

STAR



Remembering...

"The Sheriff of Florida"

J. M. Buddy Phillips Jr.

February 7, 1939 – June 10, 2008

From the desk of....

Gary Perkins

Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association



As you will read in this issue, the association staff experienced quite a shock in April when our main headquarters building in Tallahassee was destroyed by fire. Anyone who has ever gone through a major disaster, such as a hurricane or fire, can relate to the challenges associated with getting back up and running in the aftermath. We finally have settled into new offices located down the road from our previous location, and we are no longer working from folding tables or, in the case of one staff member, the trunk of a car. We also have stable telephone and Internet access – which is a blessing. We might be running at a different pace, but the work of the association continues.

Many members have called to inquire about helping the association in the re-building effort. We currently are making an assessment and will be sure to keep our members informed. We have such strong and caring supporters, we know that we can overcome any obstacle. The work of the Florida Sheriffs is about safeguarding our state, and you can be assured that work will not be compromised, even if we have to work temporarily in a chaotic office environment.

Loss of a great friend

Right on the heels of the fire came another loss – one that took more of a toll on our hearts. Buddy Phillips, who retired as FSA Executive Director six years ago, died of cancer on June 10 at age 69. Buddy left a rich legacy in statewide law-enforcement circles. After serving one term as Sheriff in Suwannee

County (elected at just 30 years of age), he went on to work for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He earned a reputation for bringing stability to an unstable situation, after being selected by two different governors (one from each party) to serve as Interim Sheriff when the sitting Sheriff was suspended, under investigation or had died. Before his “final” retirement from law enforcement in 2004, he had served eight different times in seven counties (he served twice in Charlotte).

I can honestly say from personal experience that the biggest contribution Buddy made to the organizations he led was to bring his honesty, integrity and impeccable reputation.

When he came to FSA in 1988, I had already been here nine years. He not only retained me, but shortly after promoted me to Deputy Executive Director. That position had us working so closely that we could finish each other's sentences. He was by far the finest person I've ever had the privilege to work with or for, and he set such a wonderful example for others to follow. I was humbled to follow in his footsteps when he retired in 2002.

During Buddy's tenure, this association experienced its highest level of growth in history. Still, in spite of his level of commitment to FSA, Buddy never lost sight of

his priorities – his family and his faith came first. He wasn't just a Sunday Christian, either. He was a seven-day-a-week, practicing Christian, and he brought that identity to every activity and relationship.

His unwavering morals were even more evident in tense times. As you can imagine, while trying to serve the interests of 67 Sheriffs and 120,000-plus honorary, business and law-enforcement members, there are going to be some challenges. Buddy always responded with genuine concern and always took the high road – there was never any question about where he stood. He was a man of high morals and impeccable integrity.

Yes, this association lost a lot in the fire, but we lost more when our good friend Buddy Phillips died. He made a great mark on this state and left an indelible mark on each of our hearts. We will miss him.

Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association

P.S. Because of the fire, our graphic designer had to start from scratch re-creating this magazine. We apologize for the delay in publishing, but we like our new look and hope you do, too.

Law Enforcement Teams Up to Launch New Sex Offender Alert System

By Kristen Perezluha
Communications Coordinator
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

With more than 47,000 registered sexual offenders and predators residing in Florida, law enforcement is working hard to make sure citizens know just who lives near them. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) partnered with local law-enforcement agencies throughout the state to launch a new feature to Florida's Sexual Offender/Predator Registry Web site: the Florida Offender Alert System. This system allows citizens to sign up to receive e-mail alert notifications when a registered sexual offender or predator moves into their neighborhood or within a radius of any of location they designate. Citizens can also opt to select sex offenders or predators they wish to receive a notification about when he or she changes addresses.

"I can't offer our citizens a bet-

ter example of the use of today's technology by state and local law enforcement," said FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey. "We can't knock on everyone's front door, but we can deliver timely information to everyone's desktop."

Since the alert system debuted in March, more than 30,000 users have signed up to receive this free service. Once registered, users may select an unlimited number of addresses they wish to monitor, such as their home, work, child's school or daycare, or other places of interest. If they also select to be notified when a particular sex offender/predator changes his or her address, they will be alerted by e-mail within 24 to 48 hours of the change to the state's registry. The free service may be changed or canceled at any time.

Warnings for prevention

FDLE developed the notification service at the direction of the Florida Legislature as part of the state's compliance with the federal Adam Walsh Act. Many Sheriffs Offices and Police Departments around the state are providing direct portals and links to the Alert System through their Web site, providing citizens with multiple venues to sign up.

"It is important that our citizens are armed with the necessary resources to help keep their families safe and informed," Commissioner Bailey said. "I applaud our local law-enforcement partners for joining with FDLE on providing this important service to their communities, and I encourage citizens to be vigilant by signing up for this free service." FDLE has made multiple enhancements to the Sex Offender/Predator Registry Web site. In 2005, in conjunction with then Attorney General Charlie Crist, the Department added a neighborhood search function that allows users to enter any address in Florida and search the registry for sexual offender and predator registrants within a one-quarter to five-mile radius. It also generates maps of where each sex offender and predator resides and provides information on vehicles and/or vessels registered to sexual offenders and predators. In 2007, FDLE added the ability to search for an e-mail address or instant message screen name to determine if it belongs to a registered offender or predator.

Citizens can register for the alerts by visiting their local law-enforcement agency's Web site or by visiting www.flsexoffender.net/.

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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Fire Destroys Florida Sheriffs Headquarters



The staff at the Florida Sheriffs Association are used to being on the giving end of services when disaster strikes. On April 15 of this year, we found ourselves very much on the receiving end.

A fire started at the Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters in Tallahassee early that Tuesday morning. Long-time staffer Lynn Meek drove into the parking lot around 6:30 a.m., and the flames were already shooting out of the roof. She quickly turned her vehicle around and called 911.

Tallahassee firefighters from five different stations responded, bringing the fire under control within 30 minutes. No one was injured in the blaze, since the building was empty, but the 6,700-square-foot building was a total loss.

According to reports, the fire started in the northeast corner of the building, where the break room and kitchen were located. But the fire spread so quickly through the wooden structure and did such extensive damage, investigators could not determine a cause. Foul play is not suspected.

News of the fire traveled quickly to other staff members that morning, as they were getting ready for work. And despite witnessing the devastation when they arrived, it was still difficult to comprehend. Many of the staffers

have more than a decade of service – several beyond 25 years – so the office was like their second home. This made it a very personal loss. In addition, the building housed much of the memorabilia from the association's 115-year history, so a large chunk of FSA's identity was destroyed.

Several Sheriffs had meetings scheduled in Tallahassee the morning of the fire and became eye-witnesses to the disaster. It was a picture not easily erased from their minds.

Rising from the ashes

Twelve of FSA's 16 employees lost all contents of their offices. Gratefully, a separate annex building on the back of the property, where membership records and

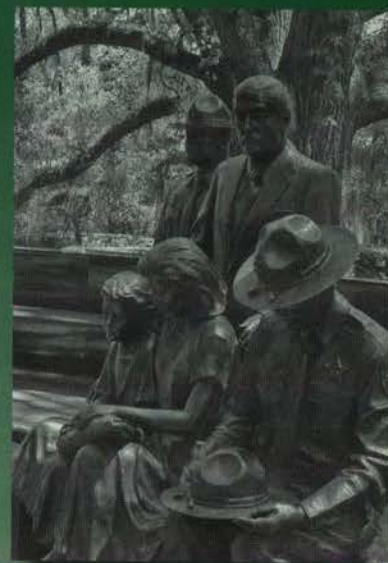
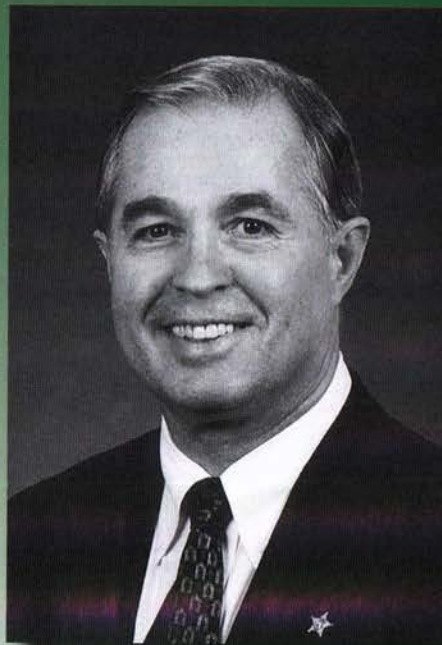
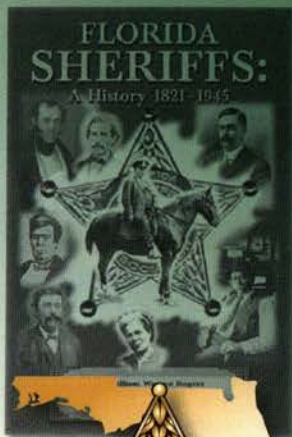
computer backup resides, was not burned. The association worked from this location temporarily and have since relocated into new offices nearby. The law-enforcement memorial was spared – as were the towering century-old oaks around it.

A week after the blaze, FSA's Board of Directors held a special meeting to discuss options. The Sheriffs agreed to pursue construction on a new building at the same location as soon as possible.

During the "Florida Sheriffs Day" at the Capitol on April 24 (see related story on page 13), FSA President Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson, recognized the Fire Chief, firefighters and investigators for their quick response, thorough effort and compassionate assistance

Pictured at right: After the smoke cleared, FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins (left) and Director of Corrections & Jail Services Ned Hafner surveyed the damage.





In Memory of... J. M. "Buddy" Phillips Jr.

February 7, 1939 – June 10, 2008



J. M. "Buddy" Phillips Jr., known fondly as the "Sheriff of Florida," died on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in Tallahassee. He served as Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association from 1988 until his retirement in March 2002, and is credited with taking the association to a record high in membership. He also helped build additional support for FSA's sister organization, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

During his tenure, Buddy Phillips established a permanent memorial on the grounds of FSA headquarters dedicated to the men and women of Sheriffs' Offices who died in the line of duty. He also published the "History of the Florida Sheriffs," a book series reaching back into the Office of Sheriff beginning in the 1800s.

While his life was marked by great contributions to law enforcement, public safety and youth in the state of Florida, Phillips never compromised on his priorities; he always put God and family first.

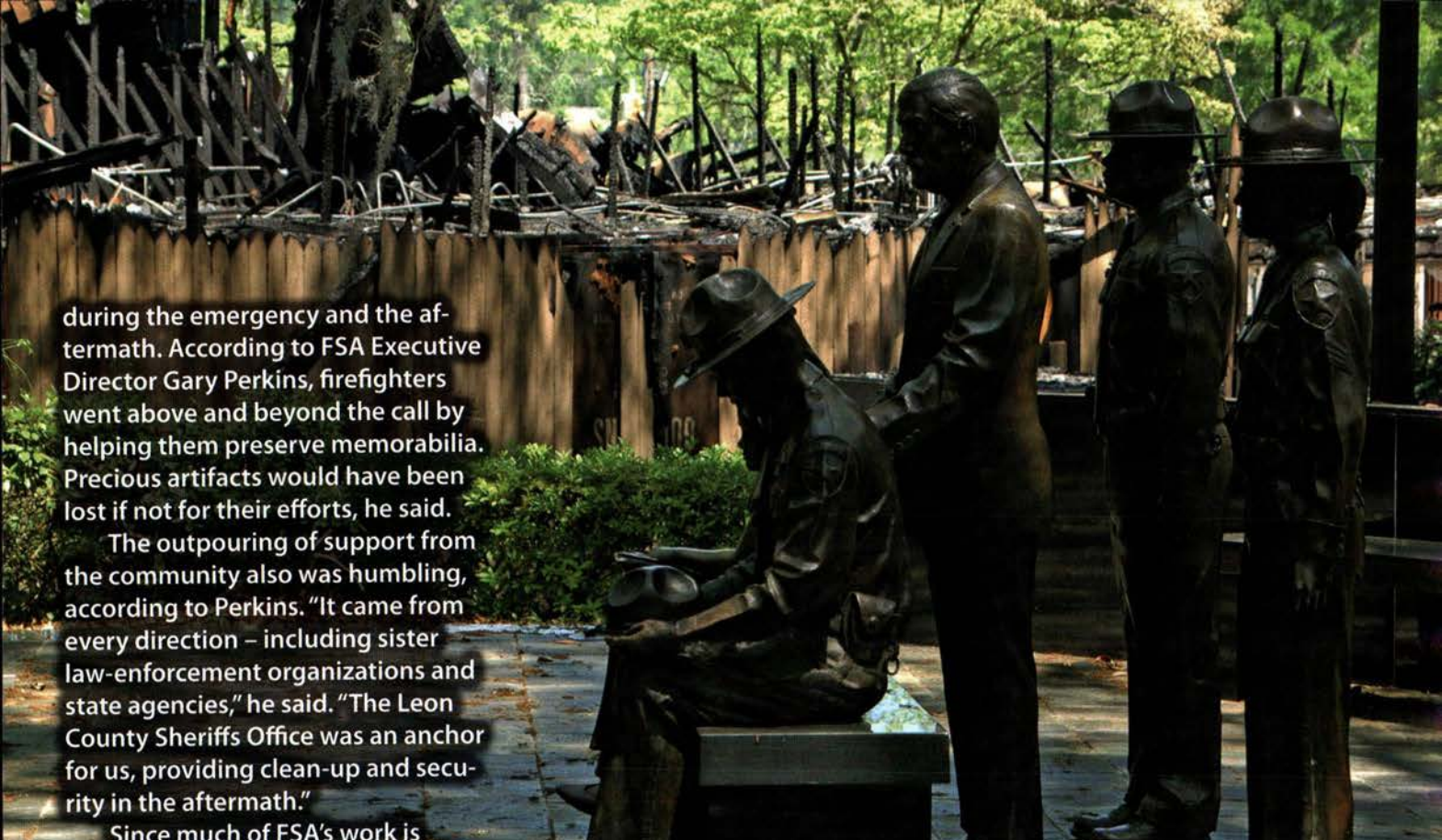
Born in Live Oak, Florida, Feb. 7, 1939, Buddy served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps European Command and was stationed in France when he began a correspondence with his future wife, Mary Jo Rogers. The two married in 1964, 15 months after he returned to the U.S.

Buddy served as a Deputy Sheriff and Chief Criminal Investigator for

the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office before being elected Sheriff in November 1968. In 1973, he relocated his family to Tallahassee to work for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). He served as a Special Agent/Training Specialist assigned to the Florida Law Enforcement Academy for 10 years and later became the Senior



Buddy Phillips (left) is pictured here with two of his successors from the county where he first served as Sheriff: current Suwannee County Sheriff Tony Cameron (right) and retired Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams.




during the emergency and the aftermath. According to FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins, firefighters went above and beyond the call by helping them preserve memorabilia. Precious artifacts would have been lost if not for their efforts, he said.

The outpouring of support from the community also was humbling, according to Perkins. "It came from every direction – including sister law-enforcement organizations and state agencies," he said. "The Leon County Sheriffs Office was an anchor for us, providing clean-up and security in the aftermath."

Since much of FSA's work is service to others, he admitted it felt awkward to be on the receiving end of assistance. "It really brought home how much this association means to the community and the state. The outreach was sincere."

FSA staffers are currently assessing the costs of re-building. We will continue to provide updates on our Web site (www.flsheriffs.org) and in The Sheriff's Star. Thanks to all who have offered resources and provided assistance. We are grateful.



What a mess: FSA Staff scavenged the remains of their offices in search of surviving memorabilia. Publications and historical resources that could be preserved were relocated to nearby PODs for cleaning and restoration.



Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, which evolved into the title Inspector/Director of Mutual Aid, responsible for administering Florida's Mutual Aid Act.

He was appointed by two governors to serve as Interim Sheriff in six other counties at different times throughout his career (serving twice in Charlotte County), and is the only person in Florida's history to serve as Sheriff in seven counties.

During his retirement, Phillips enjoyed traveling with Mary Jo – especially to their cabin in Franklin, North Carolina – and taking care of the loves of his life, grandchildren Emmalee and John Michael.

In addition to his wife and grandchildren, Buddy is survived by two children: Cheri Phillips and Mike Phillips (Lisa), who followed his footsteps, both working with the FDLE; a brother, Joe Phillips (Zandra), of Live Oak; two sisters, LeNelle Morgan, also of Live Oak, and Sarah Skinner (Henry) of Albany, Georgia, and numerous nieces and nephews. Buddy was preceded in death by his mother, Lillian Lee Phillips, and father, J. Marvin Phillips.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Florida Sheriffs Association J. M. "Buddy" Phillips Jr. Honorary Endowment Fund (P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317) or the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches' J. M. "Buddy" Phillips Honorary Endowment Fund (P.O. Box 2000, Boys Ranch, FL 32064).

Buddy Phillips' Awards and Accomplishments

- Holds the record for service as Sheriff in the most counties in the state of Florida [Suwannee (1969-1973), Flagler (1983), Glades (1983), Columbia (1984), Pasco (1984), Charlotte (1985, 2003), Lake (2004)]
- Established the first and only permanent memorial dedicated to the men and women of Sheriffs' Offices in Florida who died in the line of duty.
- Published the first in a series of books on the history of the Office of Sheriff in Florida.
- 45 years working in law enforcement
- Responsible for implementing Florida's Mutual Aid Act, which enabled Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to share resources and manpower across jurisdictions
- Served three-year tour in U.S. Army Military Police Corps
- Graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy (1967)
- More than 1,800 hours of law-enforcement training
- Certificate of Commendation from the U.S. Army
- Served as Vice Chairman, National Sheriffs Association's Committee of State Presidents and Executive Directors
- Featured in the first video footage taken of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and was one of its earliest supporters
- Was named "Grand Marshal" for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, 2004
- Former Deacon of Temple Baptist Church
- Past President of Live Oak Jaycees
- Past member, Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and Girls Villa Boards of Trustees and Executive Committees
- Received an "Outstanding Service Award" from the Florida Council and Crime and Delinquency (1970)
- Named "Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year," by the Lake City Board of Realtors (1971)
- Received a "Distinguished Service Award" (1972) from the Live Oak Jaycees.
- Past President, North Florida Christian School Athletic Boosters
- Associate of Arts degree, Tallahassee Community College
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, Florida International University (1976)
- Graduate studies, Public Administration, Florida State University

Timeline for the Life of Buddy Phillips

- 1939: Born February 7, 1939, Live Oak, Florida
- 1956: Started working part-time for the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office (during high school)
- 1957: Following graduation from high school, he received a football scholarship to play for the University of Florida. He then transferred to South Georgia College to play under Coach Bobby Bowden. He put a hold on his studies to join the military.
- 1960 – 1963: Served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps European Command. Received an honorable discharge and Certificate of Commendation
- 1964: Married Mary Jo Rogers (from Jacksonville)
- 1964 – 1969: Deputy Sheriff and Chief Criminal Investigator for the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office
- 1967: Appeared with Rancher Donny Michael on a Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch parade float, celebrating the Ranch's 10 year anniversary
- 1967: Graduated, F.B.I. National Academy
- 1969 – 1973: Elected Suwannee County Sheriff, serving one term
- 1973 – 1988: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Special Agent/ Training Specialist assigned to the Florida Law Enforcement Academy (10 years); then Senior Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, which evolved into the title Inspector/Director of Mutual Aid, responsible for administering Florida's Mutual Aid Act which enabled Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to share resources and manpower across jurisdictions in the case of riots, natural disasters, civil disturbances and other emergencies
- 1983 – 1985: Served as Interim Sheriff in five more counties – Flagler, Glades, Columbia, Pasco and Charlotte
- 1988 – 2002: Selected by the 67 Sheriffs of Florida to serve as Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association until retirement on March 31, 2002
- 2003 – 2004: Served as Interim Sheriff in Charlotte County for the second time in his career and the following year in Lake County

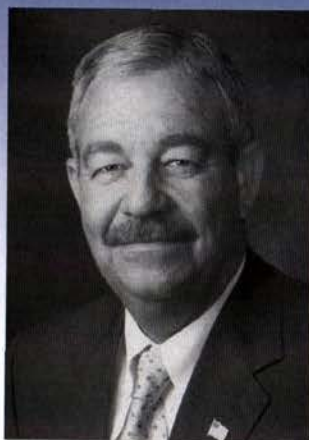
Sheriff's Thoughts Get Translated Into Law

By Lazaro Aleman

"Pretty neat" is the response of Jefferson County Sheriff David Hobbs, when asked his reaction to a recent piece of legislation that bears his imprint. Indeed, the idea for the new Florida law requiring distinctive markings on the driver licenses and identification cards of sexual offenders and predators originated with him.

Commonly known as the "High Risk Offenders Law," the 2007 legislation was jointly sponsored by State Sen. Nancy Argenziano and State Rep. Charles Dean, himself formerly a Sheriff. (Gov. Charlie Crist has since appointed Argenziano to the Public Service Commission and Dean won election to the District 3 Senate seat that Argenziano vacated.) But it was Sheriff Hobbs who came up with the idea of requiring a special marking that would readily identify sexual offenders and predators to law-enforcement officers.

Sheriff Hobbs says the idea occurred to him sometime in 2005, during his first year in office as Sheriff, following a 20-year career in law enforcement. The year 2005, like 2004, was characterized by a highly active hurricane season, with several named storms hitting the state, forcing mass evacuations and the activation of emergency shelters. The worst, Hurricane Katrina, ultimately slammed into New Orleans after crossing the Florida peninsula and practically destroyed the Crescent City, perfectly illustrating the public safety nightmare that could result in shelters and on the streets in the



Jefferson County Sheriff
David Hobbs

aftermath of a monster storm.

This started the Sheriff pondering. "As Sheriff, you're responsible for everything having to do with public safety in the county," he says. "You think, what if?"

He started thinking about worst-case scenarios, should a large-scale hurricane strike the county and force a sizable segment of the population into public shelters. Sheriff Hobbs says he decided that one thing he would do, as a matter of course, was to dispatch deputies to each shelter to monitor the situation and maintain order. But suppose, also, that communications were down and the deputies couldn't rely on the usual tools to check on individuals.

"For some reason, sexual offenders entered my mind," says Sheriff Hobbs, who rates the protection of children high on the list of his office's priorities. "We have several in this county. I thought, 'Would this be someone who we would want in a shelter with families and children?' And my answer was no. But how would my deputies know who was a sexual offender and who was not? With communications down, it would be impossible to know."

Undoubtedly, the Jessica Lunsford case, considered one of the country's worst child abduction and murder cases in recent history, was

on his mind. The 9-year-old Florida girl was abducted and murdered in February 2005 by a convicted sex offender who lived in her Citrus County neighborhood. The crime so outraged public sentiment that lawmakers the same year enacted the Jessica Lunsford Act, another piece of legislation that Argenziano and Dean cosponsored. The Jessica Lunsford Act, among other things, forbids convicted sexual offenders from living or working within 1,000 feet of a childcare center, church, school, school bus stop, or any other area where minors congregate.

With shelters and sexual predators on his mind, Sheriff Hobbs says his next thought was, "If sexual offenders' information is on the computer, why isn't it on licenses, so that officers can know it immediately?" That's when the idea of a special marking on driver licenses occurred to him – something permanent and readily available that deputies could check, independent of computers or the communications system.

Another application that Sheriff Hobbs could immediately foresee for the special marking was when officers stopped motorists for routine traffic violations. Sheriff Hobbs recalls that many times during his years as a deputy and then a state trooper, he would stop a motorist for speeding or some other traffic violation and wonder about the children in the car – especially if the driver was a lone male. Were the children really the driver's, Sheriff Hobbs would wonder, or was their presence there coerced?

Discreetly, during the process of writing the citation or issuing a warning ticket, Sheriff Hobbs says he would engage the children in conversation, trying to decipher the situation and afford the children an opportunity to speak out if anything was wrong. But with such information right on the driver license, Sher-

iff Hobbs could see that it would make it that much easier for officers to know if an individual was a sexual offender or predator and be able to deal more directly and effectively with the situation of the children in the car.

Sheriff Hobbs presented his idea to the Florida Sheriffs Association in mid-2005, at the organization's annual summer conference, where Sheriffs from across the state gather to discuss areas of interests and concern in the law-enforcement community and establish the group's priorities for the coming legislative session.

Sheriff Hobbs says when he brought up the idea, one of his colleagues kidded him, asking, "And you thought of that yourself?"

Sheriff Hobbs then replied good-naturedly, in his north Florida folksy and self-effacing manner, that "even a blind hog will sometimes stumble on an acorn."

The upshot of the meeting was that the Florida Sheriffs Association considered the idea meritorious enough to include in its list of 2006 legislative priorities and began lobbying lawmakers on its behalf.

"It's a significant piece of legislation," says Gary Perkins, executive director of the Florida Sheriffs Association. "It sounds simple, but it's really a very effective law. We always have Sheriffs who step up to the plate and propose legislation. For most freshman Sheriffs, however, it usually takes a few years for them to establish their footing and propose ideas. But Sheriff Hobbs was very proactive and innovative from the get go. You usually don't expect that from a freshman Sheriff."

Sheriff Hobbs himself lobbied the legislators on behalf of his idea. In January 2006, for example, he proposed the idea to the four-member legislative delegation that visited Jefferson County as part of its an-

nual canvas of the members' districts in preparation for the coming legislative session. Although a small jurisdiction, Jefferson County enjoys the dubious distinction of being part of four legislative districts. Argenziano, then a member of the delegation and a leading proponent of tougher sexual offenders law, readily took to Sheriff Hobbs' proposal.

Sheriff Hobbs also pitched the idea to then - Representative Dean, who likewise embraced the proposal as a fitting addition to the Jessica Lunsford Act. Dean, in fact, had a particular interest in sponsoring the legislation, having formerly been Sheriff of Citrus County, where Jessica Lunsford was killed. He says one of the first things he did was to run the proposal past the Florida Department Of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, which pronounced it doable.

"Clearly, you could identify sexual offenders by a designation without any problem," Dean says.

Did he or other lawmakers have a concern that the law might violate the First Amendment rights of convicted sexual offenders?

"Not at all," Dean says. "This is a matter of public record, a designation of criminal history. It merely cites a statute number so that people in the law-enforcement industry have a way of knowing that they're dealing with a violator of Florida statutes."

Unfortunately, a glitch in the Senate version of the bill prevented the legislation from being adopted in the 2006 legislative session. Reintroduced in the 2007 session, however, the bill easily won approval in both chambers and went into effect July 1.

The way the law reads, a particular statute number must appear on the driver licenses or identification cards of convicted sexual offenders and predators, which they must carry on their persons at all times. Although

meaningless to the average person, the statute number immediately alerts law-enforcement officers to the sexual offender or predator status of the bearer of the license or ID card. Another part of the same legislation, which Governor Crist signed into law on June 20, 2007, establishes guidelines and regulations for the admittance of non-instructional and contractual personnel on school grounds.

Sheriff Hobbs credits the lawmakers with the idea of using a statute number as the identifying mark, rather than some other indicator. He personally didn't care what the particular marking was, he says, so long as it was there and it was readily recognizable to law-enforcement officers. And yes, he was very pleased with the legislative process and the way his idea got turned into law, he says.

"It's pretty neat," Sheriff Hobbs says. "It's the first law I've gotten passed."

His hope is that other states will follow suit and adopt the measure. That way, Florida law-enforcement officers, as well as officers in other states, would have a way of knowing if a person was a convicted sexual offender or predator, no matter the latter's place of residence.

"Right now, if an officer stops someone from Georgia, say, there's no way of knowing," Sheriff Hobbs says.

Any ideas for other laws that he might propose?

Sheriff Hobbs smiles. Who knows but that he may "stumble" on another idea yet, he says.

This article was originally published in "The Chief of Police Magazine." Reach writer Lazaro Aleman via email: lazfaustino@yahoo.com.

What Not To Do For Hurricane Season

By Sgt. Rick Hord
Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office



With another hurricane season upon us, you've probably seen plenty of checklists and preparedness guidelines. There's no shortage of good advice, so rather than repeat what you've probably heard and seen a dozen times, here's my personal list of what *not* to do.

Don't pay attention to those pre-season hurricane activity forecasts.

They're meaningless for hurricane preparedness purposes. There could be 50 named storms this year, but if none of them threaten us, we had a "slow season." If there's only one storm, but it comes in right on top of us, we had a busy year.

Don't panic.

It might be difficult to not panic if you watch the saturation coverage of 24-hour news and weather cable channels. Panic, of course, makes any situation worse – not better.

Don't become complacent.

The flip side of panic is equally dangerous. It's also a legitimate concern of emergency planners who are well aware of the "cry wolf" potential of unceasing media coverage of every tropical depression.

Prepare Now

One of the best things about the Internet is that it gives you immediate access to a library of information on just about any topic. Preparing for a hurricane is just one of them. The best site we've found for preparing for hurricane season appear below.

Don't wait – visit these sites today and follow their instructions.

Florida Division of Emergency Management:

www.floridadisaster.org/

American Red Cross:

www.redcross.org/

Don't rely entirely on government agencies to keep you safe.

Emergency Management officials do fantastic work both in small communities and metropolitan areas...but their success depends on the citizens they serve making their own emergency preparations...and remaining informed and alert as potential threats develop.

Don't evacuate unless you need to.

If your home is both sturdy and out of any area that might go under water, your best option is probably to turn your home into a shelter. Many communities have experienced the evacuation disasters of too many people trying to leave at the same time. Those who remember Opal in 1995 know all about that problem. Thousands of Emerald Coast residents who would have been far better off to shelter at home fled at the last minute, and were in danger of being stuck on the highways during the storm.

Don't get lost.

After a storm, you might need to use unfamiliar roads, and you might need to visit locations that are not part of your familiar routines. A modern GPS unit or a simple, old-fashioned street map will probably

be very useful.

Don't flag down power company trucks.

This has been one of the biggest post-hurricane complaints for many decades. Residents, desperate for relief, see a power company truck driving through their neighborhood, and flock to it. Power companies are incredibly efficient with the complex process of restoring service after a disaster. Well-intentioned citizens interrupting crews at work seriously slows the process.

Don't run out of clean underwear after the storm.

Plenty of folks stock up on batteries, drinking water, food, ice and other supplies, but forget to do the laundry just before the storm hits. Moral of the story: Don't forget the simple necessities of life. In the first days after a hurricane, it may be difficult to get baby formula, do the laundry, refill prescriptions and tend to many other routine tasks. Think of hurricane planning as preparing for a weeklong camping trip, plan to rough it for a while.

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.



PAL-ing Around

The Lake County Police Activities League (PAL) members participated in a special outing Thursday, May 8. They visited a class of students with developmental disabilities at South Lake High School to say "thanks" for cleaning and detailing their PAL van, which the SLHS students did as part of their job training studies.

PAL members, ranging in age from 8 to 14, helped the SLHS students with their schoolwork and made wooden picture frames they painted and decorated. They also played games together and went outside for a game of kickball.

Cpl. Tom Brown commented that the kids had such a good time together that they barely acknowledged the adults all day.

Teacher Mike Ryan said he was not surprised because his kids - due to their own challenges - accept everybody, never judge anybody and always welcome new friends.

Overall, it was a good experience for both groups and all ex-



Photos compliments of Michael Polfer Photography, Mpolfer@gmail.com.

pressed interest in getting together again, perhaps around Special Olympics time.

PAL is a youth crime-prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth. The Lake County Police Activities League is a collaborative effort between the Lake County Sheriff's Office as well as municipal law-enforcement agencies, including, but not limited to: Tavares Police Department, Mascotte Police Department and Mt. Dora Police Department.

The goal is "the development of good citizenship through positive interaction between youth and law enforcement officers," according to the group's Web site. Find out more at: www.lakecountypal.com/.



Sheriffs Find Easy Money, Through 1122 Savings

Many state and local government agencies in Florida have discovered the benefits of tremendous savings through the state of Florida "Counter Drug Procurement Program." Also known as the "1122 Program," it's operated on behalf of the state by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Using the 1122 Program, state and local government agencies are able to purchase law-enforcement supplies and equipment through federal procurement sources for use in counter-drug related activities. Currently, more than 50 state agencies, Sheriffs' Offices and Police Departments in Florida are enjoying substantial budget savings through 1122. The majority of savings on purchases has ranged from 50 to 75 percent, and one agency saved as much as 86 percent.

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office has been a registered user of the 1122 Counter Drug Procurement Program since 2002. The program has saved the

agency and the Air Operations Unit more than \$120,000, according to Von Daniels, the Aviation Logistics Specialist for ECSO.

"Because we operate ex-military OH-58 aircraft, this program has allowed us to take advantage of the large government procurement



"The majority of savings on purchases has ranged from 50 to 75 percent, and one agency saved as much as 86 percent."

buys of aircraft parts and associated material," Daniels says. "This equates to a substantial savings versus buying at commercial civil aircraft material prices." The Sheriff's Office

has saved an average of 58 percent off retail prices over the last six years.

He added that there are many aviation units just getting started and already-established small units with limited funding that could not survive if these government programs were not available.

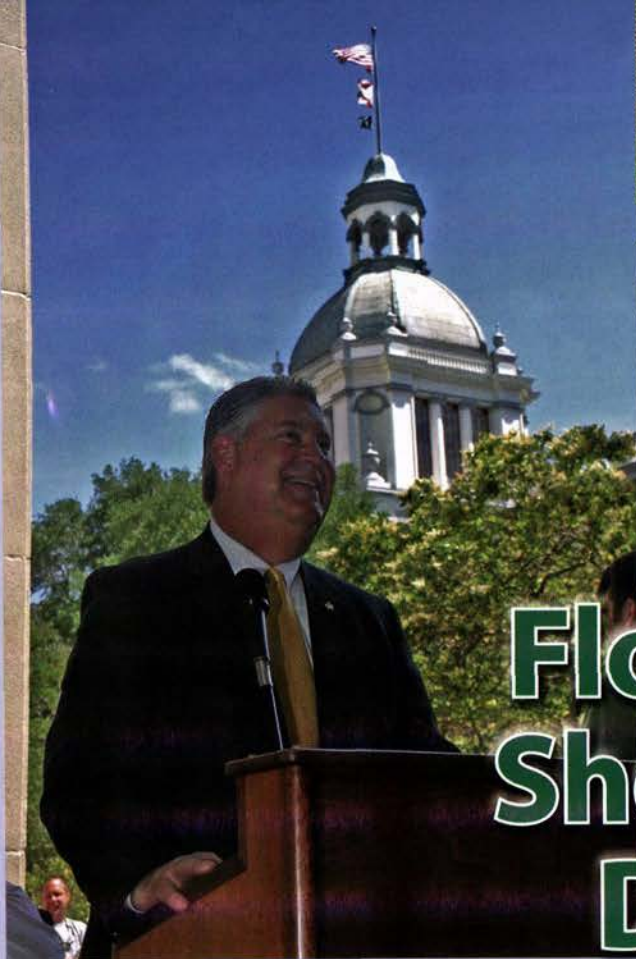
Combined purchasing a plus

Named for Section 1122 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1994, the program allows state and local agencies to purchase new law enforcement-related equipment and supplies suitable for counter-drug programs and take advantage of the unequalled buying power of the federal government. The three sources of supply for the 1122 Program are the Department of the Army, the Defense Logistics Agency and the General Services Administration. Due to its large-volume purchases, the federal government realizes a discount that is passed on to law-enforcement agencies for items required for the completion of their missions to fight drug crime in participating states. Currently, 45 states have elected to participate in 1122, although not all states are active.

The governor for each state has designated a point of contact to administer the program, and for Florida that person is Glenda Travis, program coordinator for the Florida Sheriffs Association. Travis collects information from each agency interested in the program to determine eligibility and can save agencies a great deal of time in the administration side.

Some of the more popular types of equipment that have been ordered at a significant savings are: aviation parts and supplies, body armor, field clothing, tents, target systems, communications equipment, surveillance systems, boats, generators, cameras, canine handling and night-vision equipment.

For more information on the Florida Counter Drug Procurement (1122) Program, contact: Glenda Travis, Florida Sheriffs Association, 850-877-2165, or e-mail: gtravis@flsheriffs.org. You may also visit the Web site: www.flsheriffs.org, and choose "Federal 1122 Program" link.



Florida Sheriffs Day at the Capitol

Though the event took place a week after their headquarters burned to the ground, the Florida Sheriffs Association hosted a very successful "Florida Sheriffs Day at the Capitol." Hundreds of people mingled the courtyard, marveling over the Sheriffs' Office equipment, then enjoyed a fresh seafood lunch from Tallahassee's Seinyard Restaurant. As is their tradition, deputies and other personnel from the Leon County Sheriff's Office served the crowds.

"It was important that we show lawmakers a united front, in spite of the challenge of the fire," said FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins. He and FSA President Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson used the time to thank firefighters, state officials and others for their support.

Said Perkins, "You were there in our time of need and we appreciate it."



A Family Affair: Episode No. 181

By Victor R. Silvestri

As the title of this episode suggests, this is the 181st example of family relationships within the ranks of the past and present Florida Sheriffs from my book, *The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs and Their Families: 1821-2008: A Genealogical Excursion into Florida Law Enforcement*. The entries vary in length and depth, depending on the amount of available facts. Those who have even a passing interest in genealogy or Florida history are bound to find something of interest in this collection.

When this project began, we expected to find *some* family and generational ties among Sheriffs, but we never anticipated that there would be so many or that they would be so deeply woven into the fabric of the law-enforcement community. Each episode is an adventure for us and each episode has its own saga, some extending back into the days of Norman Conquest of England, in the year 1066.

After a family has provided initial details, our editors use a variety of search engines to delve deep into their past line of ancestors and produce a written chart of that history – all at no cost for the family. These charts will be included in the first edition of the book, along with family history, family traditions and myths or legends that surround a particular Sheriff or members of his or her family.

As you read the following account of the Perry-Brown family, please remember that the book nar-



Former St. Johns County Sheriff
Neil J. Perry

rative will be greatly expanded. Remember, too, that since its Territorial Days, Florida has had well over 1,500 men and women Sheriffs; we have never taken an exact count, and the number seems to increase as we refine the product and gain more data.

Until then, enjoy this short account and write to us with another story about this profession in our state and about that Sheriff you may have or suspect that you may have in your own family (see contact information at the end of the article).

Perry-Brown family

St. Johns County had two Sheriffs with the surname of "Perry." At first glance, this suggested that these Sheriffs might be of the same family, and this possibility was filed under "things to do" for quite some time as the easier family histories were collected for the encyclopedia. We finally returned to our study of St. Johns County Sheriffs after Sheriff Neil J. Perry retired in 2005. When he replied to our request, we discovered there was no relationship that anyone knew about between the two Perry families – and we were dis-

appointed, but only for a short while.

When Neil Perry completed our survey, the genealogy revealed that his wife is Syd Brown of Holmes County, Florida, and this revelation helped us to demonstrate once more how closely related are some Sheriffs' families in Florida. We previously suspected the pervasive nature of the provincial notion of law enforcement being a family trade as much as any other profession. When they married, then, Syd Brown brought with her the accumulated ancestry of the extensive Brown family. She knew personally of two Sheriffs who were closely related to retired Judge Robert Earl Brown and with whom she, herself, was a second cousin.

Our comprehensive research then picked up on those two Holmes County Sheriffs, J. R. Brown and L. F. Brown, and supplied their complete names: Jessie Ross Brown and Lonnie Fennie Brown. From that point, it was relatively easy to backtrack in the Brown ancestry to the Brownell family Sheriff named Daniel J. (also of Holmes County) and from there even further back to Walton County's Sheriff Anthony H. Brownell. These relationships are well proven and document-ed to connect to Syd Brown Perry and it brings the total number of family Sheriffs in the Brownell-Brown family to four. But Mrs. Perry was not yet finished.

Her next revelation was truly astounding when she wrote that her mother was Mary Frances Watford. Now, the Watford family of Jackson County grew up almost as neighbors to the Browns, as Jackson is the next county over. When we checked the roster of Sheriffs on file in Tallahassee, lo and behold, we found the Watfords also had a Sheriff to boast who held office back in 1937 for one term until 1941. Through that same Watford family, a tentative connection was advanced, and later

proven true. The current Jackson County Sheriff John McDaniel shared a grandmother with Sheriff Walter Watford; and, with that ancestor came the logical extension through McDaniel's daughter who is married to Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell.

If anyone is still counting, that makes numbers five, six and seven Sheriffs all related by marriage to number eight, retired Sheriff Neil Perry. But, before we leave Uncle Walt, we must remember that the Watfords of Jackson County had a cousin named Roy Harvey Golden Sr. who became Deputy Sheriff of that county and was also a descendant of Sheriff Robert R. Golden, who was in office from 1855-57, and this makes number nine.

To complete the circle, we must return to Neil J. Perry. Retired Sheriff Neil Perry is the next logical place

to look (and maybe we should have started there first) . . . Sheriff Perry's mother's maiden name was "Masters" and she was born in St. Augustine, Florida, where there are a lot of Masters family members. Masters is the Anglicized version of the Spanish name Maestre, and the Maestre's came to America with the Turnbull Expedition in 1763 to settle in the New Smyrna Beach area of Volusia County.

Their colony was known as the Minorcan Colony and all of the Minorcans either were already related when they sailed from Spain or they became related by marriage after their arrival in the New World. The *Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs* has already made a study of the familial intersections of the Minorcans, which has shown the marital relationship of over 15 families who had Florida Sheriffs as members. Not the

least of these pioneer lawmen was Sheriff Jose Simeon Sanchez, who was one of the earliest Sheriffs of St. Johns County and a great-great-grandfather to Dr. Ann Masters of that region.

So the fine art of piecing together family history goes – in this case, the family history of Florida Sheriffs. Stay tuned for more tidbits in future issues of *The Sheriff's Star*.

This article is an excerpt from the forthcoming book, "The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs and Their Families: 1821-2008: A Genealogical Excursion into Florida Law Enforcement." If you have information on any Sheriffs and their family roots, please contact Victor R. Silvestri, 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defuniak Springs, Florida 32435-8972. Call 850-891-6962 or e-mail: summers@gdsys.net.

Phillips Family Thank You

We would like to extend our humble appreciation to the numerous law-enforcement agencies, plus members of the Florida Sheriffs Association, for the many courtesies that were extended to our family during our bereavement and the services for John M. "Buddy" Phillips, husband, father and grandfather.

As many of you know, Buddy (Dad) passed away on June 10, 2008 in Tallahassee. In the days following his death, there were services in Tallahassee and Live Oak, Florida. Deputies and Officers from Sheriffs' Offices and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement provided an Honor Guard for two gatherings, provided funeral traffic control, assisted in the funeral procession to Live Oak, gave a traditional 21-gun salute and participated in the graveside services. A truly special touch was having as Pall Bearers a deputy from each of the seven Sheriffs' Offices where Buddy served as Sheriff, and a representative of FDLE, where he served 15 years.

Every service provided was done with precision, dignity and respect, and we would like to recognize all of the agencies and individual law-enforcement officers for their generosity in honoring Buddy and our

family in such a special way.

Buddy (Dad) held all Florida law enforcement in very high esteem and he would have been so humbled by the support and assistance the deputies, officers and his fellow Sheriffs provided on his behalf. You all do a great work for the citizens of this nation and the state of Florida, and we commend and thank each of you.

We are so grateful to be part of such a warm and supportive law enforcement family – which includes the Honorary Members and staff members of the Florida Sheriffs Association, that were so much a part of his life. We know that Buddy's memory will live on through the hearts of all who continue to serve and support law enforcement in Florida.

Sincerely,

*The Family of J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Mary Jo Phillips (wife)
Cheri L. Phillips (daughter)
J. Michael & Lisa Phillips (son and daughter-in-law)*

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



PALM BEACH COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Gary Lesser of Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith, PLLC.



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



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Richard B. Votapka.



MADISON COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher to Arthur Glen Smith.



OKALOOSA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Dwight Baker.



COLLIER COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Mrs. Edgar R. Alger Jr.



Marion Akers



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Willenbacher



Mrs. Bruno Wolff



John Morrison

CITRUS COUNTY – Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey (left) and FSJR Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny (right) to Marion Akers (25-year certificate), Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Willenbacher (30-year certificate), Mrs. Bruno Wolff (25-year certificate), John Morrison (30-year certificate), and Mr. and Mrs. James Sheppard Sr. (25-year certificate).



Mr. and Mrs. James Sheppard Sr.



COLLIER COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Lado and children.



HARDEE COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Hardee County Sheriff Loran Cogburn to James Sellers.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jose Docobo to Chin Kim, of Spa Yokohama.



SUMTER COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer to Mr. and Mrs. J. Huett.

VOLUSIA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Homer Goff.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES



DUVAL COUNTY – Presented by Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford (right) to Mark Lashley (center) and Derek Harles, representing Aramark Corporation.



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.

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Mr. and Mrs. Jung K. Kim
Ms. Regina M. Koch
Deputy Harry F. Kuleski



Tracy and Diane Rudolph

CHARLOTTE COUNTY – Presented by Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport to Tracy and Diane Rudolph and Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Vanloon.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Vanloon



Dr. and Mrs. James Presley

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – Presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Dr. and Mrs. James Presley of Treasure Coast Obstetrics & Gynecology, P.L. and Sallie R. Dichter



Sallie R. Dichter



COLUMBIA COUNTY – Presented by FSyr President Roger Bouchard to Chris Raymond.



CITRUS COUNTY – Presented by FSyr Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny to Barbara Stover.



J.N. Hale

LEVY COUNTY – Presented by Levy County Sheriff Johnny Smith to J.N. Hale, and Wilbur Taylor.



Wilbur Taylor

Continued on page 18

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

continued from page 17



John V. Hoey II



Barbara A. Grimm



Mr. and Mrs. D. Fred Garner



Mr. and Mrs. David L. Rush

COLLIER COUNTY – Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to John V. Hoey III, Barbara A. Grimm, Mr. and Mrs. D. Fred Garner and Mr. and Mrs. David L. Rush.



Mr. and Mrs. Denison Jones



Adrian Cherepusko



Mrs. Elsie E. Mailey



Ruth McGrath and Krissy Steward, Pondella Bingo

LEE COUNTY – Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Mr. and Mrs. Denison Jones, Adrian Cherepusko, Mrs. Elsie E. Mailey, Ruth McGrath and Krissy Steward representing Pondella Bingo.



CITRUS COUNTY – Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy (left) and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny (right) to Mr. and Mrs. John Strutt.



GILCHRIST COUNTY – Presented by Gilchrist County Sheriff David Turner (not pictured) to Jerry and Francis Colson.



SUMTER COUNTY – Presented by Sumter County Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer (right) to Deputy John Farfaglia and Frederick Hill.



New Lifetime Members continued from page 17

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The Florida Sheriffs Association is offering another opportunity for you to show your support for law enforcement in your community through a newly-designed License Tag Frame. Unlike many tag frames on the market, this handsome frame conforms to the Florida Statute 316.605 licensing of vehicles requirements, by not covering any type or numbers on the face of the tag. The tag frame will fit most any style vehicle. Demonstrate your support for FSA and the crime fighting efforts of Sheriffs by ordering your License Tag Frame today. And don't forget: These frames make great gifts, too!



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Attention Members:

Are you moving north for the summer? Please send us . . .

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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.

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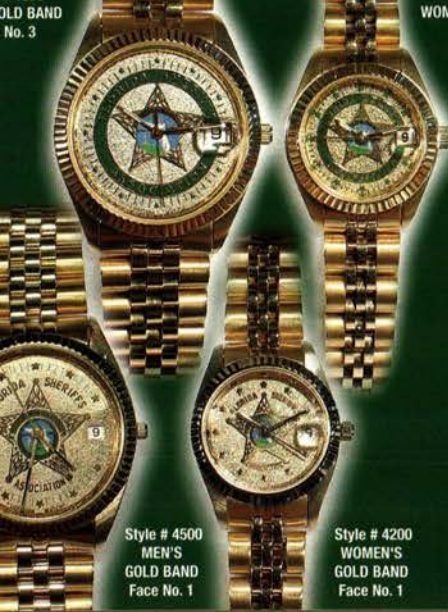
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Style # 4500
MEN'S
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NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring a beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style 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

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.

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multi-colored embroidered logo



BELT BUCKLE 3 1/2 x 2 3/4" solid brass



Honorary Member LAPEL PIN
die cast metal with
color enameled finish