-year-old Gloria Scott had to begin a regimen of kidney dialysis, Dillard knew things had taken a turn for the worse. She also realized that it wouldn't be too long before her mother would need a kidney transplant. By late 2004, that realization had become a reality and Dillard decided to give her mother a second chance at life.

In late March 2006, mother and daughter drove from their home in Pompano Beach to Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center in Fort Myers. There, the two women underwent successful surgery lasting several hours. After a couple of days, Dillard was up and about and feeling great. Her mother wasn't too far behind.

"It was an easy decision," said Dillard. "My mother has always given so much of herself to others that I knew what I



Broward Sheriff's Office Detention Deputy Ashleigh Dillard prepares for a TV interview.

Broward Sheriff's Office Detention Deputy Ashleigh Dillard says the decision to give her mom, Gloria Scott, a kidney was an easy one. Says Dillard: "My mother has always given so much of herself to others that I knew what I had to do." Photos courtesy of the Broward Sheriff's Office and the Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center.



had to do. Of course, now I don't know what I'm going to get her next Mother's Day. This one is going to be pretty tough to top."

Today, both women are back home in Pompano Beach and doing well. Dillard is taking some time off from her duties at the Joseph V. Conte Facility, one of BSO's five jails, while Scott is enjoying some shopping, cooking and her new lease on life.

According to the National

Kidney Foundation, 20 million Americans have chronic kidney disease (CKD) and another 20 million are at increased risk. The two major causes of CKD are diabetes and high blood pressure. For more information, log onto the National Kidney Foundation's Website at www.kidney.org.

Visit the Broward Sheriff's Office at: www.sheriff.org. Write to PIO Hugh Graf at: Hugh_Graf@sheriff.org. ☆

One Step Closer to Faster Info Sharing

As part of a statewide effort to allow law enforcement agencies to exchange information more quickly, a regional database system called LiNX was introduced this past March at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville.

LiNX, an acronym for "Law Enforcement Information Exchange," has been described as a "Google" search engine for law enforcement. It will yield useful details that can help on investigations, including terrorist plans, suspicious crime suspects and other security-related events.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Attorney, Sheriffs' Offices and about 30 other law-enforcement agencies in northeast Florida and southeast Georgia are participating in LiNX. Other regions throughout the state continue to develop their own data-sharing systems. These will ultimately be connected together into a single, statewide data sharing system accessible to all Florida law enforcement. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Regional Domestic Security



Sheriffs who attended the March press conference introducing LiNX were: Jacksonville/Duval Sheriff John Rutherford, Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean, Flagler County Sheriff Don Fleming, Nassau County Sheriff Tommy Seagraves, Putnam County Sheriff Dean Kelly, Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner and Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler.

Task Forces are providing oversight. A Law Enforcement Connectivity Workgroup, chaired by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter, is working through issues related to statewide integration.

In a prepared statement, Flagler County Sheriff Don Fleming said, "This is a major step forward for law enforcement in combating crime and tracking criminals. Our investigative resources now cross not only county lines but also state lines."

Up until now, much of the

information swapped between law-enforcement agencies has been done by phone. It's tedious and labor intensive. Through LiNX and the other regional systems in Florida, information retrieved quickly from other agencies will allow investigators to see connections between myriad of details.

The umbrella organization of statewide connectivity is the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Systems (CJJIS) Council. Find more information online, visit: www.fdle.state.fl.us/flex. ☼

Marksman First Place award

Bradford County Sheriff's Office Explorer Lt. Amanda Hebert recently received the Marksman First Place award for a match she participated in last year, competing against 15 other counties. Awards were delayed due to all of the hurricane activity in the state.

Hebert has been in Explorers for five years and held ranks of corporal, sergeant and now the Lieutenant of Post #388

Explorers are young adults, ages 14 to 21, who are interested in learning about law enforcement.

For more information, contact Deputy D. Young or Joyce Cooley at 904-966-6161, or e-mail: joyce_cooley@bradford-co-fla.org. ☼



From left, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Barbara Smith, Range Master for the Florida Sheriff's Explorers Association; Bradford County Sheriff's Office Explorer Lt. Amanda Hebert and BCSO Deputy David A. Young, Senior Advisor.

Technology Not All That's Needed for Protection

By
Sgt. Rick Hord
Okaloosa
County
Sheriff's Office



Police dramas have been a staple on TV for decades, with positive spin-off effects. They elevate public awareness and enhance appreciation of law-enforcement professionals. They usually portray police officers as dedicated public servants. On TV, as in real life, citizens are almost always better off because of the tireless efforts of their community's law-enforcement officers.

But could those same shows also be producing negative spin-offs? Might TV, with its plethora of wondrous criminal-catching, high-tech gizmos, be unintentionally fostering a dangerous overconfidence in science?

High-tech catch

The current generation of cop shows is often excellent drama, and these programs continue to serve an important public service. The emphasis, however, has shifted from plots dominated by police-citizen cooperation to plots in which technology triumphs over all obstacles; human-imposed or otherwise.

Those of us from the "Dragnet" generation grew up watching citizens help the police solve crimes every week.

What technical tools existed at the time were of secondary importance to old-fashioned police-citizen cooperation. On virtually every episode, a little old lady, a grocery-store clerk, or a schoolchild just happened to mention some seemingly insignificant observation that turned out to be exactly what Sgt. Friday and Officer Gannon needed to solve their case.

Involved, interested citizens solve crimes. That was true then,



it is true now and will be true for many years to come.

Unfortunately, that truth no longer takes center stage on most TV shows. Many programs greatly exaggerate the capabilities of their computers and gadgets; some feature devices that don't even exist in the real world.

Technology can never replace little old ladies, grocery clerks, and schoolchildren sharing what they've seen and heard with their local police officer.

In the real world, high tech is cool, but low tech can be also very useful. Here are five low-tech, low-cost suggestions to help fight crime:

1-Lock your doors. The fact is, most burglars don't break in, they just look for unlocked doors. They don't have to look very long to steal items from either buildings or vehicles.

2-Don't forget your windows. A window, a doggie door or any opening the size of a sheet of notebook paper is plenty big enough to let a burglar in.

3-Do not have any ID numbers printed on your checks. A Social Security number shouldn't be necessary for passing a check, and for the driver's license number, you should prefer the teller or clerk personally check your photo ID, instead of relying on a pre-printed number.

4-Write down the serial numbers of electronic equipment and other valuables. For jewelry and other items that have no serial number, keep a good close-up photograph.

5-Don't be afraid to call the police. We commonly hear the excuse "...you probably had more important things to do... I didn't want to bother the police." In fact, what bothers us is not getting those calls from little old ladies, grocery clerks, and schoolchildren who think something or somebody doesn't seem quite right. That call could have been the most important one we received all day.

Send your crime prevention and personal safety questions to Rick Hord, c/o Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, 1250 Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32357-1234 or via e-mail: rhord@sheriff-okaloosa.org. ★

Say Goodbye to Handwritten Traffic Tickets



Brevard County
Sheriff Jack Parker

Swipe technology is being used to buy groceries, access secure office buildings and even to make donations at church. So, why can't law enforcement use it to capture vitals from the back of driver's licenses?

Well, they can. But, until now, the cost for commercially available technology to make it happen well exceeded most county budgets. Costs are estimated to run between \$4,500 and \$7,000 to equip a vehicle using a commercial vendor.

Brevard County Sheriff's Office Information Systems Manager Ray Dils decided an alternative was long overdue. After listening to deputies' frustration, he decided to develop his own automated traffic ticket writing program. The result: the State of Florida Integrated Citation System, or SOFICS.

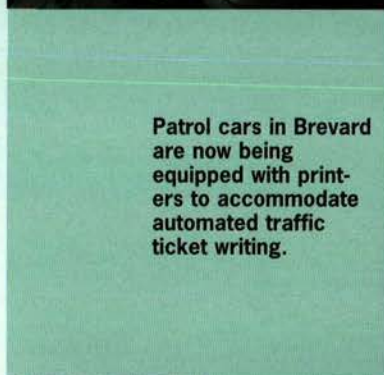
Makes sense

Anyone who has ever received a parking or speeding ticket can probably see where there's room for improvement. It's difficult enough to figure out the nature of the charges, much less how you're supposed to pay, or what action you need to take.

Think of the government side. All of this must be entered into a computer, at some point, and sent to the county clerk's office.



Most Sheriff's Office vehicles in Brevard County are already equipped with computers, which was a cost savings when SOFICS was introduced.



Patrol cars in Brevard are now being equipped with printers to accommodate automated traffic ticket writing.



Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker says since the driver's license swiping technology was developed in-house, they're free to share with other policing agencies.

Imagine you're the person trying to decipher the deputy's handwritten driver's license number and other vitals. And picture the stacks and stacks of paper generated everyday – not to mention the potential for loss between the deputy's patrol car and the final destination.

With SOFICS, which took about six months to develop, deputies on patrol can now swipe the driver's license into their computers, fill in a few fields using a letter or two or a pull-down menu, insert a blank citation and print. Four copies are generated, including one for the driver. *(continued)*

Even better: Information from the ticket is automatically sent to the Sheriff's Office records division to be verified. Next, it's transmitted electronically to the court. Talk about savings.

The \$215,000 that Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker expects to pay to equip vehicles is much easier to swallow than the \$2.3 million it would have cost using a commercial vendor.

According to Dils, the first prototype of SOFICS was tested in early 2005. BCSO has since hosted demonstrations and is assisting other law-enforcement agencies as they adopt the system at no charge.

Sheriff Parker says that since the technology was developed by a Sheriff's employee, they're free to share it. Dils has created a manual and CD to ease the transition and reduce training time.

SOFICS continues to receive rave reviews in the field, and since Dils is the creator, he's able to make improvements fairly quickly. At last check, he was working to adapt the technology to fit credit-card size computers used by motorcycle officers.

For more information on this story, contact Melody Foster via e-mail: melody.foster@brevard-sheriff.com. ☆

Star Briefs

Sheriff and Advocate

Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger has long promoted mental-health reform. He was one of the first to sound the alarm that county jails were becoming



Sheriff Eslinger

"treatment facilities" for those suffering from mental illnesses because Florida closed so many of its mental hospitals. He also led the charge in Baker Act Reform in recent years, recognizing that law-enforcement officers are often on the front line in dealing with mental-health crises.

So it comes as no surprise that Sheriff Eslinger was tapped to serve on the national board of directors of the Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC) in Arlington, Va.

The TAC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to removing barriers in the treatment of severe mental illnesses. TAC educates legislators and the media on the benefits of assisted treatment in an effort to decrease homelessness, jailings, suicide, violence and other devastating consequences

caused by lack of treatment.

In making the announcement, TAC President E. Fuller Torrey said of Sheriff Eslinger, "His extensive expertise in pulling together constituencies to advocate for reform of the law, as well as his firsthand experience as a law-enforcement officer with the consequences of leaving people untreated, are welcome additions to the board."

According to the TAC, Sheriff Eslinger has a proven interest in and commitment to identifying and resolving issues related to the criminalization of people with severe mental illnesses at the national, state and local levels. He was invited to testify before Congress at hearings on two bills concerning the diversion of people with severe mental illnesses from the criminal-justice system.

In 1998, Sheriff Eslinger formed a Mental Health Task Force in Seminole County that has implemented significant diversion programs, including a successful Crisis Intervention Team that his office operates.

Sheriff Eslinger spearheaded the effort to reform our state's Baker Act to include assisted outpatient treatment. In May 2005, the Florida Legislature passed a resolution (HR 9205) commending Sheriff Eslinger for his successful advocacy, noting that "all people

with severe mental illnesses will benefit from (his) efforts."

Please join us in congratulating Sheriff Eslinger on this new appointment.

For more information on the Treatment Advocacy Center, visit their Web site: www.psychlaws.org.

Law Enforcement and Citizens Combine Efforts at CIT Conference

The Florida Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coalition is hosting this year's National CIT Conference in Orlando, Sept 25-27, 2006. The Theme is "Community Collaborations Making a Difference for People with Mental Illnesses."

The conference is designed to highlight effective community partnerships between law enforcement, the courts, consumers and families. In addition to law enforcement, the conference agenda will be geared to behavioral health professionals, judges, court personnel, advocates, family members and consumers.

For more information on the program, contact Michele Saunders, 407-574-7182, or E-mail her: michele.fpic@adelphia.net. There's also a helpful Website: <http://cit.fmhi.usf.edu>. ☆

Pausing To Remember

The month of May is traditionally the time that law-enforcement agencies throughout the state hold a ceremony to remember fallen officers.

On May 8, the state of Florida also hosted a statewide memorial ceremony at the Capitol. We're including images here of the somber event.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc., www.odmp.org, in 2005, one law-enforcement officer was killed every 2.3 days. The average age of officers killed in the line of duty is 39 years old. The majority died as a result of gunfire, although automobile accidents were not far behind.

We invite you to take a moment to read the names of officers killed in the line of duty and reflect on the price that they paid defending the safety of citizens in this state. Offer up a prayer on behalf of their survivors, too, that they will receive the support they need to continue on.

Photos by David Dees, Florida Sheriffs Association



Please help us remember...

Deputy Wayne Koester
Lake County Sheriff's Office
Died February 9, 2005

Deputy Sheriff Mariano (Rocky) Lemus
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Died May 6, 2005

Sergeant Kevin Kight
Panama City Beach Police Department
Died March 27, 2005

Police Officer Roy L. Nelson Jr.
New Smyrna Beach Police Department
Died August 13, 2005

Police Officer Mario Jenkins
University of Central Florida Police Department
Died September 24, 2005

Police Officer Jose Diaz
Fort Lauderdale Police Department
Died October 8, 2005



Quick Overview: End of 2006 Legislative Session

By Frank Messersmith
FSA Governmental Consultant

The Florida Legislature adjourned the 2006 session amid an unlikely mix of chaos and calm that was a hallmark of the proceedings this spring in Tallahassee.

With calendars loaded with bills and issues that had stacked up for any number of reasons, particularly a political meltdown in the Senate, both the House and the Senate went into informal recess for about three hours on the last afternoon of session as leadership worked behind the scenes to put together a schedule of "doable" issues for the last hours of the session.

When the session concluded at about 1 a.m. on Saturday morning, many issues died somewhere in the process. While that is not unusual, there seemed to be added volume this session.

FSA's effect

For the Florida Sheriffs Association, this was a session of considerable work effort, mostly opposing and amending legislation that significantly affected the Sheriffs. Many of Florida's 67 Sheriffs and numerous command staff trav-



Frank Messersmith

eled to Tallahassee to participate and got a first-hand look at the various issues.

FSA participated in the passage of a number of bills important to the Sheriffs, including:

- Stun gun legislation, establishing education and utilization criteria;
- Sovereign immunity legislation to provide legal protection to law-enforcement officers during legitimate pursuits;
- Funding for fiscally constrained counties; and
- A "fix" for the legal issue involving use of DUI breath testing machines.

The FSA top priorities dealt with improving the jobs, pay and retirement for Sheriffs' personnel. The Sheriffs were joined by the firefighters, police, teachers and state employee unions in several of these efforts, but none of them survived the process, due mostly to the monies that were siphoned off to fund the Florida Retirement System (FRS) contribution level.

The annual FRS "employer calculation legislation" sets the contribution level of each FRS employer for each of their employees, and this year the state utilized \$285 million from the FRS resources to reduce the

contribution rates. While this certainly benefits the Sheriff's budget, it significantly reduces the funding possibilities for adding additional Special Risk classes, or increasing the insurance stipend for retirees.

A complete report on legislative issues will be provided to Sheriffs during the summer conference in July. But generally, it was a good session, as the issues that FSA strongly opposed were killed or amended satisfactorily, or died in the process. Those issued included:

- Mandatory Recording of Interrogations
- Pursuit Legislation
- Prohibitive Stun Gun Bills
- Reemployment Restrictions
- Internal Investigation Requirements
- Maintenance of DNA Evidence
- Restoration of Rights
- Application of Gifts/Lobbyist
- Restrictions to Constitutional Officers
- Notary Public Exemption
- Interference With Custody
- Street Solicitations for Charity; and
- Sealing and Expunging Criminal Records

The Florida Sheriffs Association's legislative committee would like to thank all the Honorary and Business members who corresponded with their legislators and supported FSA's positions. And thanks, also, to the lawmakers for your perseverance in a very challenging session. We look forward to working with you in the future to assure the best public safety possible for all Florida citizens and visitors. ☺

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL



This awards program gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association. Certificates are given to those who have been Honorary Members for 25 years or more. A special "Lifetime Honorary Member" plaque is reserved for those individuals who give \$2,500 or more and for law enforcement personnel who have served at least 40 years. Business leaders who support the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities are recognized with plaques and yearly renewals at the following levels: Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) and Bronze (\$50). For membership information, please email us: membership@flsheriffs.org or visit our website: www.flsheriffs.org



ESCAMBIA COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Escambia County Sheriff Ron McNesby to Don Livingston with Communications Engineering Services, Inc.



BREVARD COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Brevard County Sheriff Mike Lewis to Price Taylor, on behalf of Sea-Ray Boats, Merritt Island Facility.



PASCO COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Pasco County Sheriff Bob White to Richard Young of Find It First Locating Service, Inc., and Larry Castro, owner of Larry's Deli.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Jeff Gayer of Boston Whaler Commercial and Government.



COLLIER COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Anne Simon, Director, Youth Haven, Inc.



LEON COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to David Hobkirk of Hobkirk Enterprises Towing and Recovery, Inc.



LAKE COUNTY – 30-year certificates presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Clinton Bunting and Charles Williams.



Charles Williams

Clinton Bunting



LAKE COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Kenneth Alward and Lynn Busco.



Kenneth Alward



LAKE COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Mr. & Mrs. Roy Hunter.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – FSA Lifetime Honorary Membership award presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Harvey S. Wachman.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL *Continued from page 16*



ST. JOHNS COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar to James Tanner.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar to Edwin Rousseau and Everett Saytos.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Richard Wayt.



Thomas Bresnahan



Charles Wenhold



Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ciaramitaro



Donald Harrington

VOLUSIA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Thomas Bresnahan, Charles Wenhold, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ciaramitaro and Donald Harrington.



DESOTO COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen (left) to Kenny and Shirley Platt.



DESOTO COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen (left) to James Westberry.



COLLIER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
2-6-06

COLLIER COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Beddes.



CLAY COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Jamieson.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw (left) to Walter F. Foran.



OSCEOLA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to George J. Fryer.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Leta Chesbrough Brown.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (left) to Richard K. Friskey.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES



POLK COUNTY – Presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Daryl Stimpson.



HONOR ROLL

On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association by giving \$2,500 or more in cash or \$5,000 or more in non-cash gifts to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and lifetime subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher*. Those whose gifts total over \$5,000 receive additional gold stars on their plaques – one for \$5,000, two for \$10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over \$25,000.

❖ New Lifetime Honorary Members ❖

New Lifetime Members from 4/6/06 to 5/31/06

Mr. Stan Adams
Alliant Techsystems
Community
Mrs. Judy S. Austin
Mr. Terry W. Ball
Mrs. Myrtle S.
Blakley-Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne B.
Bogert
Ms. Winifred R. Bradley
Ms. June Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Peter L.
Brownell, Sr.
Mrs. Janet A. Carrington
Mr. and Mrs. Albert J.
Chesbrough
Mr. W. Glenn Couch
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R.
Cox
D.W. and Ruth Brooks
Foundation
Mr. Ceferino de la Cruz
Mrs. Barbara S. Doran
Mr. Donald G. Easton
Mr. and Mrs. Dean W.
Fejes
Mr. Philip Ferraro, Jr.
Free & Accepted Masons
Mr. Marshall L.
Fulghum
Mr. Robert N. Glackin
Mr. and Mrs. Carl W.
Golgart
Mr. Tommy A. Gore
Mr. Earl J. Hendrickson
Sgt. Deborah A. Hertz
Mr. David L. Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck
Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick
E. Hill
Mr. Fred O. Hofer
Dr. and Mrs. Harry
Hollien
Mr. John W. Holloway
Home Owners Association
of Rancho Margate
Mr. and Mrs. Walter R.
Howard, Sr.
Mr. Cyrus M. Hunter
Mr. and Mrs. Graham H.
Jacks
Mr. Gus Janulis
Jimmy Kirton Memorial
Rodeo
Mr. James R. Jones



CLAY COUNTY – Presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Ms. A. Louise Cooney.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – Presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (left) to Dr. Ridger H. Zwemer.



LAKE COUNTY – Presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Mr. and Mrs. John Ash.



LEON COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches Chairman and Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer to Jim and Julie Bettinger.



MARTIN COUNTY – Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder (left) to Mr. and Mrs. James W. McLernon.



PINELLAS COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches Chairman and Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer (right) to Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats and his wife, Cathie, for personal giving.

Mrs. Eva Kirton
CDR Harold F.
Knudsen USN
Mrs. Rudolph Koprovic
Mrs. Lillian A. Kuss
Mr. and Mrs. Wannas A.
Ladjimi
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L.
Learie
Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Lehman
Lennox
Mr. and Mrs. Philipp H.
Lindenmeyer
Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F.
Lowry
Mr. Thomas B.
MacCabe, Jr.
Ms. Gloria S. Mach
Mrs. Faith C. Mazzota
Ms. India B. McLeod

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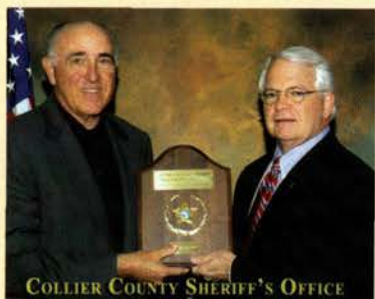


HARDEE COUNTY – Presented by Hardee County Sheriff Loran Cogburn (right) to former Hardee County Sheriff Doyle W. Bryan, who served from 1981 to 1993.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw (right) to Corrections Deputy Paul Smith.

❖ New Lifetime Honorary Members ❖



COLLIER COUNTY – Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (right) to Nicholas Codispoli.



HERNANDO COUNTY – Presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent to Mr. & Mrs. T.W. Pressley.



LEON COUNTY – Presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to Leon County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Kenny Ganey.

Continued from page 17

Mr. and Mrs. Rosendo Mendez
Meriwether Farms, Inc.
Mr. William B. Meyer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram H. Meyers
Cpl. Jeffrey S. Michaels
Deputy Erik P. Morea
Mr. Robert H. Morrison
Mr. Robert R. Mount
National Safety Commission, Inc.
Mr. William Phillips
Mr. Donald L. Quinn
Radio One Communications Service Company
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Register III
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Renard
Mr. Thomas J. Renison, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Roebling

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Rogers
Salt Springs Civic Assoc.
Samuel E and Mary W Thatcher Foundation, Inc.
Sanford Ace Hardware, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Sciortino
Mr. Wade Skipper
Mr. Paul D. Speaks
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Stewart
Mr. Frank Tona
Tri-County Air Conditioning & Heating
Dr. Ronni Tudin
Mrs. Beverly M. Vandervoort
Victor Distributing Company
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Vogel
Wal-Mart
Walton County Sheriffs Office
Mr. James P. Weidener

Mr. and Mrs. Norbert A. Weldon
Mrs. Carolyn E. Wolf
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Yowell
Mrs. Thelma N. Zilinskis
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Zwakman



SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (right) and FSYR President Roger Bouchard to Jennifer Valentine of Lennox Air Conditioning.



ALACHUA COUNTY – Presented by Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich to Nancy Perry of Perry Construction.



LEE COUNTY – Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to William E. Horn.

Attention Members:

Has your address changed? Please send us . . .

. . . your new address so that you'll continue to receive The Sheriff's Star. And please remember to let us know when moving again.

We don't want to lose you as a valuable member, but if your address has been changed, you may not be receiving your FSA mailings.

Please take a moment to check the mailing label on the back cover of this magazine. If your address is different in any way, let us know.

OLD ADDRESS:

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| |

RETURN TO:

The Florida Sheriffs Association
P.O. Box 12519
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (850) 878-8665

E-mail: membership@flsheriffs.org

Or call us at (800) 877-2168

Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org>

NEW ADDRESS: ☐ Permanent or ☐ Temporary

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Area code/phone _____

Style # 4500
MEN'S GOLD BAND
Face No. 3

Style # 4200
WOMEN'S GOLD BAND
Face No. 3

Style # 4502
MEN'S TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

Style # 4202
WOMEN'S
TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring a beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style are available in both all gold or gold/steel two-tone as depicted. In addition to the gold and two-tone bands, we also offer all silver. Also displayed are the patriotic Flag watches. These are available in three background faces: Face 1 - Gold; Face 2 - Silver and Face 3 - Black. All watches carry a 6-year limited warranty from the date of purchase against failures due to defective materials or workmanship. Gold or two-tone bands can be purchased with either of the four available faces. Style 4500 denotes men's gold band; 4502 denotes men's two-tone band; 4503 denotes men's all silver band. Style 4200, 4202 and 4203 are the women's gold, two-tone and silver respectively.

Style # Flag
MEN'S
GOLD BAND
Face No. 1

NOT SHOWN
Style # Flag Black
Face No. 3

Style # Flag
WOMEN'S
TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

MEMBERSHIP ITEMS ORDER FORM

Public safety is a concern to all citizens, and one way you can support public safety in your community is to show your pride in local law enforcement. To help you demonstrate your pride in crime-fighting efforts, the Florida Sheriffs Association has designed several items displaying the Sheriff's Star logo, and made them available to the general public. These quality items make great gifts too. Just fill in the order form above and return it with your payment.

Please return the entire
back cover page with your order.
U.S. delivery only

☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss

Name (Please print)

Shipping Address

City State Zip Code

Contact phone number

Please make check or money order payable to
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 12519, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2519

I wish to purchase :

No. _____ *Golf shirts at \$30.00 each. \$ _____
Quantity _____ White (size S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐)
Quantity _____ Green (size S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐)
_____ *Honorary Member Lapel pin(s) at \$8.00 each. \$ _____
_____ *Belt buckle(s) at \$28.00 each. \$ _____
_____ *Watches at \$165.00 ea. Style No. _____ Face No. _____ \$ _____
Flag Style Watches Face: ☐ Gold-1 ☐ Silver-2 ☐ Black-3
_____ *Hats (☐ white or ☐ green) at \$15 ea. \$ _____
_____ *Coffee Mugs at \$13 ea. \$ _____
(postage & handling cost included in prices) Total \$ _____
* Please add 6% Sales Tax for membership items \$ _____

(Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping) Total enclosed \$ _____

* Add .5%, .75%, 1% or 1.5% discretionary sales surtax, if applicable.

For credit card use

☐ VISA. ☐ MC. Card number

Name on card (please print)

Expiration date

Contact phone number

Total amount



GOLF SHIRTS
green or white with
multi-colored embroidered logo



BELT BUCKLE 3 1/2 x 2 1/2" solid brass



CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN
with multi-colored embroidery including
metallic gold thread, adjustable band



Honorary Member LAPEL PIN
7/8" die cast metal with
5 color enameled finish



11oz. COFFEE MUGS
white color, with multi colored logo and
green bands listing all 67 counties