

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2, 2002

## Buddy Phillips Retires

After 40+ years of working in the law enforcement arena, J. M.

"Buddy" Phillips has retired from the post of executive director of the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA).

Buddy was appointed executive director of FSA in early 1988, and held the post some 14 years.

"During my career, I had the privilege to serve as an elected sheriff, and several times an appointed sheriff, but no single job has been more rewarding than this one that I'm leaving," noted Phillips. His last official work day was on March 29, and he spent much of the day receiving telephone calls from sheriffs and well-wishers from around the state.

Buddy always grins when he tells the tales of his humble beginnings in law enforcement.

"When I first started hanging around the sheriff's office in Live Oak, I was too young to be a deputy sheriff or carry a gun."

Nonetheless, the Suwannee County sheriff told me one day with a straight face, "Son, we're gonna give you the most important job in the place." It was then that Buddy



Retired FSA Executive Director  
J. M. "Buddy" Phillips

was informed that he was 'officially appointed' as the "Assistant to the Dog Boy."

The "dog boy" was actually a convicted murderer that was activated into what today we would call a "trusty" status whenever the cops in Live Oak were tracking a fugitive or an escaped prisoner into the woods.

"Believe it or not, this convicted murderer was so 'trusted' and adept with tracking dogs that they actually issued HIM the pistol while he was running a track on a fugitive," says Phillips, now almost falling over sideways with laughter.

"And I was HIS assistant, if that tells you anything about where I fell in the chain-of-command back then!" However odd this sounds now, it was the humble (if not humiliating) beginnings of an impressive career that spanned over four decades.

In the late 60's, and now in his late

20's, Buddy was elected as the high sheriff of Suwannee County, his hometown since birth.

After one term, though, the voters turned Buddy out in favor of Robert Leonard who went on to serve several consecutive terms, and who grew to be one of Buddy's closest friends and confidantes.

"I was barely thirty years old and

*Continued on page 2*

## Gary Perkins Named Executive Director

Gary E. Perkins, Deputy Director of FSA and longtime member of the FSA staff was recently named by the FSA Board of Directors to replace the retiring "Buddy" Phillips as FSA's new Executive Director.



Gary joined the staff of the Florida Sheriffs Association back in 1979 as Director of Administrative Services. In the mid 90's, Gary was named Deputy Executive Director and did such a great job in that post that the FSA Board of Directors unanimously chose him to suc-

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## Buddy Phillips retires

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had already learned the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat all in one job," he said.

Undeterred by the political loss, and prodded by a desire for his family to continue to eat and live under a roof, Buddy sought employment elsewhere after the 1972 election, and was hired by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He spent two decades working for FDLE, working in their training division, working as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, and Buddy was the first FDLE Director of Mutual Aid.

While at FDLE, Buddy also earned a milestone of historic proportions. In doing so, he set a record that will probably live on forever – he was appointed to serve as an interim sheriff in five different counties!

You see, whenever an elected sheriff got into hot water, Buddy was Governor Bob Graham's "go-to guy" to replace the incumbent that was under suspension from office. As a result, Buddy served as the sheriff for varying periods of time in Columbia, Flagler, Charlotte, Glades and Pasco counties.

From a legal standpoint, being appointed to an office is no less important or less "official" than being elected. Thus, Buddy's serving as the sheriff in six different counties is a record that will probably never be broken. (For the record, we have another rarity with today's incumbent Sheriff O.L. Raulerson of Okeechobee County. Raulerson was also the elected sheriff of Highlands County back in the '70s.)

If you ask Buddy about the

accomplishments he cherishes most, instead of talking about pulling people out of a burning car, or catching murderers and robbers, Buddy will gush about his family and his grandkids, always promoting the notion of putting God and family first before anything else.

FSA staff person Tom Berlinger has told many people the classic "Buddy story" about putting family first.

"Back in 1990, I had only been on the association staff about two years when one of my daughters was nearly killed in a military parachuting accident...she fell 1,300 feet with virtually no parachute, yet survived," noted Tom Berlinger, FSA's Director of Operational Services who joined FSA's staff a few months after Buddy was appointed in 1988. "All that Buddy kept telling me was, 'We'll all pitch in and cover for you. You do what you have to do to get her well enough to bring her back home,' said Berlinger."

"Buddy allowed me to work any days of the week, in the middle of the night or on the weekends so that either my wife or I could be at Diana's side for the entire period of hospitalization."

Buddy's proudest moment at FSA has yet to come, even though he has left the daily day-to-day manage-

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## Gary Perkins Named Executive Director continued from page 1

ceed Buddy Phillips.

"Although different people view it in different ways, the Florida Sheriffs Association is a business, and not a law enforcement agency," noted Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson, this year's president of the association.

"And, in the board's opinion, there is nobody that knows the business end of FSA's operation better than Gary does," said Henderson, "he was the natural choice for the job."

Born in Jacksonville, Gary is a product of the public schools in what is Florida's largest (geographically speaking) city in the state. Gary also graduated from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, earning a bachelor of arts degree in business administration.

Aside from oversight of the day-to-day operation of the association, a large part of Gary's time, by necessity, is consumed by the association's financial development needs. Unlike a sheriff's office that can petition for funding from their county commission, the association is a private, non-profit business.

As such, the association must raise its operational funds from things like member dues, charging fees for attendance at training events, or from the sale of membership items.

"During my tenure, Gary's expertise in business management and his ability to seek out non-traditional revenue sources played a major role in keeping us financially solvent," noted Buddy Phillips.

There have only been a handful of executive directors since the founding of the Florida Sheriffs Association in 1893. In fact, in the early years, there was no "official" headquarters and no full-time staff.

"I plan to continue to walk in Buddy's well-placed footsteps as we continue to seek new ways that we can expand our services to the sheriffs," said Perkins. ★



## EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



### Several bills of Interest Pass the Legislature

For each of the last three years, I have had the privilege of assisting with the lobbying efforts of the Florida Sheriffs Association. It is hectic, high drama, and it can often give you the tension level of Las Vegas style high-stakes poker.

After working in law enforcement for many years and now doing this, I can attest to the fact that working in the legislative process is better than wrestling drunks on the midnight shift . . . most of the time, but not all of the time.

Last year and the year before, we (our lobbyist Frank Messersmith along with all sheriffs, particularly those sheriffs that are on

the legislative committee), played the high-stakes for the recouping of FRS retirement benefits. These bills were the ones that restored the "lost" 3% accrual rate for Special Risk members of FRS that were members between 1978 and 1993.

The sheriffs worked tirelessly and side-by-side with the lobbyists for the PBA and FOP to recoup an estimated \$1.3 billion in lost retirement benefits.

You heard it here first – no single set of lobbyists in the history of the State of Florida have ever landed such a plum for it's members – and none ever will again. Period.

This year's session did not contain the high drama that a billion dollars brings, but we did have our moments.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of a few of the good things that passed:

**CS SB188 – "Scott Baird Act"** amends S. 782.07, F. S. making it a 1st degree felony aggravated manslaughter to cause the death of a law enforcement officer, firefighter or EMS worker through culpable negligence.

**SB 626** creates S. 784.062, F. S. and prohibits anyone from shining a

laser light at a law enforcement officer while in the performance of their duties in a manner that would give a reasonable person the impression that someone was pointing a firearm. Violation is a non-criminal violation.

**SB 716** relates to domestic violence, and has so many new elements, that you should consult with Online Sunshine, the state's legislative website, for full details. That said, you will want to know that in accordance with the national efforts, "dating violence" is now defined and included.

**HB 835** enhances the penalties for crimes committed against the elderly.

**SB 998** prohibits false reports of planting a weapon of mass destruction or hoax bomb and establishes specific laws related to hoax bombs and/or weapons of mass destruction.

**HB 1157** amends S. 806.13, F. S. requiring community service & restitution if an act of criminal mischief involves graffiti over certain specified value dollar losses.

**SB 176** enhances the education benefit for children of slain officers.

**SB 108** creates a "presumption" that a heart or blood pressure related disability incurred by any LEO is a line-of-duty disability.

**HB 1057** caused several major changes to the DUI/BUI statutes.

For information on the full text of these and many other criminal justice related bills that passed, I encourage you to go to Online Sunshine. You can get anything you want about the legislative session. The website address is:  
<http://www.leg.state.fl.us>

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##### *Publisher*

Gary E. Perkins

Executive Director

Florida Sheriffs Association

##### *Editor*

Thomas P. Berlinger

E-Mail: [Tom@FLsheriffs.org](mailto:Tom@FLsheriffs.org)

##### *Graphic Design*

Frank J. Jones

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FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

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



## Buddy Phillips retires

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ment and operations.

For the last several years, he has done everything within his power to establish a suitable memorial to Florida's sheriffs and deputy sheriffs that have been killed in the line of duty since the recorded history of the state began.

Aside from promoting and selling the idea to the sheriffs, Buddy has led the way in all planning and a fund-raising, successfully raising almost a quarter-million dollars to establish an impressive permanent memorial on the grounds at FSA headquarters in Tallahassee.

"Sometime in the next few months, the memorial will be unveiled and we will have a dedication ceremony," Buddy said, "And when we do, we are going to invite all sheriffs and the surviving family members of everyone whose name appears on the wall," he says.

"When that day comes, I will feel a sense of pride like no other. It will be a permanent testament to those that in the face of danger, gave their lives so that the rest of us could live in a peaceful society. It will be meaningful, well-deserved and it has been a long time coming."

"That day, I'll know in my heart that something that I helped to create will be seen and remembered for many generations into the future." What the rest of us know, though, that Buddy is too humble to allow, is that he has left a permanent mark on all people that have had the privilege to know him and work with him.

And it is a mark that he left on us long before the memorial was even a fleeting thought in the back of his mind. ★

## Have "harmless drug users" Overtaken our Prison Beds?

**(You might be surprised to know the answer)**

Whenever the subject of allocating prison space and resources arise, there is inevitably a statement made that Florida should stop using costly prison space to incarcerate offenders for "minor" drug crimes, such as marijuana use. Are thousands of harmless marijuana users taking up valuable prison beds that could be used by more violent offenders?

A joint study by the Florida Department of Corrections' Bureau of Research and Data Analysis and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Statistical Analysis Center indicates that these offenders are neither harmless nor numerous. In fact, on May 31, 2001, there were only 93 (or 0.1%) inmates in the Florida prison system serving time for marijuana possession, and 42 percent of them (39) had previous arrests for violent offenses including murder, sexual battery, robbery or aggravated assault. These inmates had an average of 19 previous arrests and nine convictions. This average inmate has also been on community supervision such as probation an average of two times before being incarcerated. On average, he is male, black and 31 years old.

The records reviewed during this study include only Florida state prison convictions, so the arrests and convictions could be much higher when county jails and other states are included. Also, these figures do not include juvenile records.

The 93 inmates in Florida prison



on May 31, 2001 for marijuana possession had the following characteristics:

- Most were male (96.7%), black (54.8%),

and their average age was 31, which is three years younger than the average age of all inmates in prison.

- They comprised less than one percent (0.1%) of the entire inmate population of 71,965 on May 31, 2001.
- They had a total of 839 convictions and 1,786 prior arrests. That averages out to nine convictions each and 19.2 arrests. (Not every arrest leads to a conviction).
- Of those 1,786 prior arrests, only about one-fourth of them (473) were drug related. They had a total of 367 convictions for drug related offenses for an average of 3.9 per inmate. Those crimes included 64 robberies, 85 burglaries, 53 felony assaults or batteries and 164 crimes involving theft, forgery or fraud.
- Thirty-nine of the 93 inmates (42%) had arrests for violent offenses such as murder, sexual battery, robbery or aggravated assault. They were convicted (and served time) for a total of 126 violent offenses.
- Thirty-five of the 93 had arrests for firearm related crimes.

*Continued on page 5*



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- These 93 inmates had, on average, been on state community supervision such as probation for a felony in Florida at least two times in the past.

Are harmless marijuana smokers taking up a lot of valuable prison beds?

This study indicates that there are very few inmates serving time in prison today for marijuana possession (0.1%), and those who are in prison are far from harmless.

They have extensive criminal records and typically have been provided the opportunity to avoid prison through multiple supervision sentences. Notably, many of their previous convictions include violent offenses, and more than a third had arrests for firearm related crimes.

It is important to note that the above analysis does not include the following information about the inmates studied:

- Prior arrests or adjudications as juveniles.
- Arrests and/or convictions that occurred in states other than Florida.
- Convictions that resulted in local jail sanctions for misdemeanors or felonies.
- Convictions that resulted in a prison or supervision sentence but are not contained on the database maintained by the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC). This occurs because the FDOC's database was created in the early 1980's and commitment records for prison and supervision commitments that occurred prior to this time were not universally entered into the department's database. There is a record of the number of times offenders were sentenced to prison prior to when the database was created, however, the details of their convicted crimes were not included at that time.

*For more information, call Dr. Bill Bales at the DOC's Bureau of Research and Data Analysis at (850) 488-1801 or FDLE's Statistical Analysis Center at (850) 410-7140.*

*This article was graciously provided by Michael W. Moore, Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections, as published in the Correctional Compass. ★*



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## Florida Police Often Victims of Violence

*Courtesy of the Gainesville Sun*

Gainesville Police Sergeant Rob Koehler sports



numerous scars from being assaulted by suspects in the line of duty. He's had his kneecap torn up, his skin grated off and has been choked, punched, hit by cars and knocked into a street full of traffic.

Koehler isn't alone. About 9,000 law enforcement officers (26%) are assaulted on the job every year in Florida, according to the most recent FBI statistics available.

Florida has the highest rate of assaults against officers in the country, and about a third of those assaulted are injured.

Nationally, 13% of law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, according to the FBI. New England has the lowest rate of assaults, at 10%.

It's difficult to determine from the statistics if the problem is growing nationwide, because the number of law enforcement agencies reporting assaults sometimes differs by more than a thousand from year to year.

Lack of education and the relatively low income of its residents may be a couple of the reasons Florida and the south have a higher rate of assaults against officers, Alachua County Sheriff's Sergeant Keith Faulk said. "Historically, do we get battered by professors and educators (or) lower-income, uneducated people?" said Faulk, who had part of his ear nearly bitten off by a

suspect several years ago. "I'd have to go with the latter."

There is a theory that describes a southern culture of violence, said Lorie Fridell, Director of Research at the Police Executive Research Forum in Washington, D.C., which is a national membership organization dedicated to improving policing and advancing professionalism

through research and involvement in public policy debate.

But the difference between Florida's rates and the rest of the country may also be due to different definitions of assaults, she added.

Koehler, who has worked for the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) for 10 years, said most of the people who assaulted him didn't mean to hurt him, but injured him while trying to escape. But that doesn't excuse their behavior, he added.

During one arrest, the suspect punched Koehler in the face, imbedding part of the officer's glasses into his skin. Another man charged at Koehler during a chase and knocked him into a fence. He then started choking him and was stopped only when other officers pulled him off Koehler.

"He basically wanted to kill me," Koehler said. "You could just feel this impending sense of that if someone didn't get there soon, anything was possible."

Another time, the officer was chasing a man he had seen smoking marijuana. The man rammed his head into Koehler's collarbone and knocked him onto University Avenue. Cars had to swerve to avoid him. As Koehler subdued the man, the man ground the officer's hand under him into the pavement. Koehler also had to get plastic

surgery for a knee injury he got when a suspect threw a bicycle at him.

But Koehler said he is just one of the many at GPD who have suffered injuries at the hands of citizens. Another GPD officer was hit by a car and has had numerous back surgeries, Koehler said. That officer pinned a copy of his X-ray on a wall at GPD to remind officers what could happen to them.

Last year, 55 GPD officers and 90 Alachua county sheriff's deputies were assaulted. It could be worse, but the training officers get prevents even more assaults, Faulk said. "If it weren't for the training that law enforcement currently gets, the number would probably be double," he said.

Officers learn how to handle an arrest situation and how to protect themselves and the suspect. They learn what weapons they can use to subdue an aggressive person without hurting him, including pepper spray and Taser guns, Faulk said.

Assaults on officers, and the injuries that result, can put a strain on the manpower of law enforcement agencies. One GPD officer who was hit by a car was off-duty for a year. A sheriff's deputy who suffered a broken ankle needed 17 days of sick leave and then was put in a desk job for about three months after that as he recovered, Faulk said. And even when officers don't suffer serious injuries, they still worry about getting a communicable disease from the assailant, Faulk said.

When blood is exchanged during a fight, the suspect gets checked for HIV and other communicable diseases. If a suspect is found to carry a disease such as tuberculosis, the

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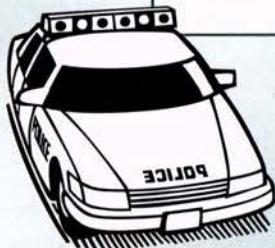


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## MADD Honors the 100+ DUI Club

Each year, MADD honors all of the deputy sheriffs, state troopers and city police officers that have made 100

or more DUI arrests during the preceding year. The awards luncheon is held in Tallahassee each year.

The keynote speaker at the 2002 luncheon was Ms. Millie Webb, the national president of the MADD organization.

Ms. Webb spoke of the ongoing need for law enforcement to press on with their efforts against drunk driving, noting that, "We'll never really know how many lives are saved each time a drunk driver is taken off the highways of our nation."

One out-of-the-ordinary highlight of the luncheon this year was an award given to Officer Steve Thomas of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. Officer Thomas made the largest number of arrests in the state for boating under the influence. It's tough enough to make a regular DUI arrest, but making a successful case against a person that operates a watercraft under the influence has got to be immeasurably more difficult.

Awards are also presented to outstanding DUI prosecutors and to state beverage agents that make the most arrests for selling alcohol to minors.

Since the primary focus of APB is sheriffs and their deputies, and because the list is rather extensive for all award winners, we have elected to list all the names and agencies of the deputy sheriffs from Pensacola to Key West that made more than 100 DUI cases during calendar year 2001.



## AWARDS TO DEPUTY SHERIFFS

Deputy Lamont Akins  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Bennie Barrington, Jr.  
Pasco Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Keith O. Barron  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Officer Phillip B. Blackstone  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Edward Bowman  
Volusia Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Jackie Brock  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Craig Buttery  
Broward Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Ted Clegg  
Pasco Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Richard Closius  
Miami-Dade Police Dept.  
Deputy Thomas Cole  
Manatee Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Greg Croucher  
Palm Beach Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Douglas E. Cullen  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Officer Jerry J. Davenport  
Miami-Dade Police Dept.  
Deputy Matthew Denney  
Pasco Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Travis E. Devinny  
Alachua Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Estrellita Dion  
Miami-Dade Police Dept.  
Officer Anthony S. Dziedzicki  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Officer Darrell B. Edmonds  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Deputy David Faccini  
Broward Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Charles Gibson  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Corporal Peter Greenberg  
Collier Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy David Gross  
Orange Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Dann R. Hamlin  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Timothy Harris  
Pasco Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy James Herbert  
Broward Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy William Hill  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Joseph Holland  
Brevard Co. Sheriff's Office

Corporal Thomas Humann  
Collier Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy James Ingram  
Seminole Co. Sheriff's Office  
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Sarasota Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Jason Karlecke  
Palm Beach Co. Sheriff's Office  
Corporal Darrel Kehne  
Collier Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Donald Kersh  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy David Kohn  
Seminole Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Scott Lamia  
Hernando Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Garry Martin  
Broward Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Kyle Massaro  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Wanda Milian  
Miami-Dade Police Dept.  
Deputy William Miller  
Sarasota Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Michael Molasso  
Pasco Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Doug Moore  
Martin Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Felix J. Moret, Jr.  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Steve H. Mullen  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Deputy John Dillon Murphy, Jr.  
Martin Co. Sheriff's Office  
Officer Hernandez J. Muse  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Barry Overstreet  
Manatee Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Kenneth J. Page  
Pinellas Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Richard Parks  
Martin Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Michael S. Peasley, II  
Pinellas Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Winfield Phillips  
Broward Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Angelo Portoro  
Broward Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy George Primm  
Martin Co. Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Robert Rodriguez  
Hillsborough Co. Sheriff's Office

Deputy Robert Santoro  
Hernando Co. Sheriff's Office  
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Deputy Grace-Marie Zopf  
Martin Co. Sheriff's Office

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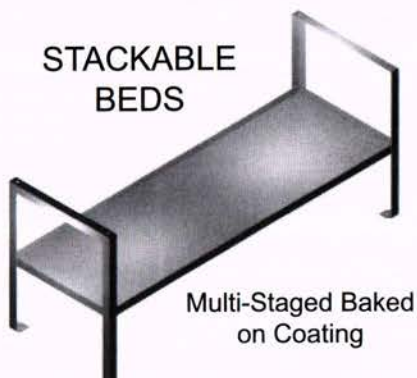


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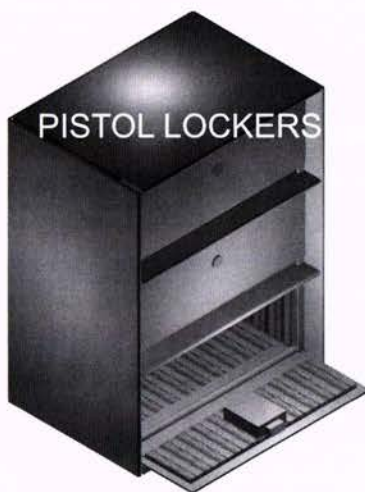
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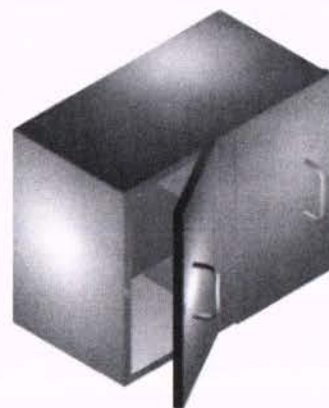
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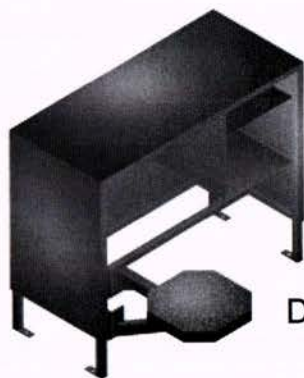


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## Florida Police Often Victims of Violence *Continued from page 6*

officer then must get tested.

But Koehler said he tries not to think about the injuries he's suffered. "You don't want to think about them because that could cause you to hesitate when you shouldn't," Koehler said. Police officers are aware of the dangers they face, he added. "We're not making cupcakes," Koehler said. "It's a job with the propensity for bad things to happen."

## FSA Jail Administrator's Conference Dates Set

Each year for over a decade, the Florida Sheriffs Association hosts a 20-hour training course designed for sheriffs, jail administrators and jail command staff.

Sheriffs that attend the course can meet their annual requirements for the state's Sheriff's Salary Supplement program, and correctional officers that attend can use the course to satisfy their CJSTC mandatory retraining requirements.

This year, the course will be held at the HILTON HOTEL in Altamonte Springs, located off I-4 and SR-436 in Seminole County.

Host Sheriff Don Eslinger and Host Jail Administrator David Diggs promise a terrific event for all attendees.

The course is 20 hours in length, and will kick off at 8:00 AM sharp on Tuesday, December 10. The course will end at noon on December 12.

Course announcements and mail outs will be sent out in early October, but those that plan to attend ought to mark the dates on their calendar now! ★

## Deputy Nabs Festival Fan in a Stolen Jail Uniform

*Courtesy of the St. Petersburg Times*

A detective at the "Livestock" event saw him approaching with "Polk County Jail" stamped on the bright orange outfit. —Some advice for anyone thinking of attending Livestock next year: Don't wear a bright orange jail uniform. Especially if you stole it, and especially if you are supposed to be on house arrest.

Just ask 25 year-old Korey Bradd Henderson of Lakeland.

Pasco County sheriff's detective Mark Morrison was working the hand rock festival Sunday wearing his uniform, when he spotted Henderson walking his way dressed in a bright orange shirt and pants. As the man got closer, Morrison could make out black letters across the back of the shirt and the leg of the pants: Polk County Jail.

"He stood out in the crowd." Sheriff's spokesman Jon Powers said. "Morrison's keen police mind said, 'Something ain't right here.'"

When Morrison approached, Henderson took off running. "That was his second mistake," Powers said. He ran straight into two other deputies, who stopped him. Henderson first told them the getup was a Halloween costume.

The deputies decided to check that story with the Polk County jail. The jail ran an inventory search and called back with the result: one uniform was missing.

Turns out that Henderson had taken the uniform when he was released from jail in January, Powers said. But that marked only the



beginning of his troubles. A warrants check told deputies that Henderson was supposed to be on house arrest in Lakeland as part of his probation on a charge of illegal possession of Alprazolam, also known as Xanax.

They gave him a trespass warning, confiscated the jail uniform and escorted him from Festival Park. On Monday, deputies called Henderson's probation officer in Lakeland. The probation officer said he had visited Henderson at home early Monday, and Henderson said he had stayed around the house all weekend. Shortly thereafter, Henderson was back behind bars, accused of violating his probation.

Records show he had been arrested four times since 2000, on charges ranging from marijuana possession, to possession of narcotics equipment, to possession of a controlled substance, to driving with a suspended license.

Powers said he still can't understand what motivated Henderson to wear the jail uniform at an event swarming with deputies. "If you're violating your probation," he said, "the last thing I think you would want to do is draw attention to yourself. Right?"

At last report, Henderson remained at the Polk County Jail. He was issued a new jail uniform. ★



## Broward Sheriff's Office Unveils New Crime-Fighting Tool

By: Hugh Graf/BSO Media Relations

What's 40-feet long weighs 29,000 pounds and can help catch crooks?

Don't look for a punch line. The answer is a new and improved Crime Scene Mobile Laboratory. It's the latest crime-fighting tool for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) that was unveiled in April.

The Crime Scene Mobile Laboratory is designed to give detectives a multi-tasking platform from which they can coordinate major investigations. With this new tool, criminal investigation detectives can coordinate their efforts in the field as crime scene detectives comb through valuable evidence. The lab will serve BSO and other law enforcement agencies requesting assistance at crime scenes.

On-board state-of-the-art gear allows investigators to gather and process fingerprints, hairs, and fibers while still on the scene of a crime. A diesel generator capable of pushing out 20,000 watts of power can run for weeks, providing electricity for the lab's two lasers, digital imaging station, satellite navigation system, state-of-the-art computers, 8,000 watt overhead lights, self-leveling jack system, air conditioning, and other amenities.

"Progressive and proactive law enforcement depends not only on the best and the brightest minds, but also on the finest and most advanced technologies," said Sheriff Ken Jenne. "Our commitment to the people of the county as well as to the men and women of BSO is reflected in the addition of this new Mobile Crime Scene Lab to our arsenal of crime-fighting tools."

BSO's Crime Scene Mobile Laboratory is truly one of a kind. More than 18 months of painstaking work went into the design and building of the lab. It is an invaluable piece of equipment for investigators, whether at a crime scene or following a natural disaster.

Sheriff Jenne unveiled the Crime Scene Mobile Laboratory on Thursday, April 11, 2002 during a brief ceremony in the parking lot behind the Ron Cochran Public Safety Building. ★



Broward County's Crime Scene Mobile Laboratory



Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne unveiled the Crime Scene Mobile Lab April 11th at a brief ceremony.



View from inside the Mobile Lab

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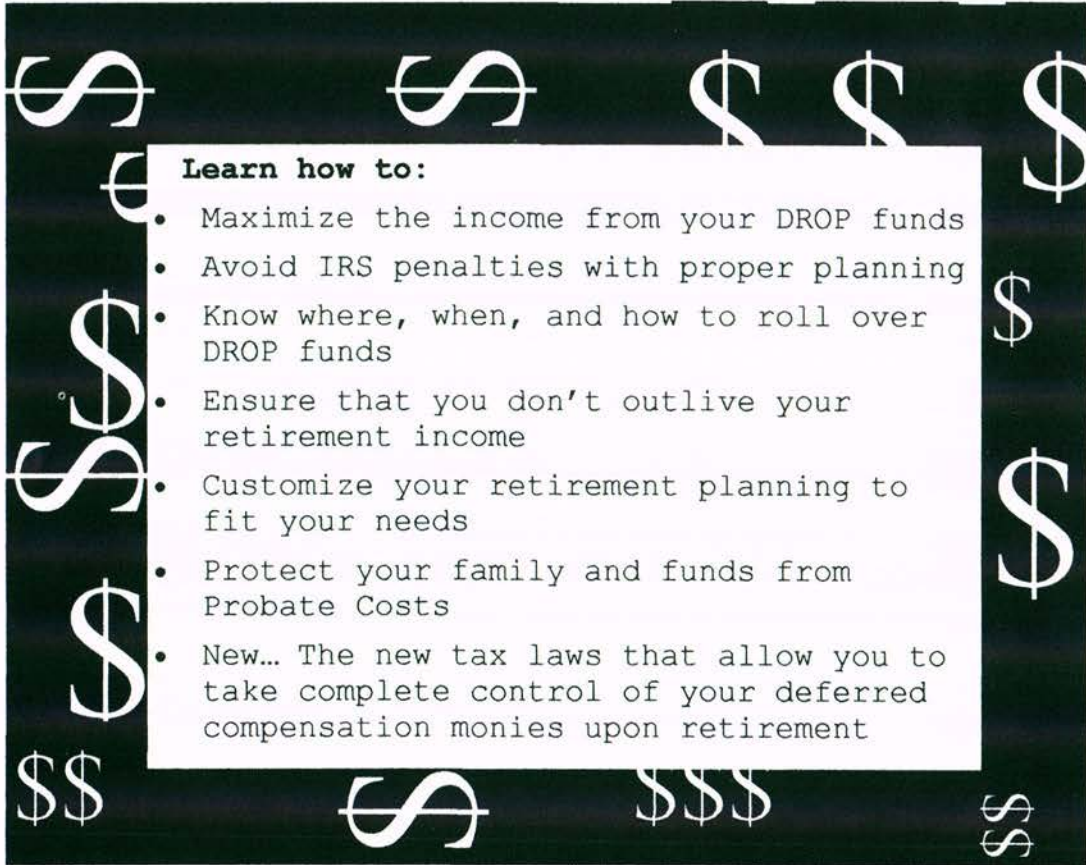
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## Florida Too Hot for Drug Proponents, says Drug Free America Foundation

Florida proved to be too hot for drug proponents pushing a number of drug legalization measures in the state. First FORML (Florida Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws) Freedom Fighters notified the Secretary of State's office that they were disbanding as a political action committee (PAC) and suspending further efforts to legalize marijuana use in Florida. Then, the Campaign for New Drug Policies withdrew its petition for a state ballot initiative that would have created a constitutional right to drug treatment, literacy training or family counseling instead of jail time for drug users, dealers and traffickers.

"Florida is the first and only state to organize, oppose and defeat both medical excuse marijuana and right-to-drug-treatment initiatives," announced Betty S. Sembler, president of Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.). "Since we were first targeted by the well-financed drug legalization movement, we have drawn a line in the Florida sand and said 'Not here. Not in Florida.' We have worked hard to defeat these measures and our efforts have paid off."

Supporters of the proposed medical excuse marijuana amendment began circulating petitions in 1997, however, they have managed to file only 6,129 signatures with the Secretary of State. The "right-to-drug-treatment" campaign was more organized and collected about 10 percent of the 488,722 signatures necessary before abandoning its cause.

"This initiative was misleading and seriously weakened Florida's established anti-drug laws and legitimate drug treatment programs," said Calvina L. Fay, Executive Director of Drug Free America Foundation, a drug education organization that monitors drug laws and policies. "While we fully support legitimate drug treatment, this measure had nothing to do with that. It provided drug offenders and felons, regardless of the drug possessed or sold or the amount possessed or sold, the right to divert from jail by electing drug treatment, literacy training or parenting instruction. Even persons with prior convictions for rape, child molestation and other violent crimes qualified for this 'get-out-of-jail-free' card."

This initiative was criticized by treatment professionals because it allowed individuals with no substance abuse training whatsoever to collect state funds for providing "treatment services" to drug offenders. Drug testing, a useful deterrent to drug use while in treatment, was not required. Reading books, listening to audiocassette tapes and logging in to Internet chat rooms were viable and billable treatment alternatives under this measure.

"The proposed constitutional amendment failed to appreciate the extent of Florida's viable treatment system. Instead, it offered the pretense of treatment, and most likely a de facto legitimization of drug abuse," stated James R. McDonough, Director of Florida's Office of Drug Control. "This was a shallow concept that would have only brought more drug abuse related problems to our state."

Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., is a non-profit drug prevention

and policy organization committed to global elimination of illegal drug use, drug addiction, drug-related illnesses and death. ★

## Sheriff Charlie Wells Practices What He Preaches

After years of preaching the importance of education to Manatee County schoolchildren, Sheriff Charlie Wells has earned something for himself: his own bachelor's degree.



Wells, who has been the Manatee County sheriff for 18 years, dropped out of college when he became a law enforcement officer some 35 years ago. So, slowly and methodically for the past 13 years, he's been working his way through Eckerd College in his spare time.

While he did course work in criminal justice at Manatee Community College, the sheriff decided to earn his bachelor's degree in religious studies. He said he decided to switch majors because he wanted to learn something new.

Maybe all that preaching influenced his choice?

Congratulations Sheriff Wells! This should be incentive enough for any up and coming law enforcement officer that thinks that he "hasn't got the time to go to college." ★



## Good News for all Sheriffs: High Court Rules Against Term Limits in Charter Counties

*Courtesy of The Associated Press  
Published: May 23, 2002*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - Charter counties cannot impose term limits on offices like sheriff, elections supervisor and clerk of court, the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday. The issue came to Florida's high court from Jacksonville and Pinellas County.



Voters in Jacksonville, which encompasses all of Duval County, approved eight-year term limits for offices like sheriff, elections supervisor, property appraiser, tax collector and clerk of the court in 1992.

Henry Cook wanted to run for re-election as Clerk of the Court in 1998 but was kept off the ballot because he had hit the term limit. He went to court.

Although he won at the trial level, the 1st District Court of Appeal reversed that ruling, and Cook appealed the DCA decision to the state Supreme Court.

In Pinellas County, voters approved term limits for county officers in 1996. Several county officials, including the tax collector, sheriff, property appraiser and elections supervisor, challenged the limits.

In Thursday's majority ruling, Chief Justice Charles Wells wrote that the Florida Constitution provided the "exclusive roster" of things that would disqualify a candidate from running for a constitutional office in a charter county.

Since term limits are not included, the Jacksonville and Pinellas term limits are invalid, Wells wrote. Justices Major Harding, Barbara Pariente and R. Fred Lewis concurred.

Justices Harry Lee Anstead, Leander Shaw and Peggy Quince dissented.

"I cannot agree with the majority that the Florida Constitution prohibits charter counties from enacting term limits for county officers," Anstead wrote in an opinion joined by the other two dissenters.

"To the contrary, the constitution explicitly grants broad authority to charter counties over charter officers, and, consistent with that grant, imposes no restrictions on a county's authority to regulate those officers."

Florida voters in 1992 changed the state constitution to add eight-year term limits on the Legislature and Cabinet offices. ★

## Florida to Address Vehicle Theft Issues at Statewide Summit

To address the significant problem of auto theft, the Florida Anti-Car Theft Committee (F.A.C.T.) is spearheading the "Summit on Auto Theft in Florida" in cooperation with the Florida Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Authority, Office of the Attorney General, and the Florida Auto Theft Intelligence Unit.

The second Summit will be held in Tampa on September 15-17, 2002, will bring together up to 250 representatives from government, law enforcement agencies, insur-

ance companies and others from around the state to create strategies and identify initiatives to curb auto theft.

Colonel Christopher Knight, F.A.C.T. chairman and director of the Florida Highway Patrol, said, "The goals of the Summit are two-fold; first, to provide participants with information about the state of car theft in Florida, and second, to take advantage of so many talented individuals and organizations from both public service and private industry that gather together and consider solutions for dealing with crime."

Nearly 90,000 auto theft crimes were committed in Florida during 2001. These staggering auto theft statistics keep the state ranked third in the nation for this crime. These thefts cost residents and visitors to the state \$705 million annually.

"Participants in the Summit will seek to unify Florida's battle against auto theft through enforcement techniques, prevention and education," said Knight.

Topics to be addressed at the Summit include:

- A look at the state of auto theft in Florida
- Solving organized crime cases
- Combating the consequences of juvenile involvement in auto theft
- Wading through registration/titling and legislative processes
- Writing a winning grant proposal
- Weighing the judicial system's effect on auto theft
- Law enforcement and insurance: working together to deter

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*Continued on page 15*



## Vehicle Theft Issues continued. . .

and detect auto theft

- Agency to agency communication: a real key to reducing auto theft

The Summit will take place at the Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel, located at 725 S. Harbour Island Boulevard in Tampa. Early registration fee, prior to August 1, is \$99.00. After August 1, the general registration fee is \$119.00, and walk-ins during the Summit will pay a \$149.00 registration fee.

For more information, call the F.A.C.T. Hotline at (813) 839-2247 or go to <http://www.getfacts.org>. ★

## Chief Deputy Receives 40-year Honor Roll Recognition

By Steve Olson, PIO  
Seminole County Sheriff's Office

Ollis Owen remembers when Seminole County was a sleepy little area north of Orlando, and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office consisted of about a half dozen people, including the elected sheriff.

Mr. Owen was the Chief Deputy under Sheriff J.L. Hobby in the early to mid 1950's. "The county had about 30,000 people back then," said Owen "Our jail population amounted to five or six people at any given time."

The years may have passed, and career paths may have changed, but for Mr. Owen, now 86, law enforcement issues have always been important, including his choice to support the Florida Sheriffs Association beginning 40 years ago.

On May 16, Seminole County

Sheriff Don Eslinger recognized Mr. Owen as a 40-year Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriffs Association. In the process, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office discovered some of its history.

Mr. Owen brought with him some photographs from the early 1950's showing what it was like to be a member of the Seminole County Sheriff's Department, as it was called back then.

One picture showed the Sheriff J.L. Hobby, Mr. Owen, and the rest of the deputies posing by a patrol car. Another picture showed the Sheriff and his staff in the old Seminole County Courthouse. A third picture showed a raid on a moonshine operation in Chuluota, which was done with the help of Florida Beverage Agents.



Sheriff Eslinger was impressed. "It's an honor to have Mr. Owen as a member of FSA for 40 years," said Sheriff Eslinger. "He also gave us some perspective of what it was like in Seminole County 50 years ago."

In addition to his 40-year Honorary Member Certificate, Mr. Owen was given a Chief Deputy's badge as a token of appreciation.

As for his photographs, copies will soon be added to the historical display at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. ★

## Rick Purdy passes away

By Dan Condon  
Hunt Insurance Group

Longtime legal defender of sheriffs and sheriff's office personnel, Richard A. "Rick" Purdy has died. As of press time, the exact cause of death is not known, although it clearly relates to a recent illness. Rick dedicated almost his entire professional career to law enforcement. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati Law School in the late 1960's Rick spent a short time in the private practice of law before joining the State Attorney's Office in Broward County. Rick worked as an Assistant State Attorney for approximately 6 years, rising to the level of Chief Assistant State Attorney, before again going into private practice. In the late 1970's Rick began representing the Broward Sheriff's Office and has continuously represented sheriff's offices and other law enforcement agencies in south and southwest Florida since that time.

Rick was not only a dedicated and able defender of law enforcement, he was a supporter of law enforcement in other ways as well. His firm sponsored various events for the benefit of law enforcement groups including the Florida Sheriffs' Youth Ranches. For example, Rick was responsible for organizing the motorcycle rides during the Sheriff's conferences several years ago which raised funds for the Youth Ranches.

More importantly, however, Rick was a friend to all at the Florida Sheriffs Association as well as the Hunt Insurance Group, and the many Sheriffs and the officers that he represented. ★



## Officer Safety Issue: all will want to read this...

*(Editor's note: Although in this article, the cell phone "auto answer" feature happened to appear on a Nextel phone, we can attest to the fact that this is a common feature on many models of cell phones that are provided by other carriers. From personal experience, I can tell you that I use a less-than-sophisticated cell phone from another carrier, and my cell phone has the "auto answer" feature as well.)*

This bulletin was shared by the Louisiana law enforcement authorities and provides you with information about a law enforcement officer safety concern that officers need to know about.

Some officers were searching a truck recently where they found 65 pounds of marijuana in the sleeper. As they were continuing their search a Nextel cellular phone started ringing. The phone was in its holster hanging on the dash. The phone stopped ringing. The officers figured it either went to voice mail or the caller hung up after not receiving an answer. Later as they were trying to work out a controlled delivery they



learned a very valuable lesson concerning Nextel phones.

The caller, who was in the Bronx, New York, and who was the intended destination for the dope, did not hang up when the phone stopped ringing. The phone was set to auto-answer. He heard everything the officers said while they were searching the inside of the truck.

This could have had disastrous effects on officer safety at the time of the delivery. For those of you not familiar with Nextel phones, you can access the auto-answer feature by pressing the "\*" key and then the "#" key. Then arrow over

until you come to the auto-answer feature. There you can check to see if the auto-answer feature is turned "on" or "off" and if turned "on," how many rings it is set for before activating. In addition, the phone can be set for silent ring so that you don't even know whether it is ringing or not.

This is a potentially serious threat to all law enforcement officers, particularly those working drugs in a controlled delivery environment, so be alert and beware! ★

## Chance Encounter Leads to Former Cop's Arrest

KISSIMMEE, Fla. - Chalk this arrest up to luck. Former Inverness police officer Kevin Leroy Phillips walked into a store recently in Kissimmee a free man, but came out in handcuffs. He was wanted on charges of organized fraud, burglary and failure to pay child support.

In an unbelievable coincidence, Phillips was spotted entering the store by his former boss, Inverness Police Chief Lee Alexander, who was spending Memorial Day with his family in Kissimmee, about 15 miles south of Orlando.

Alexander told his wife to call 911 while he informed Phillips that there were warrants for his arrest. Alexander said Phillips gave himself up without incident.



Deputies from the Osceola County Sheriff's Office arrived and arrested Phillips. At last report, he was being held at the Osceola County jail without bond awaiting transfer to Citrus County.

Authorities in three counties had been searching for Phillips for more than two months. Inverness is located about 60 miles west of Orlando. ★

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