

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 3 • SUMMER 2008



The Florida Sheriffs Association Deputy Sheriff of the Year award is often based on a story where good wins over evil. Many times the award spotlights heroic acts in which lives are saved and the bad guy goes to jail.

This year's award was more difficult, even though it was based on an act of bravery. Because the incident resulted in the loss of the Sheriff's wife and a fellow deputy, it is difficult to recall the incident without experiencing a sense of sadness for what was lost.

In fact, the Florida Sheriffs were gathered at their annual winter conference in 2007, many of them accompanied by their spouses, when details began unfolding related to the tragic event, which struck just a little too close to home.

The story reminds us all of the dangers that our law-enforcement officers – including the Sheriff and family members – face every day. They deserve to be recognized for their courage.

A related example of courage came when Jackson County Sheriff Johnny McDaniel, known as "Johnny Mac," addressed the nearly 500 people gathered for the FSA 2008 Summer banquet this past July to tell his story. He told it as a soldier somberly tells stories of the frontline, leaving few dry eyes in the room at the end. What follows here is an account of the day Sheriff McDaniel lost his wife and a deputy at the hands of two men bent on revenge.

## **A quiet day in a quiet town**

On the afternoon of January 30, 2007, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office Victim's Advocate, Mellie

## Their Bravery Saved the Sheriff



### *Incident involving Deputy Sheriff of the Year winners hits close to home*

**At center, holding plaques, Capt Joey Rabon (left) and Corporal Billy Dozier were named co-winners of the Deputy Sheriff of the Year 2007. Pictured with them (from left) Jackson County Sheriff John "Johnny Mac" McDaniels, daughter Machel Campbell and FSA Outgoing President Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson.**

McDaniel, was running errands for her husband, Jackson County Sheriff Johnny McDaniel. Mellie called Sheriff McDaniel on their Nextel direct connect to let him know she was going to stop by their home, located in a rural part of the county. While they were talking, she told him a car was following her into their driveway. Sheriff McDaniel suggested it was maybe a door-to-door salesperson, and told her to tell whoever it was that they didn't want any. But Mellie acted a little frightened and asked him to stay on the line, so they kept talking. A second later, Mellie keyed the Nextel and Sheriff McDaniel heard her scream.

What happened next occurred in just four minutes.

Sheriff McDaniel immediately radioed dispatch for back-up and advised them that he was enroute.

Captain Joey Rabon and Corporal Billy Dozier were just two minutes away and raced to the scene. Deputy Mike Altman was just north of the Sheriff's home and was the first to arrive.

As Sheriff McDaniel drove, he searched for the guns he had secured to protect his grandchildren. Not finding them, he then dug for the spare he kept in his front seat console. No success. Stopping his SUV in the driveway, he jumped out of the vehicle unarmed. When he looked up, he saw a man in camouflage clothing step out of the bushes, leveling a .38-caliber Taurus handgun at him. He fired. The bullet lodged in Sheriff McDaniel's car, as he hit the ground, taking cover behind his open front door. Later, Sheriff McDaniel marveled at how his assailant had missed hit-

*Continued on page 7*

## BSO Veteran Honored by American Jail Association

By Jennifer Rosinski, BSO Public Relations

In 1980, Rick Frey was a young Broward Sheriff Office deputy on patrol when he was dispatched to a call of a woman who had been murdered. The assassin fled the scene and a car chase ensued. The pursuit ended with an echo of gunfire at a Waffle House parking lot, where the suspect shot at the deputy. Frey, 23, was hit in the neck and chin, which nearly killed him. His recovery took years, but the young deputy never gave up.

Twenty-eight years later, with the scars the bullets left still visible on his neck, Frey received the prestigious Corrections Administrator of the Year/Large Jail award from the American Jail Association (AJA). Now a lieutenant colonel for the Broward Sheriff's Office, the law enforcement veteran expressed gratitude for his staff at a ceremony May 7 in Sacramento, CA, in front of hundreds of his peers from around the nation.



Lt. Colonel Rick Frey

"By creating an environment where my staff could excel, they did," Frey said. "I could not have achieved as much without their help. I accept this reward on their behalf."

The AJA selected Frey from hundreds of nominees because of improvements he made in the BSO jail system. He lobbied the state to approve and certify the BSO Detention Academy – the first of its kind in

Florida – reducing officer vacancies from 200 to five. To fight and prevent communicable diseases among inmates, Frey forged a partnership with the Broward County Health Department to establish medical screening and provide preventative education through grant funding. He instituted a Jail Emergency Management System as a support tool for community and management response personnel. For the inmates, Frey implemented an online law library system to reduce physical escorts, as well as the Inmate Kiosk Project, a system that allows inmates to research job and community resources prior to release. Frey encourages extensive training for his staff and provides them the

support and resources needed to accomplish such training.

"On behalf of the men and women at the Broward Sheriff's Office, we would like to congratulate Lt. Colonel Frey on receiving this award," said Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti. "We are all very proud of his accomplishments and heroism."

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### FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN Volume 18, Number 3 Summer 2008

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Pasco Sheriff Bob White accepts a flag that was flown in Qatar, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John Jewell (center) and Our Troops Online coordinator Bob Williams presented the flag in appreciation of PCSO employees donating funds to pay postage for boxes of special request and commissary items sent to U.S. troops overseas.





By Julie S. Bettinger



Photo by Larry Coltharp

## Affecting Generations

I found myself recently in the difficult position of helping a teenager get out of an abusive situation to a place of safety. Our home has been her safe haven in between and so I have been involved in all of the intimate details during the transition.

I had befriended this 15-year-old's family two years ago while doing volunteer work through my church. She and I had become weekend running buddies and I knew a lot about her family situation. So far, we have been able to work out legal guardianship with a family in another state and things seem to be falling into place for her move.

My mother, June Strauss, and I were talking about the experience and I told her how good it feels to help someone else at a crisis time. Full disclosure: My mother helped establish two emergency shelters for abused and neglected children, the first branch campus of Boys Town, a multi-million dollar art museum and the Florida State University School of Theatre's patron association. So you could say helping others has been her life's work.

But as many lives as Mom's volunteer work has touched, she said what has meant the most to her is when she can make a difference in one individual's life. It doesn't come with the same tangibles – big awards banquets, tours of new buildings and parties to celebrate reaching fundraising goals. Still, "you are making an impact on generations," she told me.

I had never thought about it before, but it's true. Think about a time

in the past when a person intervened and significantly altered the direction of your life. Perhaps you were in trouble and they helped you get back on track. Or, you were leaning toward one career path and someone influenced your choice for another. Just like a pebble being dropped in the middle of a pond, each of us causes a ripple effect in our own families and society – and our lives will impact generations.

### A big ripple person

Law enforcement is one profession that offers a great deal of opportunity to positively impact the lives of others. And I believe that most of us are in it for that reason – to help others.

Some people are doing it one person at a time and also tinkering with the big picture items, like my mother. A person who comes to mind is FSA's former executive director, J.M. "Buddy" Phillips, who died June 10. We've included a tribute to Buddy in this issue.

Now, as busy as Buddy was during his lifetime – serving as Sheriff eight times in seven different counties – he always took the time to visit and find out how you were doing and ask about your spouse and family. He also made you feel good about yourself. I remember one of my favorite "Buddy-isms." He almost always ended our conversation with, "I appreciate you."

The list of Buddy's big picture items is a long one, including implementing Florida's Mutual Aid Act and establishing the first and only permanent memorial to recognize Sheriffs' Office personnel who have died in the line of duty.

In 1995, God used Buddy Phillips to radically alter my own course. As much as I was enjoying volunteering for the local Sheriff's Office, I never thought there were opportunities beyond it. Buddy sought me out and proceeded to sell me on working as the editor of FSA publications. Since he was a difficult man to say "no" to, my life changed for the better. I can't

think of anything I'd rather be doing than writing about the work of the Sheriffs of Florida.

Losing Buddy has left a hole in many hearts, but his legacy lives on through his relationships and special projects – which will affect generations for the better. I consider myself blessed to have been one of the many lives touched by Buddy Phillips. We miss you Buddy!

*Julie*

PS. – You may have noticed that this issue of APB is in full color. It's been a long time coming – we hope you enjoy a more vibrant reading experience.



## Florida Sheriffs Association Calendar of Events 2008/ early 2009

- FSA Small County Jail Resource Management Workshop, St. Johns River Community College Criminal Justice Academy, St. Augustine, October 22
- New Sheriffs' School, Double-Tree Hotel, Tallahassee, December 1-5
- FSA Jail Administrators' Conference will be held February, 2009, date and location TBD.

Please check the FSA Web site for the latest dates and locations: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org).

# Crackers and Water: How One Jail is Saving Nearly \$200,000 a Year

By Carrie Rodgers, PIO, Polk County Sheriff's Office

As of June 2008, the drink of choice at the Polk County Jail is water. Gone from the menu are chocolate milk, tea, coffee and juice. Cornbread gave way to crackers, and now inmates will be served one slice of bread for breakfast instead of two – breakfasts that are now made with frozen egg patties instead of fresh eggs.

"Your mother may feed you 'pb&j' sandwiches, but those will no longer be served at the Polk County Jail either – instead you can have a meat sandwich," says Sheriff Grady Judd of Polk County.

Why the changes? Because Sheriff Judd asked Chief Steve Lester, Commander of the Department of Detention, to provide a nutritious meal with the help of a certified dietician and cut the budget by a targeted \$200,000 at the same time (so far \$195,000 has been cut annually).

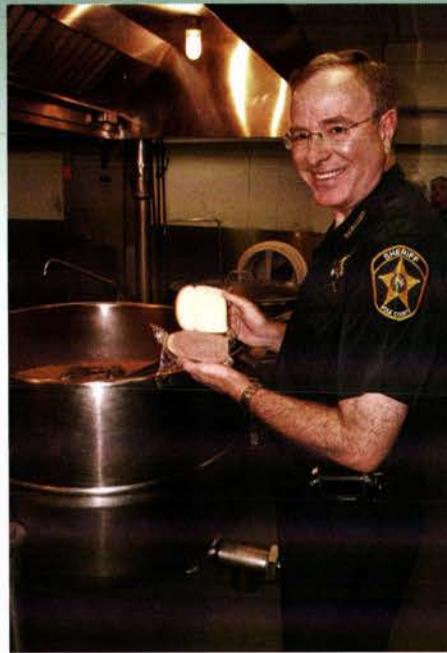
"These are tough budget times, and every penny we save is a penny we don't have to ask the taxpayer for," said Sheriff Judd. "If inmates want to eat pb&j sandwiches and drink coffee, tea, and juice, they need to behave, quit violating the law, and stay out of the county jail."

The new jail menu alternatives are:

**Cornbread to crackers** – Instead of serving cornbread 3 times per week, inmates are now served 3 packs of crackers per week. This represents a cost savings of **\$33,304** per year.

**Tea and Juice to Water** – All tea and juice products have been eliminated. Inmates are instead served water. This represents a cost savings of **\$56,630** per year.

**Two slices of bread to one** – Instead of serving each inmate 2



**Polk Sheriff Grady Judd samples one of the new, low cost food items at the jail.**

slices of bread for breakfast each day, he or she receives 1 slice of bread for breakfast each day. This represents a cost savings of **\$25,116** per year.

**Fresh Eggs to Egg Patties** – Instead of serving 2 fresh eggs to each inmate per week, inmates are served with one egg patty per week. This represents a cost savings of **\$24,545** per year.

**PBJ to meat** – Instead of serving peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, inmates are served meat sandwiches. This represents a cost savings of **\$11,076** per year.

**Carton milk to Non-fat dry milk** – By switching from cartons of fresh milk to non-fat dry powdered milk, PCSO will save **\$10,545** per year.

The inmates are still receiving 2300-2800 calories per day – a standard the licensed dietician employed by the agency recommends, per the American Dietetic Association. And of course the three meals they are served are wholesome and nutritious. They may not be the most popular meals in Polk County, but perhaps that will be more incentive for those with

delicate palates to seek meals elsewhere. As inmate Aaron Fisher said, "My sister told me if I didn't like the food, then don't go back to jail."

With an annual Detention budget of over \$47 Million, and an average daily inmate population of 2,400 inmates, finding new and innovative ways to cut costs is critical. The inmate farm and trusty labor were implemented years ago, and programs like these continue to add up to significant cost savings each year. But it's this outside-the-box kind of thinking that is going to keep costs down in this rising economy. You might not think peanut butter would be cheaper than meat, but like one local newspaper article put it: *cold cuts cut costs*.



## BRIEF

On Tuesday, July 22, Deputy Sheriff Anthony Forgione became the first deputy in history of Okaloosa County to lose his life in the line of duty. Deputy Forgione was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a suspect who had escaped from custody while he was under going a mental evaluation at a local hospital. Deputy Forgione died the week of his three-year anniversary with the Sheriff's Office; he previously served the Ft. Walton Beach Police Department. Our condolences to Deputy Forgione's wife and two daughters, family and friends.



Sheriff Susan Benton  
Chairperson



Sheriff Harrell Reid  
Secretary



Sheriff Charlie Morris  
President



Sheriff Ben Johnson  
Treasurer



Sheriff Bill Farmer  
Vice President



## Florida Sheriffs Elect New Leaders

### Woman Serving as Chair is a First in Organization's 115-year History

During their annual summer conference held July 27-30 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, the 67 Sheriffs of Florida elected a new slate of officers to lead the 115-year-old organization, including the group's first woman Chair.

Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton, one of only two popularly

elected female Sheriffs in the history of the state, was selected as Chairperson. She will work closely with Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris, who was named President, and other Board members including:

Sumter County Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer, Jr., Vice President

Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid, Secretary

Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson, Treasurer

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, Vice-Chairman

Baker County Sheriff Joey B. Dobson, Immediate Past President

In addition, Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall was elected Sergeant-at-Arms; continuing his term as Chaplain is Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean.

The Sheriffs also chose new directors to fill open positions in each of the four districts of the state. For a complete listing of Directors, please visit the FSA Web site: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org).

### Accreditation Updates

During the Florida Accreditation summer conference, June 9-13, the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) reviewed and accredited the Volusia County Pre-trial Services and the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility. FCAC also reaccredited the Orange County Corrections Department.

Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) reviewed and accredited the Orange Park Police Department and the Highlands County Sheriff's Office. CFA also reaccredited the Winter Haven PD, Sumter Co. SO, Panama City PD, Fort Walton Beach PD, Fernandina Beach PD, Gulf Breeze PD, St. Johns Co SO, Palm Beach PD, Davie PD, St. Lucie Co SO, Vero Beach PD, Lauderhill PD and Daytona Beach



Shores Public Safety.

The group named Peter Marcus, Edgewood Police Department, CFA Accreditation Manager of the Year. Assistant Chief John Dean, University of North Florida Police Department was named Assessor of the Year. David Gray of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office won FCAC Accreditation Manager of the Year; Assessor of the Year is Wanda White of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. The FCAC Service award went to Sgt. Juliane Day of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

The Process Review Task Force,

created to ensure efficient and cost-effective state accreditation, held a Town Hall meeting to share ideas. Several accreditation professionals offered suggestions on streamlining the accreditation process. In addition, Accreditation Managers Wanda White from Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Bob Brongel from the Florida Department of Insurance and Diane Hill from Hernando County Sheriff's Office will serve on a sub-committee to gather additional suggestions from agencies throughout Florida and present them to the PRTE.

The next conference will be at the Plantation Inn at Crystal River, October 6 - 10.

Visit the website, [www.flaccreditation.org](http://www.flaccreditation.org) for more information on training opportunities and other pertinent information about CFA and FCAC.

# 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



J.M. "Buddy" Phillips

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 Executive Assistant to the

Commissioner, which evolved into the title as Inspector/Director of Mutual Aid, responsible for administrating Florida's Mutual Aid Act.

He was appointed by two different governors to serve as Interim Sheriff

**The only person  
in Florida's history  
to serve as Sheriff  
in seven counties.**



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 his wife Mary Jo – especially to their cabin in Franklin, North Carolina – and taking care of the loves of his life, grandchildren Emalee 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 Al-

bany, Georgia and numerous nieces and nephews. Buddy was preceded in death by his mother, Lillian Lee Phillips and father, J. Marvin Phillips.

Any donations in Buddy's honor may 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' Law-Enforcement Related 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 the Law Enforcement arena
- Responsible for implementing Florida's Mutual Aid Act, which enabled Sheriffs and Police Chiefs share resources and manpower across jurisdictions
- Served three-year tour 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
- He was featured in the first video footage taken of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and was one of its earliest supporters
- Was named "Grand Marshall" for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, 2004
- Named "Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year," by the Lake City Board of Realtors (1971)

*Continued from page 1*

ting him. "God put up a shield," he told his fellow Sheriffs, "because he was about 10 feet away from me when he fired."

Corporal Dozier responded to the gunfire, opening up his .40-caliber Glock, while Captain Rabon fired an AR-15, similar to the military's M16 semiautomatic rifle. The camouflage man went down.

Then a second man appeared, dressed in a suit, tie, hat and ponytail. He was pointing a .22-caliber semiautomatic pistol toward the Sheriff. Corporal Dozier fired, taking him out, too.

After assuring there were no other immediate threats, Sheriff McDaniel went around to the back of the home and found his wife and Deputy Altman, side by side, by the back door. The killers apparently had dragged them there to hide them from view, in case anyone drove by. It was determined later that Mellie McDaniel had been shot in the back of the head with a .38, while kneeling down. Deputy Altman had been shot once in the face and twice more while lying on his back.

As he dealt with the tragedy that day, Sheriff McDaniel says he balanced his law-enforcement side, which had him asking what case might have prompted such a level of grave revenge. That's when his Undersheriff, Major John Dennis, recognized the man in camouflage as being Lionel Sands, the suspect in a six-year-old murder case.

The body of Sands' wife was found in the shallow end of their swimming pool. The autopsy showed she died from a blow to the head, most likely by a hammer or other tool.

Though suspected of murder, Sands was never charged. Still, the life insurance companies prevented him from collecting more than \$500,000 in benefits.

The day before the shootout,

Sands received the news that he was going to be liable for about \$32,000 in legal expenses related to a federal court fight with his dead wife's family over the death benefit.

Investigators believed the two men had been planning the attack on Sheriff McDaniel and his wife for some time. The other gunman, 54-year-old handyman Daniel Brown, and Sands had been monitoring their target victims for at least a month. A friend of Mellie McDaniel told investigators that someone had stopped by the McDaniels' home looking for someone named "McDonald." Mellie McDaniel told the friend that one of them had a ponytail and said he was dressed in a suit and tie.

Sheriff McDaniel said he barely knew Sands, though he had been cordial when running into him at the local Wal-Mart or McDonald's. He was unaware of the insurance lawsuit, too, until after the shooting.

### ***Sad but courageous end***

The full story of Sands and Brown died with them that day, and while we join Sheriff McDaniel and the entire Jackson County Sheriff's Office in their mourning, the Florida Sheriffs wanted to express thanks to the two deputies who helped prevent further tragedy. Because of the heroic actions by Captain Joey Rabon and Corporal Billy Dozier, Sheriff McDaniel's life was spared. And because of their bravery, the Florida Sheriffs Association awards committee has chosen them as co-winners of the 2007 Deputy of the Year. Congratulations, gentlemen.

### **Brevard's Harvey Named Runner-Up**

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on August 13, 2007, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office received a call of a burglary involving theft of firearms at a mobile-home park. Residents

had witnessed two men visiting an elderly homeowner and reported them removing firearms without the homeowner's knowledge. Witnesses also had seen a rifle taken by one of the subjects placed on the bed of a truck.

Deputy Tabitha Harvey and Cpl. Tim Goodwin responded and confronted the two male subjects near the residence. They were initially cooperative, but one became agitated when deputies located the stolen firearm in a nearby truck. As he showed more agitation, Deputy Harvey conducted a frisk and discovered he had a firearm concealed behind his back in the waistband of his pants.

He ignored the commands of the deputies, pulling away from Deputy Harvey, and reached for the firearm. Cpl. Goodwin struggled with the subject and forced him to the ground. As the subject continued to resist, he pointed the loaded gun at Cpl. Goodwin at close range. Deputy Harvey quickly drew her firearm, and in a split second fired multiple accurate rounds at the subject, killing him.

In nominating Deputy Harvey for the award, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office noted that her actions not only saved the life of a fellow deputy, but prevented further loss of life and injury. They credited the two officers' superior training, tactical readiness and teamwork, which enabled Deputy Harvey and Cpl. Goodwin to survive a challenge similar to what law enforcement faces every day.

For her exceptional actions in this high-risk situation, Deputy Harvey received both the Medal of Valor and Deputy Sheriff of the Year from her Sheriff's Office. And the 67 Sheriffs of Florida have chosen to join in recognizing Deputy Harvey by naming her Runner-Up for FSA's 2007 Deputy Sheriff of the Year. Congratulations.

# The 2008 Final Leg: 25 Years in the Making

Nearly 300 different law enforcement agencies – virtually every branch of federal, state, county and municipal – participated in the 25th Anniversary Law Enforcement Torch Run, the kickoff to the statewide Special Olympic Games, May 16.

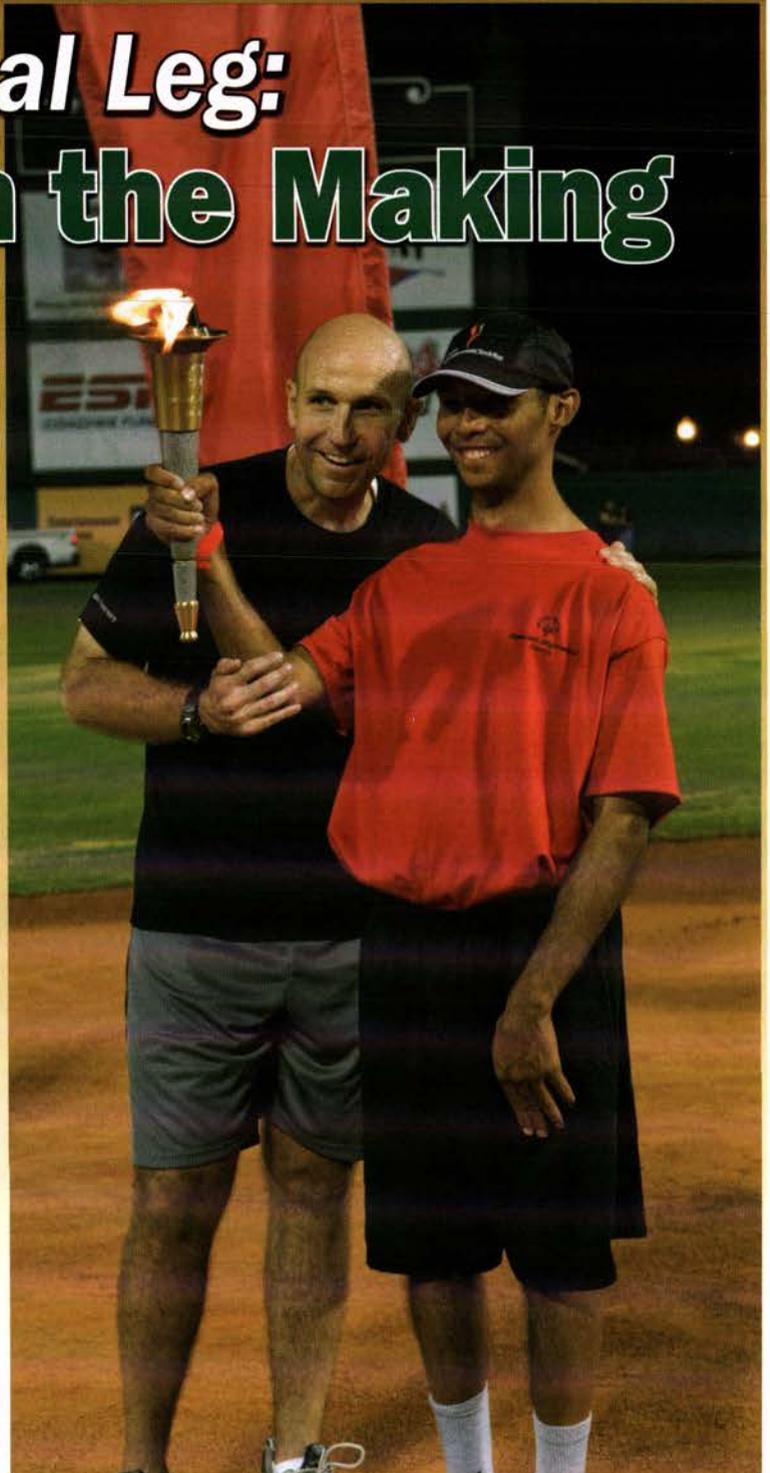
Over 2,100 athletes vied for state titles during the 36th Annual State Summer Games, the largest Special Olympics event held in Florida each year, with over 3,500 coaches, volunteers and spectators in attendance. This year's games were held at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex and Orlando's Champions Sports Complex.

Following a grand entrance into the complex – motorcycle units and an array of cruisers and vehicles with sirens blaring and lights flashing – came The "Final Leg" team –runners escorting in the "Flame of Hope."

Leading the runners were six of the original 12 from the 1984 event, when a handful of FDLE officers ran the "Flame of Hope" throughout the state in an exhausting, non-stop trek. Taking part, in his "final, Final Leg," was Torch Run Regional Director Bill Pakonis of the Martin County Sheriff's Office, who was retiring after over 20 years of service to Special Olympics Florida.

Mark Zadra, Assistant Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and one of the original S.O.M.E. runners, told the crowd "it (the very first Torch Run) was exhausting, but even then we knew we were part of something special. But we could have never imagined it would grow to be what it is today. It is our honor and privilege to serve as the guardians of **your** flame."

Osceola County Sheriff Robert Hansell had the honor of being the final law enforcement official to pass the torch to the four Special Olympics athletes who ran the torch



Osceola County Sheriff Robert Hansell passes the Flame of Hope to Special Olympics athlete Ryan Irvine

to the cauldron.

Congratulations to all those law enforcement officers and agencies who have participated in the last 25 years, and helping to make these events such a grand success.



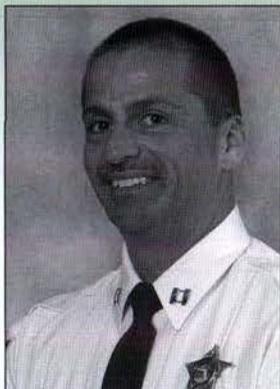
The "Final Leg" team of the 25th Anniversary Law Enforcement Torch Run consisted of over 200 law enforcement officials from throughout Florida, kicking off the statewide Special Olympic Games in Orlando. At left, Hernando County Sheriff Rich Nugent was present in Brooksville, one of the many stops along the month-long run. Below, Law Enforcement vehicles from agencies throughout Florida filled the stadium at the Opening Ceremony of the Summer Games.



# Safe Stops

By Capt. Jim Polan  
Broward Sheriff's Office

The only thing predictable about law enforcement is the unpredictability. Society and the media continue to use the term "routine traffic stop" and at times even law enforcement officers (LEOs) use the "R" word. For society and the media, they truly don't understand how the job is performed. However, for the LEO that attitude can lead to complacency, which is dangerous.



Broward County Capt.  
Jim Polan

Every stop is an unknown situation and should never be taken as a regular task – instead, a survival mindset must be maintained at all times.

Studies conducted by the FBI have proven that certain routine, repetitive tasks that seem second nature to officers cause the most problems. And the most common job-related task, of course, is vehicle stops. In every study conducted on officers killed and assaulted in the line of duty, traffic stops are always at the top of the list.

Traffic enforcement is a tremendous tool in law enforcement to target problems within the community. And some of America's worst criminals have been apprehended by committing traffic violations. But then there are the 900+ local, state and federal LEO's around the country that have been struck and killed while working on and around the highways. It is our job to learn from these incidents and survive.

With any traffic stop you need to cover the three C's which will assist you in success.

1) **Command Presence.** This physical demeanor that you exhibit

will let the operator know if you are confident in your ability.

2) **Communication.** Be polite and courteous but also be firm to demonstrate your skill while performing your task.

3) **Control.** This will clearly show that you are knowledgeable.

In a true ambush situation, there is very little that can be done – but let's discuss a few issues that can give you a survival mindset. Understand, of course, that these are not the only or best way and their consideration may vary depending on your working conditions.

## Vehicle Positioning

The number one threat with every vehicle stop is "traffic." Between 1996 and 2002 the Florida Highway Patrol advised that over 2,762 times emergency vehicles were crashed into along the roadways. Unfortunately this resulted in seven deaths and 624 injuries. An educational video was produced by NTSA titled "Your Vest Won't Stop This Bullet," Find it, watch it and share it.

There are pros and cons on how the police vehicle actually is positioned behind the violator. A recommended distance of 21 feet between the patrol vehicle and the violator vehicle should be established for an immediate safe reaction distance from those occupied inside of the violator vehicle. This 21 foot rule was taken from the "Tueller Rule," which is taught in most academies, military and martial arts environment. Basically, the rule states that an average individual can cover 21 feet in 1.2 to 1.6 seconds, and if you're not prepared, you've just increased your risk of injury or death.

In my experience during vehicle stop training, when the LEO parked too close, the violator (role player) was able to exit the vehicle and fire

multiple rounds (Simunitions FX rounds) at the LEO, who was still sitting in the driver's seat or remaining mounted on the motorcycle. The solution: Get out (or get off) and move.

Of course your first reaction may be to draw, move and engage – however, another option is to place the vehicle in drive or create distance by going into reverse. Practice is the most important task – don't become complacent; take advantage of the distance and don't set yourself up for failure.

## The approach

There is no perfect way to approach a violator that will work every time, so practice both and be prepared to adapt.

**Drivers side approach.** This is the most common only because that's the way it's always been done; because of television and tradition, violators are prepared for this approach.

Now, the first problem is that the officer is walking in traffic, which is a tremendous safety concern. However, if you must approach on the driver's side, do everything possible to increase officer safety.

Once the vehicle stops, you must be prepared to fight. That means your stop has already been radioed into dispatch. (Yes, use the radio not the computer. Unless you are working with a partner, the computer or MDT is truly a "deadly distraction.") You have removed your seatbelt and obtained possession of your citation book and/or flashlight and hat if appropriate or removed of your helmet, if that is your procedure, and maintained a continued visual observation of the occupants.

Just prior to exiting the vehicle, you must quickly look over your shoulder prior to exit for on-coming traffic for the "what if." Then immediately regain your visual observation of the vehicle.

If the stop is conducted during the day, approaching with your citation book will eliminate the return to

your vehicle and the re-approach. If at night, approach with your flashlight for obvious reasons. In addition, the citation book or flashlight may be used as a diversion device: if a threat arises, this item can go directly to the face of the violator which will create a distraction and allow you to draw your firearm while moving.

Of course, it sounds police 101, but don't carry anything in your gun hand. Almost every day, we see LEOs commit this error in the performance of their duty.

Watch the driver's side mirror – as the operator watches your approach you can also watch them. Visually clear the back seat of any potential threats. Verbally tell the operator to roll down the window if not already down and with professionalism state “could you please place your hands on the steering

wheel.” You will be surprised how many people comply without hesitation and those who don't may have a reason why. While their hands are on the wheel this provides an opportunity to scan the interior of the vehicle looking for any hazards or threats.

Watch the hands. Society is right handed dominant and the majority of drivers keep their vehicle papers in the glove box or center console. Once they reach for those papers, you lose vision of the hand and are unable to identify what is inside of the box. What if the driver goes to right rear pocket for a wallet or reaches into a purse on the passenger seat? Again, you lose vision of the hand.

### **Passenger side approach.**

Even though the passenger side approach will not eliminate the potential of being struck, your chances are decreased tremendously. Still, this procedure throws a curve ball to the

violator who is expecting you to approach on the driver's side.

The same rules about preparation listed above apply here. Then, after a quick look at traffic, move to the passenger side of the violator vehicle. I recommend traveling to the rear of your patrol vehicle and then approaching the passenger side. This removes immediate vision from the driver and if at night you will not pass by your headlights casting a shadow and then losing the level of surprise.

If the vehicle is occupied only by the driver, after the hands are placed on the steering wheel and after your initial evaluation, open the passenger side door. This will provide you with a tremendous level of vision. Position yourself just to the backside of the passenger side door using a portion of the vehicle to conceal some of your body. Remember: distance

*continued on page 12*

[ETHICAL. PROFESSIONAL. CARING.]

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continued from page 11

can create vision, so if necessary move back slightly which will improve your angle of view while communicating with the driver. Try this position, as I'm confident you will realize the advantages.

These techniques are presented in a practical manner and will not work for every situation or for every agency and of course they

can be varied depending upon the geographic make-up and environmental conditions.

The most important issue is to prepare with practice. If your agency does not provide practical realistic training then you can perform with mental visualization. This is a true training method and with rehearsal in your mind you develop muscle

memory.

*Broward Sheriff's Office Capt. Jim Polan is a 27 year veteran of law enforcement with the Broward Sheriff's Office in Fort Lauderdale. He is also an adjunct instructor for the University of North Florida, Institute of Public Safety and Miami-Dade Community College. Contact him via e-mail: James\_Polan@sheriff.org/.*

## Fighting Back Against the Quiet Killer

*By Detective Gary Martin  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's  
Office*

**D**rug overdose deaths are now second only to car crashes for unintentional injury deaths in United States. The mortality statistics attributed to this killer are both appalling and heartrending with approximately 22,000 yearly fatalities nationwide. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) recorded nearly 3,000 lives lost to this assassin in our state alone last year and, sadly, the lethal tally for 2008 reveals more of the same.

Consistent research findings tell us that this spike in overdose fatalities is directly related to our nation's ever escalating use and abuse of prescription drugs. Data suggests that every month, nearly 7 million Americans aged 12 or older use prescription drugs for *non-medical purposes*. We have become a nation of ill-informed, willing prescription pill consumers.

*The Overdose Suppression Project*

Like most societal ills, the causes of drug overdose are complex. Therefore, our approach must be both broad and flexible. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Overdose Suppression Project offers such a compre-

hensive strategy. The overall plan involves three separate but related components:

1. The Law Enforcement Component includes a tougher stance on drug offenders. We have broadened the list of crimes to include everything from delivery of controlled substances, to evidence tampering and improper disturbance of human remains. If we can determine that a person took any active role in another's overdose death, we will find a way to arrest him or her. Narcotics related intelligence from these cases is used to open proactive investigations targeting suspects for future crimes.
2. The Quantitative Research Component includes systematic research to determine patterns that may exist among drug overdose deaths. This can be used to plan public awareness campaigns, intervention efforts or preventive legislative actions. We meet with victim's family members or close friends from each overdose fatality. We try to determine details that will help us better understand the phenomenon.
3. The Public Relations/Education Component strives to raise consciousness. This includes strategic alliances among: The Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education Task Force, Lynn University (Boca Raton), The

Hanley Center (West Palm Beach), Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition, the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office, the Florida Office of Drug Control and the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office.

Through the Overdose Suppression Project, we are:

- Forging relationships with families who have lost loved ones to drug overdose death
- Offering monthly support group meetings for family members seeking comfort
- Designing a multimedia campaign to increase public awareness about the risks associated with prescription drug misuse and abuse
- Seeking legislative changes intended to close loopholes that encourage doctor shopping and other forms of prescription drug diversion.

To learn more, visit the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office main webpage [www.pbso.org](http://www.pbso.org) – click on Drug Overdose Prevention Information.

*Palm Beach County Sheriff's Detective Gary Martin is assigned to the Violent Crimes Division- Homicide Unit. Martin, who has his Doctor of Education Degree, also serves as Associate Dean of Student Wellness at Lynn University. Contact him by phone 561-688-4058 or e-mail: [marting@pbso.org](mailto:marting@pbso.org).*



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## Increasing the "Challenge" for Teens

Florida Sheriffs' Offices are working to reduce teen driving fatalities by forging partnerships with School Districts to implement FSA's Teen Driver Challenge in their counties. In Citrus County, the School District has made it mandatory for students to complete the TDC program before they are allowed to park on high school campuses.

Teenagers are 14% more likely to be in a crash than any other age group. And every teen you add in the vehicle increases the crash rate by 5% – due to distractions.

Leon County was unfortunate enough to be ranked No. 1 in teen driver crashes, fatalities and injuries for counties with over 200,000 population last year. Top causes include lane departure, distracted driving, aggressive driving and over correction. Many of the accidents occur on canopy roads, with narrow shoulders that are not maintained.

In hopes to stop the trend, last June, the Leon County Sheriff's Office held an FSA Teen Driver Challenge series to train 13 teens as well as the Sheriff's School Resource Deputies. The driving portion took place at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy driving range and included a press conference hosted by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell.

The Florida Department of Transportation administers a grant program to make the Teen Driver Challenge available in all counties throughout the state. For more information, contact Trenda McPherson, Traffic Safety Specialist: 850-245-1528 or [trenda.mcpherson@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:trenda.mcpherson@dot.state.fl.us).

For information on the Teen Driver Challenge, contact FSA's Phil Rivers, [privers@flsheriffs.org](mailto:privers@flsheriffs.org).



Leon County Sheriff  
Larry Campbell with  
Chandler Seay



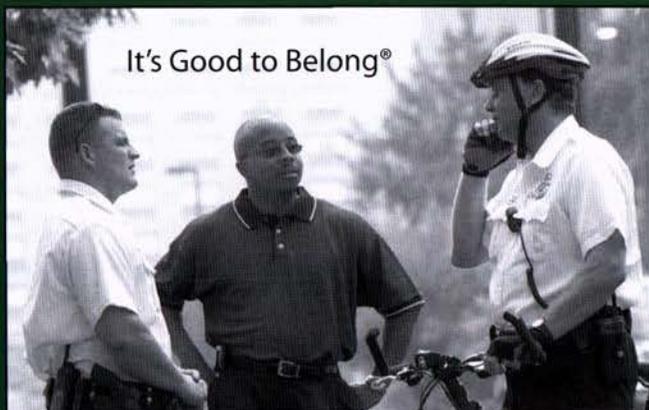
From left, twins Alexis and Mason Bullington with  
SRD Jamie Meeks



Leon County SRD Roxane Whiddon and Chandler Seay



SRD Tom  
Hildebrant  
with  
Lendra  
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# Local Law Enforcement Purchases at Federal Discounts?

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**What agencies qualify?** All state and local government agencies that include counter-drug activities as part of their operation.

### How much can you save?

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Qualification is easy and FSA will provide all the guidance you need for enrollment and access to the discounted supplies and equipment.

Find out more on FSA's Web site:  
[www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org) (click on the "Federal 1122 Program" link).

Or, contact Glenda Travis:  
Phone 850-877-2165 or  
e-mail [gtravis@flsheriffs.org](mailto:gtravis@flsheriffs.org).



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