



- ***Operating ATVs On Public Roads***
- ***Non Emergency Flashing Lights***
- ***Colored Headlight & Taillight Covers***

## ***“Are You Unknowingly Breaking the Law?”***

- ***Incorrect Lights on Front or Rear of Vehicle***
- ***Refusing DUI Tests***
- ***Reaction to Emergency Vehicles Approaching***
- ***License Tag Frames***

***New Florida Laws - see page 14***

- ***License Tag Lights***



## *From the desk of...*

Gary Perkins, Executive Director  
Florida Sheriffs Association



Since I last wrote this column, I've been in a whirlwind of activity. I participated in our annual Florida Sheriffs Association Training Conference for the Sheriffs' Assistants and the Administrative Management Training Seminar for Sheriffs and their Command Staff. I also traveled to Tulsa, Arizona, for the National Sheriffs Association Conference and facilitated our own summer conference in Fort Myers July 14-17.

As a person who is used to being in the background more than the foreground, I must say that it was a challenging experience. But it is one that taught me a great deal.

For one, it made me realize one of the most important services that FSA provides to Sheriffs' Offices is training. There is nothing more vital than preparing the Sheriffs and their personnel for the job. By pooling our resources – using experts from Sheriffs' Offices as well as out-of-state speakers – we are able to secure a higher caliber of content for them.

### **Unsung Heroes**

Truly I think one of our most valuable resources is the Sheriff's Assistant. They are the unsung heroes of the entire law-enforcement community. For me, they are the lifeline between our organization and the Sheriffs' offices. Nobody can get me where I need to be in an agency faster than they can.

These people, mostly women, work behind the scenes – but we know among our family circle they deserve the credit for keeping the Sheriff on schedule and focused. They keep the operations of the Sheriff's Office running at peak performance.

I've always held the Sheriffs' Assistants in the highest regard, and I certainly found it an honor to spend time with them and build a better

working relationship between FSA and their offices.

Another profound experience for me was representing FSA at the National Sheriffs Association and networking among my counterparts at other state Sheriffs' associations. Even though I had met many of these people before, primarily by sharing FSA's recipe for success with membership programs, I had to earn my wings all over again.

At the risk of sounding a little proud, I couldn't help but feel as though "all eyes are on FSA," when I stood up to give a report on the state of our association – including sharing membership numbers and results in recruitment. I know I'm partial, but hearing other states' reports compared to ours reinforced the fact that **we not only have the largest and most progressive association – we also have the most professional Sheriffs in the nation.**

Now that doesn't mean that I sat in the sessions with closed ears. There's always something new to learn, and I promise you I was soaking up the lessons.

Last, I wanted to let you know that our long-awaited Law Enforcement Memorial dedication date has been set. It is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 18th and will be held at the Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters in Tallahassee. We plan to take lots of photographs and will publish them along with a tribute to all of you who made that memorial possible. I'm quite sure those images will make you proud.

Until next time, stay safe.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Perkins".

*Gary Perkins, Executive Director*



## She Just Couldn't Resist Her Friend's Good Credit

A 44-year-old woman who works as a receptionist at a law office in Martin County, sees dozens of credit card offers coming in the mail each day and gets an idea. She decides to assume the identity of a lifelong friend, and opens up three credit cards in her friend's name.

It wasn't difficult. The two had been roommates in another state and they shared a post office box, so the woman just had the bills forwarded to her in Florida.

The receptionist was able to rack up nearly \$12,000 in credit card debt, before she was caught. The Martin County Sheriff's Office conducted a two-month investigation that ended in her arrest. She was charged with identity theft.

The scenario is becoming more common. And it seems identity theft is creating a lot of first-time criminals because the temptation is so great and it seems like a fairly simple crime to commit.

### Protecting yourself

So how do the rest of us protect ourselves from those around us who might have access to our personal information and use it against us?

It's virtually impossible to completely avoid the risk of identity theft. But you can do things to minimize your chances of becoming a victim.

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office has created some resources to help people avoid identity theft. They created a helpful web page to educate and assist those who have concerns about it, or those who have already become victims of identity theft and Internet-related crime.

The SCSO has also developed a guide to avoid identity theft, which can be downloaded from the Web site.

Both the web page and the guide were created in response to the growing trend, statewide and nationally, of these types of fraudulent activities. The web page offers links to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Internet Fraud Complaint Center, as well as to the major credit reporting agencies.

The guide tells about how identity theft occurs, gives tips on sharing personal information, what to do if

you're a victim and how to resolve credit problems that result from the theft.

Following are some of the ways thieves steal your personal information:

- They steal your mail, including your bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit card offers and telephone calling cards.
- They complete a "change of address form" to divert your mail to another location.
- They get your business personnel records at work.
- They find personal information in your home.
- They use personal information you share on the Internet.

Here's how identity thieves use your personal information:

- They call your credit card issuer and, pretending to be you, ask to change the mailing address on your credit card account. Because your bills are being sent to a new address, it may take some time before you realize there's a problem.
- They open a new credit card account, using your name, date of birth and Social Security Number. When they use the credit card and don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on your credit report.
- They buy cars by taking out an auto loan in your name.

One of the greatest weapons against identity theft is awareness. Find out everything you can about preventing it. You can start with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office web page. To access it, go to [http://www.seminolesheriff.org/about/internet\\_crime/internet\\_crime.php](http://www.seminolesheriff.org/about/internet_crime/internet_crime.php).

The web page was a collaborative effort between Seminole County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Dan Purcell, Economic and Computer Crimes, and Pete Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator/Webmaster.

For more information, you may contact either Purcell or Robinson at 407-665-6600. ★



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# Florida Sheriffs Association Training Takes Center Stage

Many members of the Florida Sheriffs Association understand that a central role the FSA plays is providing training, seminars and conferences for the Sheriffs' Offices and their personnel.

The two largest conferences are the Winter and Summer gatherings, primarily reserved for Sheriffs and their Command Staff. We feature photo essays in *The Sheriff's Star* after each conference.

Two other annual events that play an equally critical role are the Administrative Management Training Seminar (AMTS) and the Training Conference for the Sheriffs' Assistants (TCSA). The AMTS was held this past May at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Daytona Beach while the TCSA was held in June in Pinellas County.

We've provided a few snapshots of the speakers and presenters on these pages. Rest assured that it's through training provided by FSA that the Sheriffs' Offices in Florida remain some of the finest in the nation. ★

Volusia County  
Sheriff Ben Johnson  
Host Sheriff  
Administrative  
Management Training  
Seminar

*Photography by Alison Evans*



**Frank Messersmith**  
FSA Governmental  
Relations  
Topic: Legislative  
Update



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

## Administrative Management Training Seminar

**Capt. Mario DeLudos,** Martin  
County Sheriff's Office  
Topic: Formalizing a Career  
Development Program  
Track: Personnel & Human  
Resources



**Jan Hargrove, CEO**  
Hargrove & Associates  
Topic: The Importance of Non-  
Verbal Communication – the  
Secret Language of Success  
Track: General Session



**Linda Bond, Attorney,**  
Powers Quaschnick,  
Tischler, Evans &  
Dietzen  
Topic: Dismantling the  
Land Mines Created by  
the FMLA, ADA and  
Workers Compensation  
Track: Personnel &  
Human Resources



**Ira Gaines,**  
Retirement  
Administrator  
Florida Division of  
Retirement  
Topic: The New FRS  
Investment Plan –  
Basic Guidelines &  
Administrative  
Considerations  
Track: Personnel &  
Human Resources



**Major Tom Smith, USAF  
Reserve**  
Topic: Mass Casualty &  
Disaster Recovery and  
Management  
Track: Command Staff





The Sheriffs' Assistants listen to a presenter during the training conference.

## Training Conference for the Sheriffs' Assistants



**Capt. Mike Castine**  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Topic: Facial Recognition, Jail  
Management System, Video Visitation



**Major Kirk Brunner**  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Topic: Introduction to Corrections  
Commanders



**Detective Tom Clayton**  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Topic: Fraud, Gang & Narcotics



**Deputy Ken Mullen**  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office  
Topic: Personal Safety



**Cpl. Susan Phibbs**  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office  
Topic: Helpful Internet Links for  
Law Enforcement, ONLY!

*Photography by Alison Evans*



# Former Chief Deputy is Among FSA's 40-Year Members

By: Steve Olson  
Public Information Officer  
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 Sheriff.

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

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

"I believe I got in near the start," said Owen, referring to the Florida Sheriffs' Association's earliest membership enrollment. On May 16, Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger recognized Owen as a 40-year Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriff's 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 1950s showing what it was like to be a member of the Seminole County Sheriff's "Department," as it was called back then.

Sheriff Eslinger was impressed. Mr. Owen helped current employees have a perspective on what Seminole County was like 50 years ago, he said. In addition to his 40-year Honorary Member Certificate,



Seminole County Sheriff and Deputies in the early 1950s next to patrol car. Left to right: Deputy Bob Carroll, Deputy Hubert Eubanks, Chief Deputy Ollis Owen, Seminole County Sheriff J.L. Hobby, Deputy Andy Evans.



Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger and Mr. Ollis Owen



Seminole County Sheriff and Deputies in the early 1950s in courthouse. Left to right: Seminole County Sheriff J.L. Hobby, Chief Deputy Ollis Owen, Deputy Hubert Eubanks, Deputy Bob Carroll, Deputy Andy Evans.

Moonshine bust near Chuluota circa '53. Left to right: Chief Deputy Ollis Owen, Deputy Morgan McClelland, State Beverage Agent A.W. Ansley, Seminole County Sheriff J.L. Hobby, Deputy Andy Evans, State Beverage Agent William Wise.



Mr. Owen was given a Chief Deputy's badge as a token of appreciation. And his photographs will soon be added to the historical display at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

One picture showed 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. ★



# In Memory of our Former Florida Sheriffs

The Florida Sheriffs Association is sad to report several deaths of former Florida Sheriffs in the last nine months. These are men who proudly served the citizens of their county and this state. Please join us in honoring them by taking a moment to read these tributes.

## **Ed Yarborough, age 75**

*Baker County Sheriff 1956 to 1964.*

He was killed February 14, 2002, in a traffic accident on Interstate 10 on his way to hunt on his farm in Taylor.

Sheriff Yarborough was best known for cleaning up moonshine and illegal liquor sales. Within a month of his election, he had wrecked 40 stills and made 14 arrests. He was appointed by Gov. Haydon Burns to head the forerunner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the former Florida Sheriffs Bureau, staying in the post until 1966 when he was replaced under Gov. Claude Kirk. He ran again for Sheriff twice, county judge and the state House of Representatives, but was not successful. He gained significant success in private business as head of Yarborough Corp., a security company in Jacksonville. The company is more than 30 years old and has 350 employees.

Sheriff Yarborough is survived by his wife, Faye Yarborough, and daughter, Susan Brooks of Maccleny. A son, Klute



**Ed Yarborough**



**E.W. "Walt" Pellicer**



**Bill Roberts**

Yarborough, died in a 1978 Jeep accident while hunting.

## **E.W. "Walt" Pellicer, age 76**

*Putnam County Sheriff 1954 to 1988.*

He died February 26, 2002, from complications caused by cancer. Sheriff Pellicer was poised to become the longest-sitting Sheriff in Florida history when he was defeated in a Democratic primary by Putnam County's current Sheriff Taylor Douglas. He also served as president of the National Sheriffs Association and the Florida Sheriffs Association in 1982. Born in Flagler County, Sheriff Pellicer moved to Palatka in 1941 becoming an oil truck driver and part-time deputy sheriff. In 1948, he became a full-time deputy and won the Sheriff's post six years later. He was passionate about Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, a home for boys unable to live with their families and served as past president of the board of directors. Sheriff Douglas called him a "leader in the law enforcement community – both locally and nationally."

Sheriff Pellicer is survived by his wife of 54 years, Pauline; a son, Walton Pellicer; daughter Pam Garris of Sarasota; a brother,

Thomas Pellicer, of Henderson, North Carolina; and three grandchildren.

## **Bill Roberts, age 77**

*Pinellas County Sheriff 1975 to 1980.*

He died December 11, 2001, after a long battle with cancer. Sheriff Roberts entered law enforcement by serving as "back up" for the city of Largo Police Department, becoming a full-time police officer in 1950. In 1953, he joined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Sid Saunders. He was promoted to Chief Deputy in 1956 and continued in that capacity for 17 years under Sheriff Don Genung, who took over when Sheriff Saunders died. Sheriff Roberts was appointed Sheriff when Don Genung retired in 1975 and won his first full term in 1976. He retired in 1980 to pursue a real estate career. He was also active in a variety of professional and civic organizations.

Sheriff Roberts is survived by his wife of 57 years, Madeline, two daughters and two grandsons. ★





# Stambaugh Named 2002 Deputy Sheriff of the Year

## *Off-Duty Deputy Overcomes Crazy Man*

By: Tom Berlinger  
Director of Law Enforcement  
And Jail Management Services

Imagine that you're an off-duty Deputy Sheriff in street clothes, and you're outside of your home county when you happen upon something bad.

Not just bad, but *really* bad. What do you do?

After all, you're officially off duty. . . you're out of uniform and outside your legal jurisdiction. There are no other deputies around, and you don't have a radio handy to call for backup. You could easily get yourself killed – and for a fleeting moment you wonder whether or not the liability insurance that you've got back home will still cover you if you have to do something drastic.

Indian River County Deputy Sheriff Jason Stambaugh faced all of those decisions and – within a split second – he knew exactly what he was going to do.

The manner in which he reacted to a horrible circumstance has earned him the honor of being named the Florida Sheriffs Association's Deputy Sheriff of the Year for 2002.



FORT MYERS – Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (left) beams as Deputy Sheriff Jason Stambaugh is awarded the plaque naming him as the 2002 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year. Also pictured is his girlfriend, Kelly Plats, and Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson, the 2001-2002 president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

The incident that brought Stambaugh the accolades occurred on the afternoon of June 1, 2001, in St. Lucie County.

At about 2:00 p.m., Stambaugh and his girlfriend, Kelly Plats, were en route to the Tiffany Club Place Apartments in Port St. Lucie to pick up Plats' sister, Kimberly.

As they drove into the parking lot of the apartment complex, Stambaugh observed Kimberly Plats (the sister) standing in the parking lot talking on a cell phone. When Kimberly saw Stambaugh's vehicle, she pointed across the lot towards a maroon-colored Nissan car.

Standing on the hood of the car was a man later identified as Geng Shi, age 30, of New York City. Shi was covered with blood and was in an uncontrolled rage. He was trying to break out the front windshield of the Nissan to get to a man inside, later identified as Chen Zheng. Shi was smashing the windshield with "The Club," a popular anti-theft device that locks on to the steering wheel of a car. Deputy Stambaugh noted that Zheng, too, was covered in blood. Without hesitation, Stambaugh drew

his off-duty handgun, showed the suspect his wallet badge, then verbally identified himself as a Deputy Sheriff.

Stambaugh ordered Shi to drop the weapon several times, but Shi ignored him and continued trying to gain entry into the car by beating the windshield.

When it became evident that the suspect was not going to respond to verbal commands, Stambaugh decided to try to physically overpower the crazy man.

Suddenly, Shi dropped the club and tried to gain entry into the car through the hole he made in the windshield.

Stambaugh stuck his gun inside the waistband of his pants and lunged at the suspect. He grabbed the back of the Shi's shirt and tried to pull him off the car. However, the suspect fell forward instead – falling through the windshield and pulling Deputy Stambaugh inside the car with him.

Once inside the car and lying across the dashboard, Shi grabbed the throat of Zheng with both hands and began choking him. "Shi had such a death grip on the guy's throat





that his knuckles were turning white and the man inside was going limp," Deputy Stambaugh noted in his follow-up report. Stambaugh repeatedly ordered Shi to let go of the man's throat, but to no avail. So Stambaugh balled up his right fist and repeatedly struck Shi in the head until he was able to pry Shi's fingers away from the lifeless man's throat.

Stambaugh then pulled Shi back through the windshield onto the hood of the car, then onto the ground. Shi tried to get up several times, but Stambaugh was able to control him until local law-enforcement officers arrived at the scene.

Stambaugh's girlfriend, Kelly, took a towel and tried to stop the bleeding on Zheng's head wound keeping him conscious until the ambulance arrived.

Deputy Stambaugh later learned that Kimberly Platts had watched the entire scene unfold. She saw Shi beating the victim with some kind of brass object, saw them both tumble down a flight of stairs, then saw Shi stab Zheng several times with a kitchen knife before Zheng sought refuge inside the car.

Initially, suspect Shi was able to get inside the car, too, but Zheng was able to get him out and lock the doors. That's when Shi grabbed "The Club" and began beating on the windshield.

Deputy Stambaugh was also bloodied when it was all over. Some of the blood was his own, though much of it was from his struggle with the suspect. Stambaugh also hyper-extended his knee that he'd had surgery on just a few weeks before the incident.

In the aftermath that followed the bizarre chain of events, Zheng recovered from his stab wounds.

In the early morning hours of the day following his arrest, however, Shi took his own life by hanging himself in the St. Lucie County Jail.

For bravery in the face of imminent danger to himself and others, and for saving the life of Chen Zheng, Deputy Jason Stambaugh has truly earned the honor of being named the FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

At a recent statewide conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association held in Fort Myers, Stambaugh was awarded a handsome plaque and a check for \$1,000.

## Finalists Also Named

### Deputy Ian C. Floyd - Polk County

During the 2001 calendar year, Deputy Ian Floyd made a total of 112 self-initiated narcotics arrests, filed forfeiture on over \$35,000 worth of seized property and gathered a mountain of intelligence related to other narcotics violations for Polk County's Bureau of Special Investigations. One arrest in particular resulted in the seizure of 115 grams of methamphetamine, miscellaneous steroids and forfeiture of the suspect's Lexus automobile.

These statistics are particularly impressive when one takes into account that Deputy Floyd is not a narcotics detective – but is a uniformed Deputy Sheriff assigned to regular patrol duties – and is tasked with an array of duties that have nothing to do with narcotics investigation.

In addition to making the narcotics arrests and seizures, Floyd answered 1,001 calls for service and made more than 50 other arrests for unrelated violations.

In the nomination of Floyd, Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow writes, "Deputy Floyd has exhibited a level of dedication that far exceeds that of the vast majority of his colleagues."

In addition to his duties with the Sheriff's office, Deputy Floyd is working on a college degree. He's also

a reserve member of the Florida Army National Guard.

### Deputy Brian Shonk - Okaloosa County

During 2001, Deputy Brian Shonk was assigned as a plainclothes investigator in Okaloosa County. Despite being a newcomer to the unit, Shonk distinguished himself during the course of several investigations last year.

He succeeded in breaking a case of a bank robbery that resulted in the arrest of two suspects; he identified five suspects involved in a robbery on the same day of occurrence; he was instrumental in saving potential victims hundreds of thousands of dollars by breaking up a ring of five people who were involved in a counterfeit business check operation; he investigated a car burglary that resulted in the clearance of nine other cases – including an auto theft case; and he was able to develop leads in a string of residential burglaries that resulted in the clearance of 13 separate burglaries with three arrests.

Deputy Shonk is the training coordinator for Okaloosa County's Special Response Team and helps to train Sheriff's Office personnel as well as officers from surrounding police agencies.

Shonk also gets involved in many community projects during the year. He is a certified Child Safety Seat Inspector; he has participated in making a public service announcement video showing the dangers of drunk driving, and he regularly teaches child safety for the Birthing Class at Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Shonk was among several law-enforcement officers and firefighters who gave their time to collect donations for surviving family members in New York City. ★



# J.U.S.T. Offers Tough Love for At-Risk Youth

By: Rhonda Ray, Escambia Sheriff's Office Public Affairs Coordinator

It's bright and early Saturday morning. While other kids are at home enjoying cartoons, video games or neighborhood baseball, approximately 15 boys and girls ages 10-17 are listening to directions given by drill instructors. They've traded in their Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger shirts for green jumpsuits and will start the day with a few drills and a half mile jog before going to the classroom. For now, they stand at attention with their shoulders back and chin up. At each teenager's feet is a canteen – this will be their source of water for the 12-hour day.

While it may sound harsh, the Escambia Sheriff's Office J.U.S.T. (Juveniles Undergoing Specialized Training) Program is an early intervention and prevention program designed to divert youth with behavioral problems from entering the Juvenile Justice System. The idea is a fairly simple one – give young people a 12-hour glimpse of what prison is like and, hopefully, they'll make a change for the better. So far the program has had an impressively successful first year.

The program is modeled after similar programs pioneered by Seminole and Polk County Sheriffs' Offices. Initiated in July of 2001 by Sheriff Ron McNesby and directed by ESO Youth Relations Coordinator Randy Blake, J.U.S.T. is funded through grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice / Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.



The one-year-old Escambia County J.U.S.T. program was created to give young people who are headed down the wrong path a "taste" of jail life. Their day begins with military-style physical training and includes alcohol and drug awareness education as well as a letter of apology written to their victims.

The military-style program emphasizes self-discipline, integrity and personal responsibility. Educational classes on drug and alcohol awareness, victim impact of crime, goal setting and peer pressure are taught by specially trained drill instructors. The final portion of the program includes a letter of apology, which is written by the participant and given to those they've victimized – whether the victim is a parent, teacher or other. At the end of the day, the youths depart for home, carrying with them the skills they've learned and their canteen as a souvenir.

"For me, the best part of the program is at the end of the day when the youth are turned back over to their parents," says Blake. "It's an emotional time for the kids and the parents, with a lot of tears and hugging. The kids realize where they're headed, and naturally, whenever they're in trouble, the first ones most of them will call on are Mom and Dad. After 12 hours, we've been on them pretty hard, and being reunited with their parents gives them a sense of security."

Since the first class in August,

2001, the Escambia Sheriff's Office has graduated more than 750 juveniles from J.U.S.T.

Participants are referred to the Escambia Sheriff's Office in one of three ways: as an alternative to suspension from school, by a judge's order as a non-judicial sanction or through direct parent referrals. While the program itself is only for one day, a six week supervised follow-up is conducted for each participant. A final follow-up is conducted six months later to ensure that the participants have remained crime free.

Parents/guardians are also required to attend a 90-minute parent effectiveness training class. To date, approximately 75 percent of the J.U.S.T. graduates have remained "trouble-free" following completion of the program.

Fourteen-year-old Kyle Parker is just one of the success stories of J.U.S.T.

"We sent him voluntarily, so it wasn't like he had to go," says Kyle's mother Cindy Parker. "He's a good kid, but he has a lot of older friends and we just didn't want him going down the wrong path."

Parker says she and her



husband, Tim, have noticed a difference in Kyle's attitude since his participation in J.U.S.T.

"I think it brought him down to his level as far as he has a much better attitude, he spends more time talking to us than he did before, and since the program we've made some changes ourselves," she says. "We've learned we should include him more by allowing him to play an active role in making family decisions."

Several months after Kyle's graduation from the program, Cindy Parker found Kyle's canteen, still half-filled with water, sitting in his bedroom windowsill.

"It's not something that he's hidden or thrown out," she says. "That's what they tell them in the program - that they should place it somewhere where they can see it each and every day."

For Kyle, the canteen is a reminder of a day he hopes he'll never re-live. However, his mother

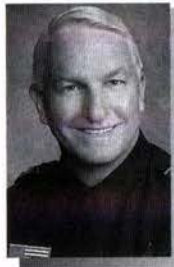
thinks often about that day and what it's done for her son.

"When they called his name out and he came around the corner, he was so happy to see us. He just smiled and hugged us like he'd never hugged us before, and I just cried. It brought tears to my eyes to see him so humbled." ★

*For more information on the J.U.S.T. program, go to the Escambia Sheriff's Office Web site: [www.escambiaso.com](http://www.escambiaso.com).*

## It's Back to School Time... Follow These Bicycle Safety Tips

By: *Palm Beach County Sheriff Ed Bieluch*



**R**iding a bicycle is more than basic transportation - it can be a fun and exciting hobby. When you ride you're not alone. You'll be sharing the road with cars, trucks, pedestrians and other cyclists.

To prevent turning a bicycling adventure into a bicycling tragedy, follow these tips and make your ride a safer one.

- Wear an approved bicycle helmet every time you ride. If you're under 16 it's the law. The helmet should fit snugly, sit low on your forehead and always be buckled.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, such as riding on the right side of the street. Do not ride against traffic, obey all traffic signs and signals, and use hand signals. You must obey all traffic laws just like the driver of a car. In Florida the bicycle is considered a vehicle.
- Ride single-file and never ride

double on one bike, unless it is a tandem bike.

- Avoid biking at night. If you must ride during darkness Florida Statutes states your bike shall be equipped with a headlight and a rear red light and reflector. Wear bright or reflective clothing and be extra careful.

- Before crossing a street, stop at the edge and look left, right, then left again for motor vehicles.

- \*Be alert and watch for cars. Drivers may not see you even if it seems like they are looking right at you. Ride defensively: Watch for motor vehicles moving out from a curb, driveway or alleyway, and maintain safe distance from parked vehicles to allow for suddenly opened doors.

- Make sure your bike is not too big or too little. You should be able to straddle your bike comfortably, with both feet flat on the ground. When sitting on the seat you should be able to touch the ground with the tips of your toes.

- Keep your bicycle in good condition. Check brakes, tires, and handlebars every time you ride.

- Watch for and avoid potholes, drain grates, sand, pebbles and other hazards on the road, as they can cause you to lose control.

- Walk your bike when crossing a street in a crosswalk. Don't pass cars on the right at intersections - many crashes occur when cars turn right into the path of a bicyclist.

- On bikeways or paths, practice common courtesy and yield to

pedestrians, slow down and warn others as you approach to pass.

*Protect your bicycle against theft*  
A bicycle can be stolen from just about any place, but simple precautions can deter would-be bike thieves. Remember, most bikes that are stolen were not locked!

- Always lock your bicycle securely, whether you're gone for a few minutes or a few hours. Use a U-lock type device, securing both wheels and the frame to a stationary object such as a post, fence, tree, or bike rack. For extra security, add chain or cable with a good padlock.

- Record the serial number of your bicycle and keep it in a safe place with the sales receipt and a photograph of the bike.

- Mark your bicycle with an engraver to deter thieves and to help the police in identifying and returning a stolen bike to the rightful owner. Use a unique identification, such as your social security or drivers license number.

Adults and children should always follow these safety precautions. If you would like specific advice about riding safely in your community, call your local Sheriff's Office. They can likely give you additional pointers. ★

*For more information about Sheriff Ed Bieluch and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, visit the PBSO Web site: [www.pbso.org](http://www.pbso.org).*



# This Citizens Academy Performs!

*Bay County Sheriff  
Getting a Boost From  
Efforts*

By: Emily Balazs  
Bay County Sheriff's Office Public  
Affairs Specialist

Bay County (Panama City) is fortunate to have many people within the community to volunteer their resources to assist the Bay County Sheriff's Office. Volunteers give their time during work days, weekends and evenings to assist with a variety of necessary functions that free up a deputy, or other sworn officer. There are many ways volunteers get involved, including the Reserve, Auxiliary, Mounted Posse and the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA).

The Bay County CPAAA was organized in 1995, with the first meeting held in October 1995. After writing their bylaws and electing officers, members looked into ways they could lighten the load of deputies and investigators. They now perform many of the functions once done by a Sheriff's Office employee – so the officers can focus on preventing and solving crime.

The 70 members of the CPAAA are constantly working on a variety of projects for the BCSO. Their focus and activities include: pawnshop detail, auditing pawn tickets, Courthouse/State Attorney Office run, Sexual Predator/Offender Notices (delivered to schools and daycare centers), Child I.D. Program (assisting deputies with fingerprints and photos),



Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell presented the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association with Lifetime Honorary Membership plaque in FSA for their dedication and hard work.



CPAAA Volunteers Barbara Doblin (left) and Joann Gulizio recently helped Bay County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Paul Vecker with the Child ID program, which involved getting kids fingerprinted and collecting hair samples for DNA.

Bicycle Safety Program (assisting deputies with bicycle inspections), Fingerprinting (of job applicants and Sexual Predators/Offenders), assembling gift packages for students honored in the "Do the Right Thing" program and computer data entry for the Criminal Investigations and Court Services Divisions. They have also raised money and made donations for "bite pants" and "bite sleeves" for the K-9 handlers; green blazers for the Chaplains; a canopy to be used for the Bicycle Safety Program; a new Law Enforcement Memorial Flag; and a flagpole for the Bay County Sheriff's Office Wilderness Camp.

*continued on page 13*



## How Does Your Citizen's Academy Stack Up?

Sheriffs' Offices throughout the state have started Citizens Police Academies, and many times Alumni Associations have followed.

If your Citizens Academy is making a difference, or contributing in a unique way to the Sheriff's Office you're affiliated with, we'd like to hear from you. And we just might spotlight your program in a future issue of *The Sheriff's Star*.

E-mail details about your program to:

jbettinger@flsheriffs.org,  
or mail us: Julie S. Bettinger,  
Editor, Florida Sheriffs  
Association, P.O. Box 12519,  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519.  
We look forward to hearing your  
story!



## Sheriff Eslinger Lauded for Child Protection

Seminole County Sheriff Donald F. Eslinger was recently awarded the statewide R. David Thomas Child Advocate Of The Year Award from The Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS).



Sheriff Eslinger received the award during CHS' Annual Family Affair Awards Event at Universal Studios in Orlando.

The award was created in 1982 by Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's International, and is

presented annually by CHS, the oldest and largest not-for-profit child welfare organization in the state. It was created to recognize leading community volunteers and advocates of children's welfare.

"Sheriff Eslinger was chosen for his courage in taking on the daunting responsibility of child protective investigations from the state, which is an enormous obligation for a law-enforcement agency," said CHS Executive Director Kim Brien. "The Sheriff has been a tremendous friend to CHS, but, more importantly, a sincere and committed protector of children who live in very dangerous conditions."

In addition to providing protective service investigations, Sheriff Eslinger was recognized for his agency's pilot program that monitors homes where abuse is suspected but not verified, as a

means of providing extra protection for children. Brien added that Sheriff Eslinger has been an enthusiastic and active supporter of CHS' Lilley House, a crisis nursery that opened a year ago in Casselberry.

Sheriff Eslinger said he was honored to receive the award. He said for a law-enforcement agency to not provide protective services is risky and the better alternative is to be proactive in providing them for the welfare of children.

The Florida Sheriffs Association congratulates Sheriff Eslinger on his award and his willingness to take on the added burden of child protective investigations. ★

*For more information on the award, phone 407/895-5800 or visit [www.chsfl.org](http://www.chsfl.org).*

Throughout the year the CPAAA holds various fundraisers, from garage sales to the famous Boat Poker Run, this year netting almost \$4,600 that was donated to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch. The CPAAA also donates money every Christmas to the Youth Ranch.

### Remembering K-9s

Something rather unique to the campus of the Bay County Sheriff's Office is the K-9 Memorial, which was provided by CPAAA. The stone memorial is nestled under a canopy of trees on the front lawn of the BCSO. Engraved in the memorial are the names of the K-9s that have passed on. Sadly, this year K-9 Turbo had his name added to the memorial.

Sheriff Guy Tunnell says, "I am so proud and fortunate to have such an active group of volunteers. Their cheerful attitude and

willingness to respond to whatever need may arise has made them an invaluable member of the team." Sheriff Tunnell presented CPAAA with a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association for contributions to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch.



The Bay County CPAAA created a K9 memorial, which is located on the front lawn of the Sheriff's Office. It's engraved with names of K-9s who have died.

"I joined the Alumni Association because after attending the Citizens Police Academy 12-week course I only wanted more," says CPAAA president Joann Gulizio. "I was excited and wanted to help 'Bay County's finest' in whatever way I could. Since I joined in 1996, I have met employees and co-members who are now family to me."

Gulizio continues, "Our association is successful partly because of the dedication and hard work of our active volunteers. We are so proud to be a part of the Bay County Sheriff's Office. We are so thankful Sheriff Guy Tunnell allows us the privilege of participating."

To learn more about the Bay County CPAAA, check out their web page at [www.case.homestead.com/report.html](http://www.case.homestead.com/report.html), or visit the Bay County Sheriff's Office Web site at [www.bayso.org](http://www.bayso.org). Click on Community Services then CPAAA. ★



By:  
Cpl. Rick  
Hord  
Public  
Information  
Officer  
Okaloosa  
County  
Sheriff's  
Office



Most of us think it's the "bad guys" who break the law. You know, the ones who purposefully commit fraud, robbery or use violence against another person. But with new changes in Florida laws, and ignorance about little-known rules of the road, you might have unknowingly become a lawbreaker.

Following are some reminders about laws for the rest of us.

### *New Florida Laws*

The new "Move Over Act" from the 2002 Florida Legislature addressed the proper behavior in the presence of an emergency vehicle.

The new law adds some language to the existing law, which any emergency vehicle operator will tell you is commonly ignored. As you may or may not know, when an emergency vehicle approaches (police car, fire truck and ambulance included), all other traffic is required to move to the nearest edge of the road — clear of any intersection — and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

Following changes by lawmakers, the "Move Over Act" now tells drivers what to do in a situation not previously mentioned: what to do when you approach a patrol car, fire truck, or ambulance stopped in or near the roadway with its lights

### *Operating ATVs On Public Roads*

- *Non Emergency Flashing Lights*

- *Colored Headlight & Taillight Covers*

## "Are You Unknowingly Breaking the Law?"

- *Incorrect Lights on Front or Rear of Vehicle*

- *Refusing DUI Tests*

- *Reaction to Emergency Vehicles Approaching*

- *License Tag Frames*

- *License Tag Lights*

flashing.

On a multi-lane road, you should move your vehicle to the lane farthest from the stopped emergency vehicle. On a two-lane road, when there is no extra lane to vacate, the new law says all traffic passing the emergency vehicle must slow to a speed of 20 miles per hour less than the posted limit, or to 5 miles per hour if the posted limit is 20 or less.

And here's an important

reminder: Get in the habit of checking your mirrors and looking ahead, behind and to the sides of your vehicle every few seconds while driving. Tunnel vision is a common and potentially deadly habit — as is the practice of only looking ahead a short distance. Emergency-vehicle operators will tell you that their lights and sirens are often not seen or heard — or are ignored.



### *DUI offenders*

Another act of the Legislature tightens up some aspects of the drunk driving laws. Ignition interlocks will now be mandatory, starting with the second DUI conviction. DUI becomes a felony starting with the third conviction within 10 years. And refusing the blood, breath or urine test can now be a criminal offense, instead of just an administrative suspension.

It's important to note that identical DUI laws apply on the water. Makes life simpler, doesn't it?

ATVs and "off-highway vehicles" also received some attention from our lawmakers. The definition for "all-terrain vehicle" now extends up to 900 pounds (it was 600), and, although as of July 1 they must be titled, they may *not* be used on public roads.

### *Hey – what's with the new tag?*

Plenty of us remember when all Florida license plates looked the same. Now, we are accustomed to dozens of specialty plates. Here are seven brand-new ones you may be seeing soon: "Florida Golf," "Florida Firefighters," "The Police Benevolent Association," "The Breast Cancer Research," "The American Red Cross," and "Protect Florida Whales."

Another one that may prove to be very popular: "The United We Stand" license plate. Appropriately, "United We Stand" tags will generate money for airport security enhancements and the Rewards for Justice Fund.

### *Is your car street-legal?*

When your car was new, it had everything necessary to legally drive on public roads, without any "illegal" gadgets. But many of us like to personalize our car

by adding items not provided by the factory. This can be risky.

Auto parts stores will gladly accept your money for accessories, but they're under no obligation to tell you those popular little lights for windshield wipers can get you a \$54 ticket. In fact, the store clerk may or may not know any more about the law than you do.

Here is a review of some of the more popular after-market add-ons that are no-nos on the street:

- **License tag frames/coverings.** Any tinted covering *over* the tag is offlimits on public roads. Even crystal-clear covers are not allowed under the statute. Lights on tag frames are a separate problem: If the light is any color other than red, it's illegal on the street. And if the light causes glare that makes the tag more difficult to read, it's illegal on the street.

- **Flashing lights.** The only flashing lights of any kind that are legal on the street are turn signals and appropriate emergency flashers. "Chasers" and other blinking or flashing lights are not street legal anywhere on a vehicle — inside or out.

- **Headlight and taillight covers.** If these change the color of the headlight or taillight, don't use them on the street. Taillights are required to be clearly visible from a distance of 1,000 feet to the rear. For headlights, any cover that "alters the headlamp's visibility" is illegal on the street. High beams must clearly illuminate persons or other objects at least 450 away; low beams must do that for a minimum of 150 feet.

- **Color of lights.** For obvious reasons, it's important for everybody to know immediately if they're looking at the front or the back of a vehicle. Therefore, red is required for the rear – and it must not be visible from any other direction. Rear marker lights must be red; front marker lights and turn signals must be amber. The only non-red that may ever be seen from the rear are turn signals, which may be amber or red; white backup lights; and the white light (no other color) to illuminate the license tag. Only law-enforcement vehicles may use blue lights of any kind.

- **Under-the-car lights.** The same rules apply, meaning they can't be blue and they can't blink or flash. They also can't be red or amber, unless they're visible only from behind. Any other color must not be visible from behind.

Law enforcement officers are frequently asked, "How can these things be illegal? They sell them at the reputable stores." The answer is, they're not illegal in the sense that crack cocaine is illegal – they're just not legal to use on the public roads. The lesson is: Read the small print for statements such as "may not be legal for street use," "for show and off-road use only," or "check local laws before using on public roads."

When in doubt – ask. Check with your local Sheriff's Office, as more than likely the Crime Prevention or Public Information Officer will be able to get a clarification for you.

Stay safe – and stay legal. ★



## Award-Winning Book On Florida Sheriffs 1821-1945

The Florida Historical Society has awarded the 2002 James J. Horgan Award for "Outstanding Books on Florida History," to co-authors William Warren Rogers, Ph.D., and James M. Denham, Ph.D., for penning the book, *Florida Sheriffs: A History, 1821-1945*.

In presenting the award, University of Central Florida's Jose Fernandez, Ph.D., chair of the selection committee, said, "Bill Rogers and Mike Denham have provided an important look at an important element of county politics in Florida. They have focused their attention on county Sheriffs who were important political figures in Florida and who also operated on the frontlines of law enforcement. This is a major contribution to understanding the political dynamics of early Florida."

If you haven't already secured your copy of this **Award-Winning** book, don't miss this opportunity. Copies are available for \$29.50 each, plus shipping and tax. This edition will also make a great gift – so be sure to get extra copies!

*Order your books now!*

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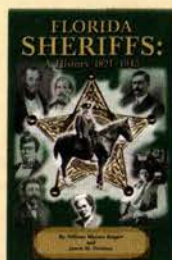
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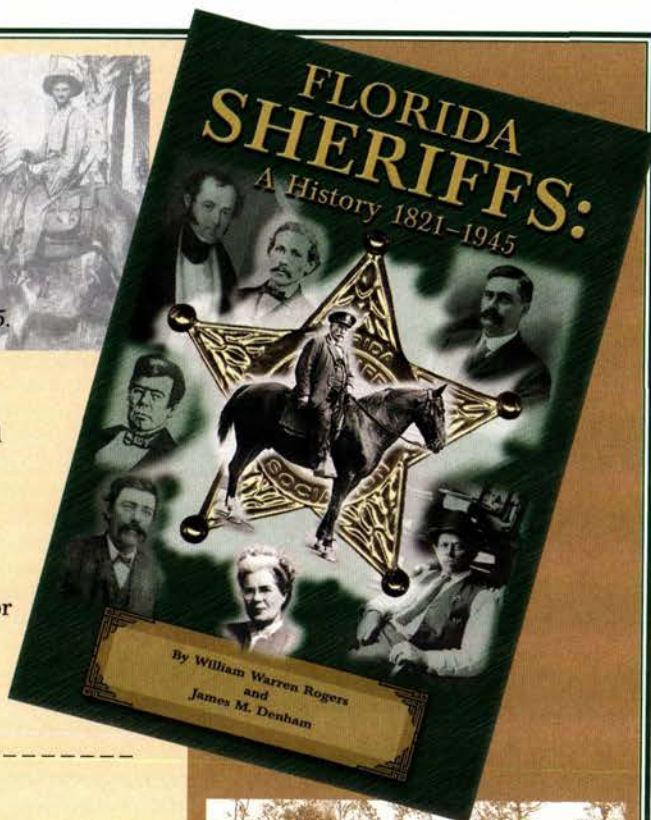
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### About the authors

Co-authors William Warren Rogers and James M. Denham have earned enviable reputations nationally for their ability to dig out little known historical facts and publish them in book form for others to enjoy. Both are professors of history, but more important – they are talented storytellers. Their latest project, the history of the Florida Sheriffs, is the result of years of research. Don't miss this printed documentary of the chief law enforcers in our state.



Co-author William Warren Rogers, Emeritus Professor of History, Florida State University



Co-author James M. "Mike" Denham, Professor of history, Florida Southern College



# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

## HONOR ROLL



**PASCO COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Pasco County Sheriff Bob White to Billy G. Henderson.



This honor roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association as honorary members for 25 years or more. Many progressive business leaders are supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities by enrolling as Business Members of the Association and becoming "partners against crime." The Florida Sheriffs recognizes those businesses that are making a difference in their communities. Gold members commit \$500 annually, Silver members \$250 and Bronze members \$50 annually.



Howard Wright



V.B. "Sonny" Brown



Thomas C. Cheek, Sr.



Rossy Henry Law

**SUWANNEE COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams to Howard Wright, V.B. "Sonny" Brown, Thomas C. Cheek, Sr. and Rossy Henry Law.



Pat Suber



Kenneth L. Ayers

**LEON COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to Pat Suber, and Kenneth L. Ayers (US Army Ret.).



Charles O'Neal



Mr. Haggerty

**PALM BEACH COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ed Bieluch to Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Threadgill (and grandchildren), Charles O'Neal and Mr. Haggerty, accepting on behalf of Tony Carvalho.



**WASHINGTON COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Washington County Sheriff Fred Peel to Marvin & Elaine Engram.



**PALM BEACH COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ed Bieluch to Roy Kunneman.



**BRADFORD COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner to Douglas Hardy.

Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Threadgill (and grandchildren)





# FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

## HONOR ROLL



**FLORIDA** – Presented by **Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner (R)** and **Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard (L)** to **Matthew Bower**.



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

### New Lifetime Honorary Members

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Ms. Elinor H. Caines

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Mr. Francis L. Chrostowski

Clearwater Evening Lions Club

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Mrs. Judith T. Cohen

Ms. Agnes Cornacchio

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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whittemore

Mr. Hugh A. Wilson

Mrs. Audrey Winter



**Arthur Bryant**



**Wayne Richardson.**

**LEON COUNTY** – Presented by **Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell** to **Leon County Correctional Officers Arthur Bryant and Wayne Richardson.**



**Jon Etheridge**



**Mason Batson**

**LEON COUNTY** – Presented by **Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell** to **Deputy Jon Etheridge and Correction Officer Mason Batson.**

**DIXIE COUNTY** – Presented by **Dixie County Sheriff Sammy Woodall (right)** to **Bill Middleton, Cross City Marine.**



**Mr. & Mrs. Ronald M. Brooke**



**Dorothy S. Thraikill**

**ORANGE COUNTY** – Presented by **Youth Ranches staff** to **Mr. & Mrs. Ronald M. Brooke, and Dorothy S. Thraikill.**



**BROWARD COUNTY** – Presented by **Youth Ranches staff** to **Mr. & Mrs. William T. White, Jr.**





Quinn Skierski



George Burnham



Carol Dobbs



Judy Hulett

**SUWANNEE COUNTY** - Presented by Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams to David & Lynn Lee, Judy Hulett, Murlin & Herbert Wells, George Burnham (Tax Collector), Carol Dobbs, and Quinn Skierski for South Suwannee Storage.



Murlin & Herbert Wells



David & Lynn Lee



**DeSOTO COUNTY** - Presented by DeSoto County Sheriff John Fugate to Mr. and Mrs. Shellington.



**ALACHUA COUNTY** - Presented by Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich to Nancy Henry.



Dorothy Dunn



Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Miceli



Mr. & Mrs. Sam B. Love

**MARION COUNTY** - Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Dorothy Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Miceli and Mr. & Mrs. Sam B. Love, Jr.



**FLORIDA** - Presented by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard and Development Officer Sandy Phillips to Steve & Sylvia Bekemeyer.



Gill Laramie



Mr. & Mrs. Louis Stone

**PALM BEACH COUNTY** - Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ed Bieluch to Mr. & Mrs. Louis Stone and Gill Laramie.



**FLORIDA** - Presented by Lake County Sheriff's Office Captain Chris Daniels (center) at Wide Open Golf Tournament to Vann (left) and Chip Gannaway of Vann Gannaway Chevrolet.



**FLORIDA** - Presented by Brevard County Sheriff Phil Williams at the Wide Open Golf Tournament, to Sammy Willingham, owner of Sam's Sod.



Roger Farwell



Terry E. Ross

**ORANGE COUNTY** - (Far left photo) Presented by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (C) and Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger (R) to Roger Farwell, President of Tempus Resort International, host of the 2002 Central Florida Wide Open Golf Tournament at the Mystic Dunes Golf Club at the Wyndham Palms Resort in Kissimmee. Also presented to Terry E. Ross, director of marketing for Levy Restaurants, who donated all the food and catering services for the Wide Open Golf Tournament.





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WOMEN'S GOLD BAND  
Face No. 3

NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" dials in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style are available in both all gold or gold/steel two-tone as depicted above. All watches carry a 6-year limited warranty from the date of purchase against failures due to defective materials or workmanship. Gold or two-tone bands can be purchased with either of the three available faces.

## MEMBERSHIP ITEMS ORDER FORM

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

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