

## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

**Gary Perkins, Executive Director  
Florida Sheriffs Association**



You've probably seen the signs throughout Florida that give a countdown to hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30. The latest signs have changed the message to say, "Are you prepared?"

Thanks to the Florida Sheriffs Task Force, and the 67 Sheriffs' Offices, I can confidently answer, "Yes, your Florida Sheriffs are prepared."

Our efforts related to hurricane preparedness goes way back to 1992, after the destruction of Hurricane Andrew. By the time Hurricane Opal hit in October of 1995, we had a statewide Emergency Response Plan in place. We've continued to add to that plan and now all efforts are managed by the Florida Sheriffs Task Force, under the capable direction of Capt. Scott Stiner, Pinellas County Sheriffs Office, and Capt. Tim Cannon, Orange County Sheriff's Office. Coordinating the work of 67 individual agencies is no easy task. We're talking about tracking available manpower from each Sheriff's Office that can be deployed anywhere in the state at a moment's notice, plus equipment and even available jail space.

This year, the Task Force will be using new software to automate the process. It will be introduced at the state-

wide training in Tallahassee, June 28-29.

It's vital that every Sheriff's Office has a representative at the table during these pre-hurricane sessions, so that when a disaster strikes, there's already a working relationship in place.

Thanks to past efforts, each Sheriff's Office also has a 32-page document that outlines the Emergency Mobilization Plan, operation protocol, how the Command Advisory Teams work, levels of emergency, plus all contact information. Although hurricanes are our most common threat, we are truly ready for any type of disaster, including hostage negotiations, explosives, gang activity and civil disturbances.

I can't tell you how reassuring it is for the Sheriffs to know that they have more resources than just whatever their county budget has afforded them. And that's the most important mission of the Florida Sheriffs Association – your membership is a source of confidence for Sheriffs and the citizens they serve.

### *Jail efforts, too*

A critical item related to hurricanes that we learned from experience is proper planning for jail evacuation. In addition to advance evacuation – getting the prisoners out of harm's way before a hurricane strikes – there's also the problem of managing inmates after the storm, when electricity, water,

food and other necessities are in short supply.

We are working to address issues related to the jails, and FSA now has a full-time staff member who will be in charge of this plan.

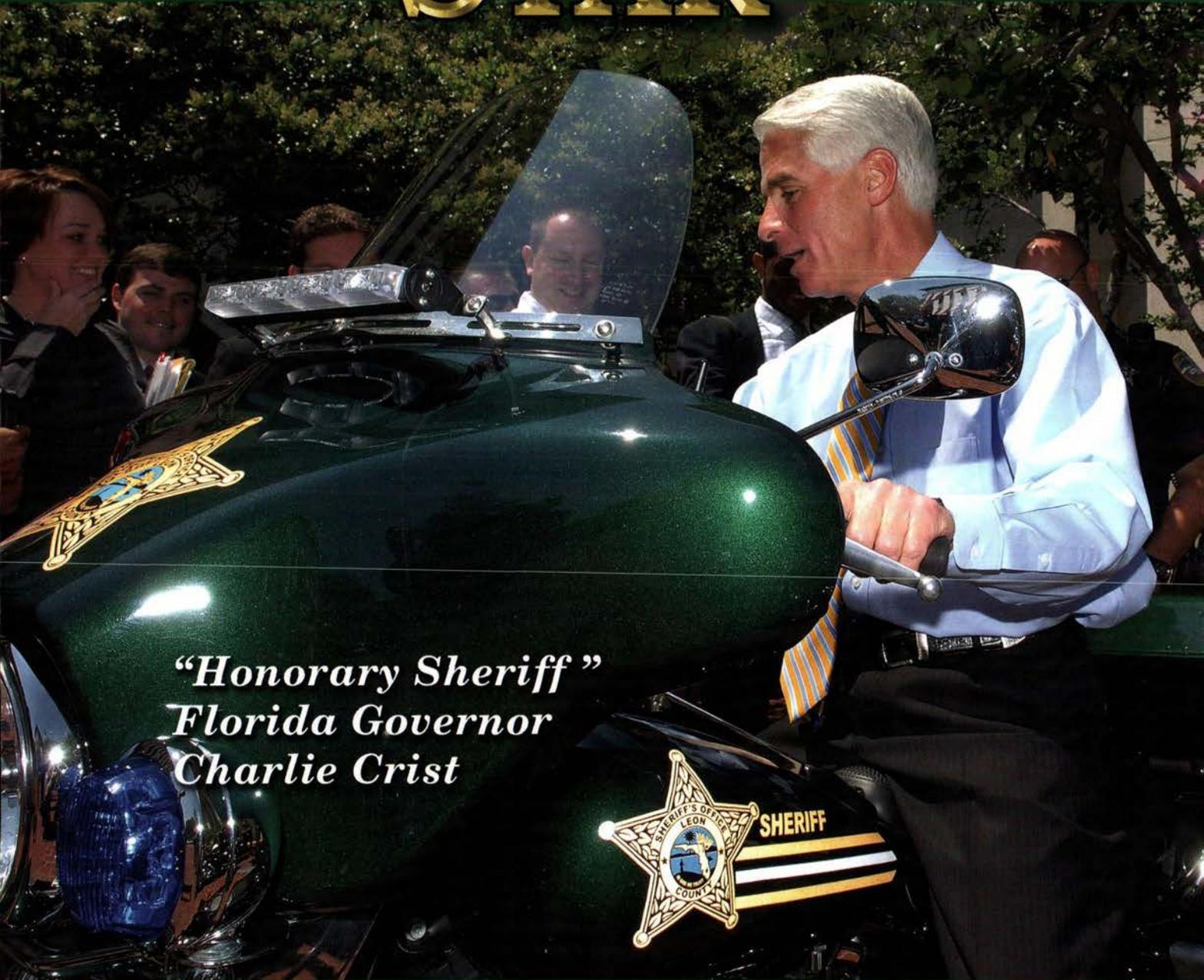
Ned Hafner joined FSA as the Director of Corrections and Jail Services this past April. He will be in charge of outreach to all county jails that are managed by Sheriffs' Offices, and will facilitate getting training and resources to them as a benefit to the Sheriff and the communities served. Ned has more than 30 years of experience in the Corrections field, including 22 years with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division. He also served as a commissioner for the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.

Good jail management has long been a concern for Sheriffs and with more challenges, such as the increase in mentally ill inmates, they need all the support they can get.

With your help – through membership – FSA will continue to provide that support.

*Gary Perkins, Executive Director  
Florida Sheriffs Association*

# THE SHERIFF'S STAR



*"Honorary Sheriff"  
Florida Governor  
Charlie Crist*

*Florida Sheriffs Day  
at the Capitol a Success*

*Photo collage, see page 8*

By Donna Wood  
Polk County Sheriff's Office

On Sunday, April 1, 2007, the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) arrested 28 men and charged them with soliciting sex from a child. "Operation Cyber Hawk" was a weeklong operation that included detectives, officers and special agents from local, state and federal agencies, including agents from North Carolina. It also involved members of the Florida State Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution.

Internet Crimes Detectives used chat rooms and instant messaging to direct suspects to a specific location. Most of the men were either living or staying in Florida cities and traveled to Polk with the intention of having sex with a child. They met detectives, instead.

Incredibly, one suspect stopped and asked a uniformed deputy for directions to the location. He got good directions and he was later arrested at the undercover house.

This wasn't the first time the PCSO has utilized this technique to catch online predators. In June 2006 Polk Sheriff's detectives conducted Operation Libertine, a six-week-long investigation that ended in a weekend of arrests.

For approximately 72 hours, online predators, stalking who they believed to be young girls and boys, arrived at an undercover location, walked into a house and were immediately handcuffed by deputies. Polk Sheriff's detectives arrested 21 adults, most of whom had traveled from outside of the county.

Florida law-enforcement agencies are teaming up to keep our children safe, but parents must help. Watch for warning signs such as:

- The child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night
- The child turns the computer off when you enter the room
- The child types messages in computer codes like "POTS" which means Parents-Over-The-Shoulder.

Often, parents get a false sense of security when their child/teen is at home, assuming they are safe. But sexual predators step boldly into our homes through the Internet. Here are a few things parents need to know:

- Children are never too young to become the victim of a predator
- Predators know how to talk in a



way that lures or entices children into deviance

- These predators use chat rooms to build relationships, then convince young girls and boys to meet with them

Remember to use multiple resources to protect your child. Take this seriously by talking with your child. And remember that while the Internet is a wonderful tool, opening many doors, it can open some doors that should remain closed.

The following Web sites provide the most up-to-date tips to help parents, children and teens:

- [www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com)
- [www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)
- [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)
- [www.safeteens.com](http://www.safeteens.com)

Visit the Polk County Sheriff's Office Web site for more information: [www.polksheriff.org](http://www.polksheriff.org), or e-mail Donna Wood: [dwood@polksheriff.org](mailto:dwood@polksheriff.org).

## THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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# Human Trafficking: A Modern Day Form of Slavery

By Cindy Sarver  
Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office

Restaurants...Hotels...Strip Clubs...Construction Sites...Agricultural Operations...Resorts...Massage Parlors.

What do all of these have in common? They may be places where human trafficking occurs – hidden, yet in plain sight.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims of this heinous crime are subjected to force, fraud or coercion, and they are used for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or forced labor. Victims include young children, teenagers, men and women. Between 600,000 and 800,000 victims are trafficked annually across international borders worldwide, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of State.

Victims are generally trafficked into the U.S. from Central and South America, Asia and Eastern Europe. Many do not speak or understand English and are therefore isolated and unable to communicate with service providers, law enforcement and others who might be able to help them.

Many victims are lured by false offers that induce people into trafficking situations. Women and children are lured by advertisements promising jobs as waitresses, maids and dancers in other countries, but are then trafficked for purposes of prostitution once they arrive at

their destinations. They may be exploited not only for prostitution, but also for stripping, pornography and live-sex shows. Many wind up in sweatshop factories or in domestic servitude. Men and boys are often lured in with a promise of a job as a migrant agricultural worker or some form of domestic servitude.

Once victims are under their control, traffickers will use force, fraud and coercion to compel their victims to engage in different activities than promised. Rape, beatings and confinement also are used to control the victims. Forceful violence is used to breakdown a victim's resistance. Coercion, in terms of threats of serious harm or physical restraint of a person, is used to make them believe they will be harmed if they don't cooperate. Debt bondage also comes into play. Victims are told they must pay off transportation fees to their destination countries. They also are threatened with the loss of their travel documents and threats of harm to family members back in their homeland. They often face punishment if they fail to meet daily quotas of service or exhibit "bad" behavior. Victims become trapped

in a world where a cry for help is rarely heard or heeded by anyone. It is often difficult for them to find help because of the social, physical and language barriers.

## ***Different from smuggling***

Human trafficking is not smuggling. Smuggling involves the importation of people into the U.S. and deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This offense includes unlawful transportation of illegal aliens as well as the harboring of aliens already in the United States. Smuggling is transportation based, while trafficking entails commercial sex induced by force, fraud or coercion. It also deals with the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, using force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage or slavery. Some victims may come into the country illegally, but many are U.S. citizens.

## ***Case in point: labor trafficking***

Human trafficking is much more pervasive than many people imagine and it often is difficult to prosecute. In an intelligence project



# LOOK BEWEATH THE SURFACE

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

Victims of human trafficking are found in restaurants, hotels, strip clubs, agricultural operations and resorts. You can help. Ask the right questions and look for clues – you may be the only outsider able to save them.

There are services available to victims, including: safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, honest employment, legal and interpretation services. But first, they must be found.

If you think someone is a victim of trafficking, **call 1.888.3737.888**  
For more information about human trafficking visit [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking).



conducted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in 2003, they sought to identify labor-trafficking issues in north-west Florida. They learned that the suspects had connections all over the state and the nation – and the particular laws being violated varied. Labor trafficking often is confused with labor exploitation, which is primarily a violation of civil labor law.

Here's an example of how labor trafficking works: A labor contractor advertises overseas for seasonal employees to come to the U.S. and work in the hospitality industry. The contractor may promise the potential guest worker certain pay scales, living conditions, types of work, etc. The contractor also markets his or her business to hotels and restaurants as an easy way to obtain seasonal employees. Once the contractor has a hotel contract, they may start applying for labor certificates to get H2B visas for the guest workers. In some cases, the contractor alters or falsifies the labor and visa applications in order to obtain more visas than they actually have contracts for.

Once the worker is in the U.S., they find conditions to be radically different than promised. They may have to share a three-bedroom apartment with over a dozen other workers; they may have excessive deductions from their pay; and they may be worked well over 90-100 hours per week, for less than the "legal" rate.

The suspects are usually very sophisticated in their tactics to keep the employees – they don't use beatings or chains, just psychological intimidation that creates a climate of fear among the workers. This means that law-enforcement agencies located in resort areas with a domestic labor shortage may have a labor-trafficking problem. Once they become aware of where to look, it is not hard to find the actual traffickers. Because of its high number of resort communities, Florida is a state where labor trafficking may be gaining a strong foothold. Overall, Florida is the No. 2 destination for trafficking in all forms, due to the I-10 and I-95 corridors, and there are many human trafficking cases still pending.

### **Team effort: coalition, law enforcement, public**

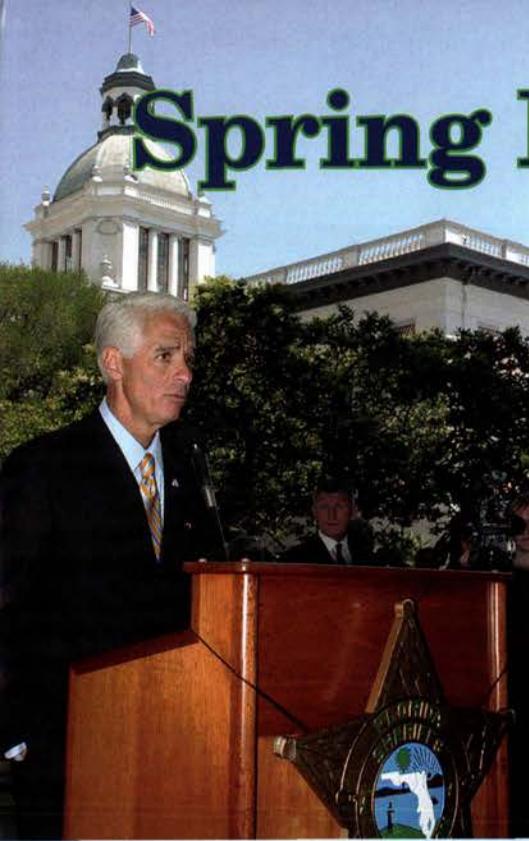
Local law enforcement is finding it essential to team up with a non-governmental organization, such as the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FCAHT), in order to successfully investigate these cases. Unfortunately, without the cooperation of victims, they are not able to make a labor-trafficking case. Yet, through a joint effort with the Coalition, victims can be

relocated and provided support, thus breaking the hold of fear the perpetrators have over them. The FCAHT also is able to help local law enforcement cut through some of the bureaucratic obstacles at all levels of government and get assistance from experts in federal law enforcement.

Prior to the year 2000, no comprehensive federal law existed to protect victims of trafficking or to prosecute their traffickers. Now, the TVPA Act of 2000 protects victims and provides federal and state assistance to certain victims so they can rebuild their lives in the U.S. Law enforcement, at all levels, needs the public's help in fighting this heinous crime. The citizenry at-large are the eyes and ears for law enforcement. If you suspect you've met a victim of human trafficking, call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. For more information on this subject, visit [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking).

Contact writer Cindy Sarver via e-mail: [CSARVER@srsos.net](mailto:CSARVER@srsos.net).

# Spring Legislative Session 2007 Wrap-Up



*By Frank Messersmith  
Florida Sheriffs Association  
Governmental Consultant*

The Florida Sheriffs Association experienced another busy legislative session tracking hundreds of issues and staying actively involved supporting, opposing or amending at least 50 pieces of legislation affecting the Office of Sheriff.

We again thank the Sheriffs and their key officers who traveled to Tallahassee to visit their legislative delegations and to assist in representing the various issues before the Legislature. Your service and support are invaluable.

Sheriffs and the FSA staff spent much of the session meeting legislators and discussing the proposed property tax-cut issue that will directly limit the monies avail-

able to local governments from the taxpayers. FSA worked closely with the Florida Association of Counties to provide input and education to individual legislators, as well as testimony in committee. The effort continued as we prepared for the Special Session called to address the tax issue.

As usual, we spent the majority of our time killing, delaying or amending legislation that we found harmful to the work provided by Sheriffs' Offices. The good news is that no bill opposed by the Sheriffs passed the 2007 Legislative session. Also, a number of issues on the Sheriffs "Priority and Support List" passed, including:

- The High-Risk Offenders legislation, SB 988, by Sen. Nancy Argenziano, and HB 7103 by Rep. Charlie Dean. Includes language

*Photos by DOT photographer Major Ken Carr and FSA Editor Julie S. Bettinger  
Cover photo by Major Ken Carr*



## Florida Sheriffs Day at The Capitol



that requires Florida Drivers Licenses to include a statutory reference indicating that a person is a registered sexual predator. This was a priority for FSA during the last two sessions.

- Working with the Hunt Group Insurance, FSA was able to assist in the passage of HB 547 by Rep. Pat Patterson and SB 472 by Sen. Carey Baker that amended the current statute related to presumptive disability for heart trouble and communicable disease. The legislation, which is awaiting the governor's signature, requires new Special Risk employees to pass a physical exam before they are granted the presumptive disability. This is an excellent change for the

protection of the workers compensation program.

- Also awaiting the governor's signature is HB 741, by Rep. Ron Reagan and SB 1030, by Sen. Nancy Argenziano. FSA supported this legislation to increase the amount assessed in court fines that are utilized by Criminal Justice Standards & Training for the training and certification of law-enforcement officers. Originally it was a \$2 increase, but it was ultimately amended in the Senate to be a \$1 increase, or about a \$1.7 million budget increase.

- HB 1003, by Rep. Joe Pickens

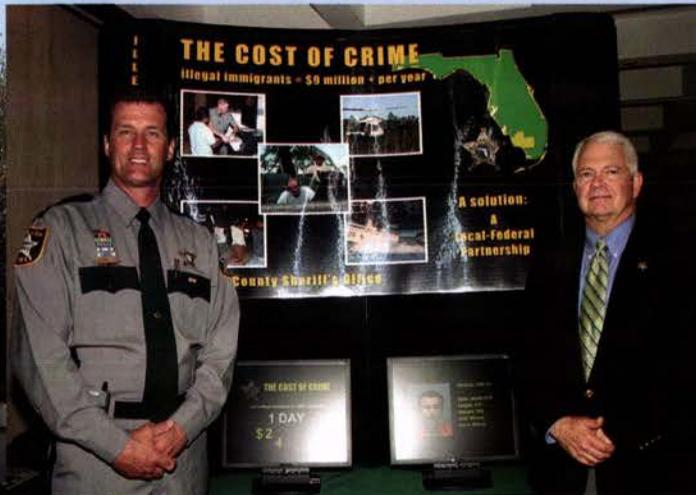
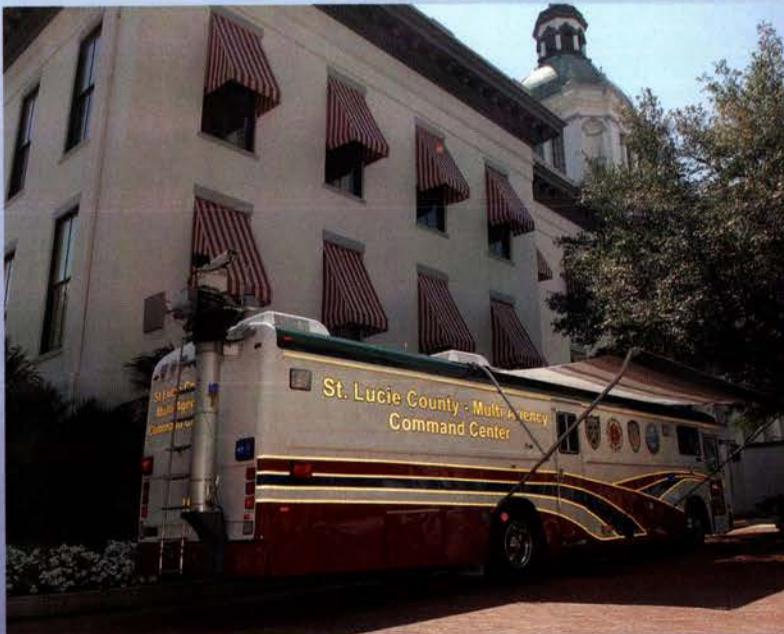


FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins (left) chats with Florida Governor Charlie Crist.

and SB 1676, by Sen. Steve Oelrich also passed and "legalized" the use of ATVs and golf carts by law enforcement on public roads. Prior to the change, it was not legal to use such vehicles on public roads, even for law-enforcement purposes.

A more complete listing of issues and FSA involvement will be presented to Sheriffs at the summer conference. Additionally, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will soon complete its comprehensive listing of all legislation that in some way affects law enforcement and it will be sent to each Sheriff. Be sure to check the FSA Web site late summer for an update: [www.flsheriffs.org/](http://www.flsheriffs.org/).

From left, Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner, FSA Governmental Consultant Frank Messersmith and FSA's former Director of Law Enforcement Services, David Dees.

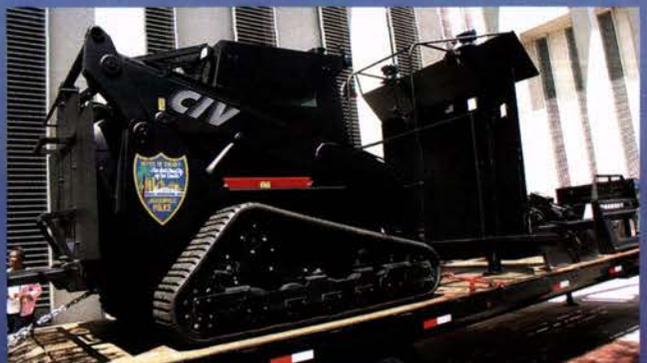


Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (right) used the Florida Sheriffs Day at the Capitol to demonstrate his agency's work cracking down on illegal immigration. Pictured with him is Capt. Christopher J. Freeman.

# Florida Sheriffs Day at The Capitol

*continued*





# LETTERS

Editor:

I am contacting you hoping to solve an ongoing problem: helping people find the services they need at a difficult time in their lives.

I'm the owner of a contamination cleaning and restoration company. On Monday April 23, I arrived to a residence to find a distressed family walking in and out of a house that was covered in blood. The wife came home to find her husband deceased on the sofa, after he had suffered an extreme hemorrhage. After the deceased was removed, more than five people went inside and tracked bloody footprints throughout the house. When the family asked the responding officer who would clean the mess, his reply was: "I'm not sure. Try looking in the yellow pages for a company."

When I received the initial call, the woman on the line was very anxious and desperate to find help. Although not a homicide, suicide or death requiring investigation, the family was emotionally distraught just the same. An uncle told me that last year his son was shot, and he had no clue what to do about the mess, either. Nobody provided him with any direction to remediate the situation. A friend of the family had to come over, reluctantly, and clean up.

Some state, county and city agencies provide

a list of local services, while others either don't know who does this type of work or are afraid to give a recommendation.

I understand the rationalization factor, however, the state and county health department provide this same information with no hesitation. I believe that evaluating and clarifying the communication problem will give families relief statewide. At the present, each county Sheriff's Office and city police department varies in their opinion and procedures, when faced with the same issue.

I propose that a family resource guide become available to every city, county or state employee who discovers or responds to a hazardous situation. Assisting the public with legal direction, identifying risks and reducing exposure are all services that should come from the authorities. Personal recommendations are not permitted, but public protection and assistance are.

If permitted, I would gladly take on the project and submit all documentation to the state for review and printing. In addition, I would be willing to attend any meetings to speak on the subject.

I am a licensed funeral director who started a contamination, cleaning and restoration service in 2001. My father is an investigator with the Florida Highway Patrol, so I have been exposed to

pathological related work my whole life. I'm not interested in personally getting the clean-up calls, but making sure that a referral policy is in place to help the survivors.

Can we change this policy? Can we create a referral system? I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,  
Brian R. Moister  
Bio-Clean Services  
Royal Palm Beach  
www.bio-cleanservices.com  
(800) 535-7518/ (561)-236-5157  
Biocleanservices@adelphia.net

*Editor replies:*

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. With many of the challenges law enforcement faces in hazardous situations, you are right – we need to be aware that there are safe alternatives available for clean up. While the Florida Sheriffs Association is not structured in a



*The Sheriff's Star,  
March/April 2007*

way to provide this type of networking, we are publishing your contact information for others. Perhaps you can form some type of association or partnership to create the resource, and then launch a public awareness campaign. Please be sure to let us know about your progress.

**HAVE A COMMENT?**  
If you would like to send a comment, please write:  
Editor, *The Sheriff's Star*  
Magazine,  
P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519, or  
e-mail:  
jbettinger@flsheriffs.org.

## Corrections From Last Issue

In our March/April issue, we misidentified a Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Honor Roll member. The correction caption with the photo appears at right.

Also in that issue, on page 4, we gave an incorrect name of a stage agency. As we were gently reminded by one of their employees, the Florida Game & Fish Commission was re-named "Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission" (FWC) in 1999. Old habits die hard...we apologize to the agency and our readers. Find them online at: [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).



**ALACHUA COUNTY** – Presented by former Alachua County Steve Oelrich (right) to David and Carole Blair.

By Sgt. Rick Hord  
Okaloosa County  
Sheriff's Office



We all know we'll need batteries, gasoline, drinking water and non-perishable food if a hurricane strikes. Beyond those basics, here are five hurricane-season suggestions that we don't commonly hear repeated.

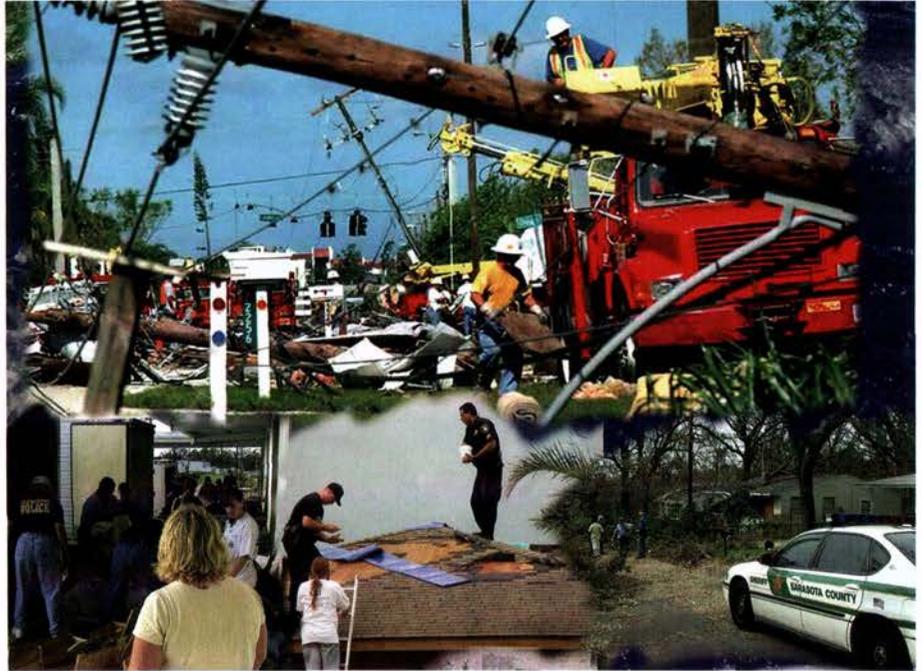
**Ignore long-term forecasts.** They're interesting, but useless. If the only hurricane of the year washed away your house, the forecasters would call it a "slow" season, but you wouldn't.

**Think like Aristotle.** The philosopher eschewed extremes, arguing the wisdom of the "middle path," or "golden mean." During hurricane season, the extremes are panic and complacency. It's not surprising that those extremes are common habits of mind. The TV provides a constant dose of sensationalism to encourage panic; eventually the "cry wolf" syndrome feeds the other extreme.

**Know where you live.** Of course, you know your address, but what flood zone are you in? Maybe your house or neighborhood is on high ground, but all the roads leading to it are subject to going under water. That's the case for many areas in Florida, on both coasts and near smaller bodies of water. City and county boundaries often are confusing, and many people don't know which county they live in or whether or not they live within city limits. You may have to take detours and use unfamiliar roads after a storm, so make sure you have a local road map on hand.

**Don't run too far.** The purpose of evacuation is to get people out of areas that are likely to flood or become isolated and to get people out of campgrounds, mobile homes and other facilities that

## Five Suggestions for Hurricane Season



may not be safe during a severe storm. It's not normally necessary to evacuate more than a few miles. For many people, relocating just a few blocks to a friend's or relative's home is the best option. Traveling hundreds of miles inland may not make you safer. When Opal hit the Emerald Coast in 1995, a tornado in Crestview – far away from the Gulf – caused Florida's only fatality. Almost 400 miles inland, Opal's flooding and severe weather caused at least half a dozen deaths in the Atlanta area.

**Keep your cool.** Many people use camp stoves, barbecue grills, lanterns and other camping equipment to adjust fairly well to post-hurricane conditions. The notable exception is air conditioning. Few modern homes are built to take advantage of natural breezes and shade. Inability to escape the heat is the biggest complaint for many people in the days after a hurricane. Hurricane season

preparations should include plans for relief from the oppressive heat that is common after a storm. Small, window-mountable air conditioners and/or fans might be a good acquisition – if you have a generator to power them. A self-supporting shade canopy, the kind popular at tailgating parties and outdoor weddings, can provide much-welcome outdoor shade. Nobody has ever been heard to complain of having too much ice on hand. Completely fill a large well-insulated chest with extra ice, and keep it closed tight. That ice will long outlast the ice in coolers that are being used, so you'll have a refill supply when you need it.

*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.*



# "Mobile 9-1-1, What Is Your



By J.D. Callaway  
Director, Community Affairs Office  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Being prepared for the unexpected is a mainstay of any law-enforcement agency. When it comes to a hurricane, however, sometimes you can only hope for the best.

To contend with an unpredictable storm and its potentially devastating aftermath, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office counts among its new assets a one-of-a-kind mobile command center.

While mobile command vehicles

ware support the command center's ability to receive and dispatch emergency calls. Once called into service, Verizon and Sheriff's Office technicians will basically "plug it" into the nearest operational Verizon substation. A recent test of the command center at an off-site substation had the command center up and running for 911 calls within a half-hour.

#### War room, too

The communications section of the mobile command center has room and equipment for eight dispatchers who will sit in air-

by remote control from within the war room, can zoom in close on situations and give commanders a view of the scene. The microwave antenna is used to downlink video transmissions from cameras on the Sheriff's Office helicopters. The downlink affords a realistic bird's-eye view of an area. That live video allows commanders to assess the situation and make decisions with as much information as possible.

With the Florida hurricane season now in full swing, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is better equipped to handle emergencies with its mobile command center. Floridians can feel safer as a result.

For more information, contact J.D. Callaway at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Community Affairs Office by phone: 813-247-8058, or e-mail: jcallawa@hcsso.tampa.fl.us.

# Emergency?"

are common among first-responder agencies, this one kicks it up a notch or two.

The Sheriff's Office purchased a Farber trailer and then secured a \$450,000 grant to install 911 emergency communications equipment. This state-of-the-art center, capable of being hauled throughout the state by a Mack Vision tractor, is more than just a command center. It is a dispatch center on 18 wheels. That's what makes it unique and even vital in the event of a destructive storm. The command center's self-sustaining capabilities allow it to operate for extended periods. The only requirement to keep it operating is replenishing the 75-gallon diesel tank that powers the 40-kilowatt generator.

Mobility is the keyword when it comes to this 53-foot-long command center, worth about \$850,000, including equipment and apparatus. It's believed to be the nation's only portable 911 communications center, capable of sustaining emergency calls – as well as routine calls for service - for days at a time. Maintaining and sustaining communications is paramount during a natural disaster.

Verizon partnered with the Sheriff's Office to create the portable 911 dispatch center. Two racks of computer equipment and soft-

conditioned comfort to perform this most vital of functions during a catastrophic situation.

A "war room" for commanders is

equipped with a conference table, multiple monitors, computer docking stations and communications equipment to handle a prolonged situation. With basic kitchen apparatus and a bathroom, the command center can perform until operations are functioning again at a permanent location.

Electronic equipment gives on-scene personnel the ability to make command decisions based on real time facts. A mast mounted on the rear of the trailer is equipped with a powerful camera and a microwave antenna and can extend 53 feet into the air. The camera, operated



# The Sheriff Who Never Was Sheriff – Twice

By Victor R. Silvestri  
Law Enforcement Historian

Tradition, and some historians, lists John Wesley Whidden as the first Sheriff of Manatee County, Florida. In order to fill that role, Whidden would have had to qualify in all particulars in 1855, when Manatee County was established by the Legislature. That would have been impossible, because John was born in June 1839, and at age 16, he would not have met the age requirement.

What is more likely is that J. W. Whidden was a Deputy Sheriff in the Manatee Settlement prior to 1855 and was working for the Sheriff of Hillsborough County, E. T. Kendrick. Manatee Settlement was a part of Hillsborough County until Manatee was created in 1855 as the 31st county.

Sharing that dubious honor of being named first Sheriff of the new county is William H. Johnson. Johnson was a Deputy Sheriff, too, but as with his compatriot Whidden, he was not allowed to take office. The reason for his rejection was that he was not a Democrat. Johnson was a member of the American, or “Know Nothing Party,” and therefore not acceptable by the state Legislature at the time. Furthermore, even though Johnson supposedly had been legally elected, he had refused to post the required \$1,000 bond that had been imposed by Judge Glazier. Johnson would therefore be considered “interim Sheriff.”

William Johnson was an early settler of Gamble Creek, arriving there in 1851 from northern Alabama. He participated in the Third Seminole War as a volunteer in Addison’s Company, and subsequently in the Confederate Army in Company “E,” the “South

Florida Bulldogs.” His family is still well represented in Manatee County today.

## *An actual “first”*

Consequently, the title of being the “first” Sheriff of Manatee County went – by default – to – William H. Whitaker of “Yellow Bluffs at Sara Sota.” Manatee County was formed in January of 1855; Whitaker was appointed on November 14, 1856. Whitaker was recognized as the founder of Sara Sota (as it is recorded in history books) and was a well-known figure in the new county. He had lived in the area since 1843 and made his living as a fisherman and cattle rancher. His name is remembered today in Whitaker’s Bayou and he gained a reputation as a “fruit grower” later in life. He died there in October 1888.

After Whitaker’s tenure in office as the First Sheriff of Manatee County, the next Sheriff was James Dopson Green and then (surprise) our old friend John Wesley Whidden shows up once more. John Wesley must have been a powerful personality, for in 1860 he was overwhelmingly elected to the office of Sheriff on March 1. This is documented fact (Volume K, page 741 of the Commission Record), however, once again, Whidden was not allowed to serve. This time the decision was made by the Manatee County Commission for the same reason as the first time: he was still underage.

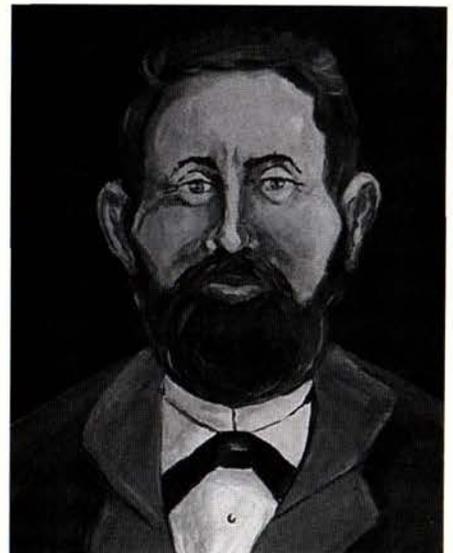
This battle for his qualification was pushed around in the court system for one year during which time Manatee County again did without the effective services of a Sheriff. Instead of installing Whidden in office, the governor decided to end the controversy and he appointed Joel J. Addison to the office on Feb. 13, 1861, and he served until 1869.

## *Whidden moves on*

Whidden licked his political wounds and retired to his home at Simmons Hammock Settlement, where he fit into family life once more as the seventh of the 13 children of his parents, Willoughby Whidden and Eliza Pennington. In 1861, the political bug struck again and Whidden was elected Clerk of the Court. This time the election was validated, but in April 1862 he resigned and enlisted as First Lieutenant of Company E of the Seventh Florida Cavalry.

His enlistment in the Civil War did not go well and he spent most of his time at a POW camp at Johnson’s Island in Ohio until his parole on June 17, 1865. It took him three months to walk home, but he made it. On September 7, 1865, he married Ellen Catherine Hendry at Fort Green in Manatee County and they began their family of 10 children. John Whidden remained politically active in Manatee and other contiguous counties. He became known as “the Father of Acadia, Florida,” a cattle rancher of some note, and a storekeeper at the Peace River ferry crossing.

Captain John Wesley Whidden, erstwhile Sheriff, died on December 13, 1910, at his home in Arcadia, and was buried in Joshua Creek Cemetery. In August 1917, his widow, Ellen Hendry, applied



Joel J. Addison

for and received a Confederate pension based on her husband's service during the Civil War. Ellen Catherine Hendry Whidden died on December 4, 1929, and is buried close to her husband in the Joshua Creek Cemetery.

*This is an excerpt from the "Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs and Their Families: 1821-2003 - a Genealogical Excursion Into Florida Law Enforcement." The book is being compiled, written and edited by Victor R. Silvestri. All Sheriffs, former Sheriffs and their families are encouraged to provide information to be included. Send details to: Victor R. Silvestri, Editor, 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defuniak Springs, Florida 32435-8972, or e-mail: summers@gdsys.net/.*

## PAL Memorial Ride

The Lake County Police Activities League juniors bicycling team participated in the Officer Down Memorial Challenge 2007, which took place March 31. The youth were riding on behalf of their Sheriff, the late Chris Daniels, who helped launch their PAL in Lake County. They won two trophies: the largest team and youngest rider.

The ODMR raises money on behalf of officers who have died in the line of duty. Part of the registration fee went to the Central Florida Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. ([www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)). The Lake County PAL chose the 35-mile ride, which started at the Holiday Inn Titusville and finished in Winter Springs.

This year's Officer Down Memorial Challenge was dedicated to Law Enforcement Officers, including one K-9, whose watch ended in line of duty between April 2006 and March 2007. Please help us remember them:

Deputy Sheriff Michael Callin  
Orange County Sheriff's Office  
Died: Wednesday, August 2, 2006  
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

Deputy Sheriff Vernon Matthew (Matt) Williams  
Polk County Sheriff's Office  
Died: Thursday, September 28, 2006  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

### TRACTOR DONATED

Ring Power Corporation has donated 10 of their 2005 AGCO Challenger Series Compact Tractors to various counties throughout the state. It's part of a program to enhance the communities where the company's employees live and work. The hope is that the donation (valued at \$156,675) will enhance the maintenance and expansion of outdoor recreation facilities. Pictured here, Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell (left) received the tractor for use by his jail work



crews, which provides services to recreation areas in his community, and keeps up the grounds at FSA headquarters. He's pictured with Robert Burkhead (center), manager of North Florida Government Sales, and FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins.



Deputy Sheriff K-9 DiOGi  
Polk County Sheriff's Office  
Died: Thursday, September 28, 2006  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Christopher C. Daniels Sr.  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Died: Saturday, October 14, 2006  
Cause of Death: Automobile accident

Deputy Sheriff Margena Silvia Nunez  
Lee County Sheriff's Office  
Died: Sunday, October 22, 2006  
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

Deputy Sheriff Brian Tephford  
Broward County Sheriff's Office

Died: Sunday, November 12, 2006  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sgt. Nicholas G. Sotille  
Florida Highway Patrol Troop F  
DIED: Friday, January 12, 2007  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Sheriff Harold Michael (Mike) Altman  
Jackson County Sheriff's Office  
DIED: Tuesday, January 30, 2007  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Special Agent William (Buddy) Sentner III  
U.S. Department of Justice  
DIED: Wednesday, June 21, 2006  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

# 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](mailto:membership@flsheriffs.org) or visit our website: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org)



**CITRUS COUNTY** - Gold Business Member award presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy (right) to Mr. & Mrs. Heckman of Collections Unlimited.



**MARTIN COUNTY** - Gold Business Member award presented by Martin County Sheriff Robert L. Crowder to Donald Mader, Southeastern Printing.



**CITRUS COUNTY** - 25 and 30-year certificates presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy (right) and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny (left) to Frederick Moore.



**CITRUS COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy (right) to Dr. Thomas Noble.



**CLAY COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Peter Lynch.



**CLAY COUNTY** - 30-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Mr. & Mrs. Dale Wilson.



**COLLIER COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (left) to Robert D. Wieland.



**COLUMBIA COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented to Donald Shreffler.



**DESOTO COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen to Robert Heine (left).



**GLADES COUNTY** - 30-year certificate presented by Glades County Sheriff Stuart Whiddon to Dorothy C. Sellers.



**HARDEE COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented by Hardee County Sheriff Loran Cogburn to Woodrow Waldron.



**HIGHLANDS COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented by Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton to George L. Hensley, Jr.



**SEMINOLE COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented by Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger to Howard Kichler.



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (left) to Alfred Smith.



**SARASOTA COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (left) to Dr. Charles W. Holmes, III.



**LEE COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Reece Woodard (left), accompanied by his son, Jim Woodard.



**BAY COUNTY** - 40-year certificate presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to C.L. Jinks.

## FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL CONTINUED



NASSAU COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Nassau County Sheriff Tommy Seagraves to Alonzo Autry.



NASSAU COUNTY - 40-year certificate presented by Nassau County Sheriff Tommy Seagraves to Betty O. Sresovich.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Andre DeLannoy.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (left) and FSJR Development Officer Debbie Girard to Lawrence Warford.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara (right) to Peter Camacho.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Gold Business Member award presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara (right) to David East, owner of Twin Vee, Inc.



SUMTER COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer to Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Farmer.



PASCO COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Pasco County Sheriff Bob White to Fred Colucci.

## FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

## 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.



BAY COUNTY - Presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Ms. Otil C. Dabbs.



BAY COUNTY - Presented by FSJR Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny to Clark Yandle.



CITRUS COUNTY - Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey (right) and FSJR Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny (left) to Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Laplante.



CLAY COUNTY - Presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Mr. & Mrs. George Harris.



COLLIER COUNTY - Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (left) to Dean W. Fejes, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thomas and Matthew Mathias of U.S. Trust.



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thomas



Matthew Mathias

### New Lifetime Members from 4/5/07 to 6/6/07

Mrs. Margaret Abate  
Mr. Paul A. Aittama  
American Association of Woodturners  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Blumenstein  
Mr. and Mrs. Caries B. Booker  
Mr. Mark H. Boots  
Mrs. Doras S. Boutwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Buford L. Bowen  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Brockmeier  
Mr. Jim Coffey  
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Engle  
Mr. Raleigh N. Evans  
Ford of Ocala, Inc  
Mrs. Peggy M. Goff  
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Guinn, Jr.

*Continued on next page*

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

## HONOR ROLL

*Continued from page 17*

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Gushue  
 Mr. Henry L. Haddon  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sterling L. Hart  
 Hewlett-Packard Company  
 Mr. and Mrs. David J. Isgan  
 JD James, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Johnston  
 Dr. Jiri Jonas and  
 Dr. Ana Jonas  
 Mr. Ernal P. Jones  
 Mr. Karl D. Kaup  
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Laidlaw  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Lapp  
 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Lewis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Mayer  
 Ms. B. J. McKee  
 Mr. Roy P. Metcalf  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jay D. Morey  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Morrison  
 Mr. B's Car Wash  
 Mrs. Marilyn D. Murphy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Myers  
 Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Parsons  
 Mr. and Mrs. Doug Partin  
 Maj. James D. Previtera  
 Quality Brands, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony V. Ruccione  
 Mr. Tracy T. Rudolph  
 Mr. and Mrs. Vance H. Ryder  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald O. Schanche  
 Mr. Jurgen Starckjohann  
 Sutherland Concrete Service  
 Mrs. Patricia H. Szaroleta  
 Mrs. Jean P. Terry  
 Mrs. E. Jeanne Vance  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene L. VanCuren  
 Wilco Enterprises, Inc.  
 Ms. Charlotte J. Zeiller



Johann Biersack



James Collier



Charles Sammis

LEE COUNTY - Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Johann Biersack, James Collier, Charles Sammis, Mary Stallings, and Sal and Rich Castiano of The Cigar Bar and James Passanante, Jr.



Mary Stallings



Sal and Rich Castiano



James Passanante, Jr.



MARION COUNTY - Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean (left) to Robert O. MacFarlene.



Mr. & Mrs. Weston J. Gourley



Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rumbaugh

MARTIN COUNTY - Presented by Martin County Sheriff Robert L. Crowder (right) to Mr. & Mrs. Weston J. Gourley and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rumbaugh.



Wilbur and Margaret Hawkins



Jack Cundiff

SANTA ROSA COUNTY - Presented by Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall (left) to Wilbur and Margaret Hawkins and Jack Cundiff.



WALTON COUNTY - Presented by FSYR Donor Relations Officer Lana Pate to Walton County Sheriff Ralph Johnson.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY - Presented by Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dods.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY - Presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Mr. & Mrs. Floyd York.



Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bacon



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Winegardner

VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (right) and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Debi Girard (left) to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bacon (accompanied by their children) and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Winegardner.

# Limited Edition: Member Tag and Frame Combo



For use on  
the front of  
your vehicle.



chrome plated frame

The Florida Sheriffs Association is offering a unique opportunity for you to show your support for law enforcement in your community through a limited edition Member Tag and Frame combination. These handsome chrome plated frames fit the front of most any vehicle. Tags are embossed aluminum with baked on enamel colors. Demonstrate your support for FSA and the crime fighting efforts of Sheriffs by ordering your Tag and Frame combination, while supplies last.

Please note: brass plated sold out, no longer available

These high quality frames are zinc die cast metal with dark green imprint in polished chrome plating with standard two-hole mounting. Size 6 1/4 x 12 1/4 inches.

Check to see if you have enough available space prior to ordering. Not guaranteed to fit all vehicles. These Tag/Frame sets are for use on the front of your vehicle.

## TAG/FRAME ORDER FORM

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ chrome Tag/Frame sets  
@ \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(postage & handling cost included in prices)

\* Please add 6% Sales Tax Tax \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping )

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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, or if you are temporarily headed north for the summer.

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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

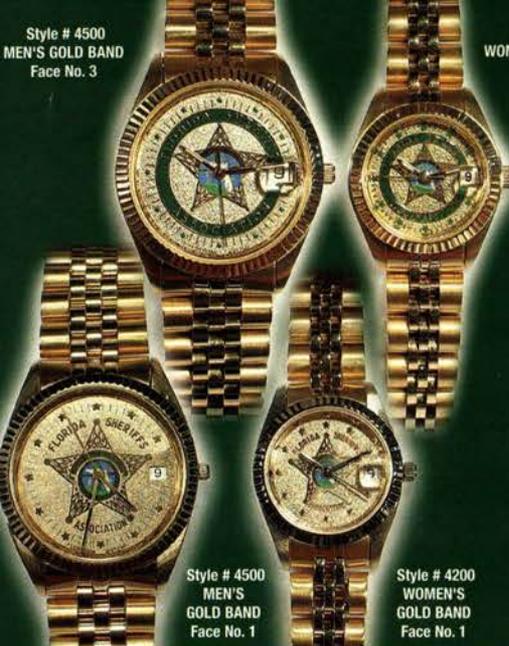
Area code/phone \_\_\_\_\_

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 # 4503  
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 # 4500  
MEN'S GOLD BAND  
Face No. 1

Style # 4200  
WOMEN'S GOLD BAND  
Face No. 1

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.

Mrs.  Ms.  Mr.  Miss

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

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 3/8" solid brass



CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN  
with multi-colored embroidery incl  
metallic gold thread, adjustable b



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



11oz. COFFEE MUGS  
white color, with multi colore  
green bands listing all 67 c