

# THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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A collage of images showing law enforcement and relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina. The main image shows three sheriffs standing in a path through a destroyed neighborhood with debris and damaged trees. Other smaller images show a woman writing in a notebook, a dog being rescued, and people loading supplies into a truck.

## Sheriffs on the Frontline of Destruction Following Katrina

See page 4

## Also: The dramatic rescue of a Manatee Detective stranded in New Orleans

See page 7



*From the desk of . . .*  
*Gary Perkins, Executive Director*  
*Florida Sheriffs Association*



**H**ere at the Florida Sheriffs Association, we seem to have shifted gears a bit to keep up with the increased demands related to hurricane relief. As I write this, our state just weathered yet another storm – Wilma – and Florida has again earned accolades in relief efforts; the result of advanced planning and coordination provided through FSA and the Florida Sheriffs Statewide Task Force.

For those who are weary of hurricane topics, let me apologize in advance. But we want to make sure you don't miss the view from the trenches. I sense that you'll find the stories in this issue unlike the sound bites you've heard on the nightly news.

*Relief fund still giving back*

While we're on the topic, some of our readers may recall that FSA established a Disaster Relief Fund in 2004 to provide assistance to Sheriffs' Office personnel in the wake of hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Needless to say, the storms have kept our application review team busy. Since the fund was established late last year, FSA has paid out a total of \$15,000, and every person who applied has received some level of assistance.

The requests have come from all over the state, and with them a myriad of stories. When considering losses, the review team had to look at the total picture. Some of the employees who applied were juggling health issues, either their own or that of their spouse, in addition to the problems caused by the hurricanes. Many are single parents and described financial hardships they had experienced prior to the losses caused by the storms.

FSA's Disaster Relief Funds are helping by filling at least part of the gap left by insurance and FEMA. It's our way of assisting dedicated employees of the Sheriffs' Office – many of whom have lost their homes, vehicles and personal effects and who are not used to being on the receiving end of assistance.

We are still accepting donations to the Disaster Relief Fund, and your dollars are being matched by FSA. Please consider this request for your end-

of-year charitable contributions. If you'd like to make a donation, please use the mailing address on the opposite page. Make checks payable to FSA, then note in the memo section that it is to be applied to the FSA Disaster Relief Fund.

*Planning for new laws*

We've just held our fall legislative planning meeting and determined the Sheriffs' priority issues for the 2006 session.

Several are related to benefits for Sheriffs' Office employees. The Sheriffs of Florida have recognized inconsistencies in retirement benefits and are seeking to correct them. Our goal will be to improve the retirement benefits for high-risk employees, 9-1-1 operators and telecommunicators.


In addition, we are including proposals for modifying the Jessica Lunsford Act to strengthen the sexual predator and sexual offender legislation passed last year.

Of course, these issues and priorities are just where the Sheriffs plan to focus proactive efforts, but rest assured that FSA's legislative committee and governmental consultant Frank Messersmith will closely monitor all issues throughout the session. We'll support those that have the interests of public safety in mind and will seek to defeat the ones that threaten the welfare of our citizens.

Please know that by supporting FSA, you are lending your voice in support of a tough, common-sense approach to fighting crime in Florida. We never want to underestimate our influence – it's a powerful force to go before lawmakers with the clout of not only the 67 chief law enforcers in the state, but also 120,000-plus citizens.

As the year 2005 comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your membership and for continuing to support law enforcement in Florida.

On behalf of the Sheriffs of Florida, I'd like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

  
Gary Perkins, Executive Director



## Overall Crime Down in Florida

**T**hanks to the combined efforts of local and state law enforcement and politicians' support of tougher laws, overall crime in Florida has decreased by more than 10,000 crimes in the first six months of the year.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's 2005 semi-annual report of the state's crime statistics reported a 3.3-percent decrease in crime for January through June, compared to the same period last year.

Overall, annual crime-index numbers have declined for the past 13 years, according to news reports, and officials said this midyear report is an indication the numbers will drop again for 2005.

Law-enforcement organizations, including the Florida Sheriffs Association, agree that tougher sentencing laws and increased prison terms for violent criminals have contributed to the trend.

The statistics also indicated that murder had fallen 10.5 percent and forcible fondling, robbery, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft had decreased from last year. Also notable, the Semi-Annual Crime in Florida Uniform Crime Report indicated a 2.4-per-

cent decrease in total reported domestic-violence offenses. The domestic-violence offenses of murder, aggravated assault, aggravated stalking, simple assault, threat/intimidation and simple stalking all showed decreases.

### *Sex crimes still a problem*

The only increases in the year's data were in the forcible rape, forcible sodomy and aggravated assault categories.

The FDLE report, which consists of data submitted by 411 law-enforcement agencies, reflects a slight increase in violent crimes (0.6 percent) and a decrease in non-violent crime (3.9 percent). Total arrests increased by 1.8 percent from last year's figure. Juvenile arrests decreased 4.2 percent, while adult arrests increased 2.6 percent.

There was a decrease in total crimes for the first time January through June in 2003. The index had fallen 1.3 percent from the previous year. In 2004, the total crime index again fell, this time by 2.3 percent. This year's 3.3 percent is the highest decrease in the last five years.

FDLE Commissioner Guy M. Tunnell said, "We're very thankful and encouraged that crime in

Florida continues to be on the decline. I particularly applaud the men and women who work in local law enforcement as police officers and deputy sheriffs in the communities from Pensacola to Key West. They are on the front lines, responding to citizen calls 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and it is largely due to their hard work and a vigilant public that we can enjoy an increased level of public safety."

Commissioner Tunnell added, "We continue to thank the Governor and the Florida Legislature for their unyielding support of law enforcement's efforts to prevent crime. In partnership with our local law-enforcement agencies, we pledge to work together to continue this trend."

The complete 2005 Semi-Annual Crime in Florida Uniform Crime Report, including county-by-county breakdowns, can be found on FDLE's Web site:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/fsac/UCR/index.asp>.

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## THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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# Preparedness and a Plan Make the Difference in Florida's Timely Response to Hurricane Katrina

## How does Florida spell relief? P-L-A-N.

Fast, effective relief, that is.

By now, most people have heard the news reports of the lack of planning in communities affected by Hurricane Katrina, and how experts believe that lives could have been saved had those areas prepared in advance for a disaster.

According to reports, national leaders are looking at Florida as a model of preparedness, not only in the state's response to its own disasters, but in response to neighboring states.

Much of that credit is going to law enforcement – and for good reason. The Sheriffs have been leading the charge in recent years for matters such as disaster preparedness and domestic security. And the foundation for this leadership goes back more than a decade, when FSA established the Florida Sheriff's Statewide Task Force to

help coordinate efforts across county lines and jurisdictions.

### *Creating a plan*

In 1994, a statewide mobilization plan for disaster preparedness was established, dividing responsibility among the 67 Sheriffs' offices in Florida. The Florida Sheriff's Statewide Task Force first tested this system in October 1995 after Hurricane Opal made landfall in the Florida panhandle. Since then, whenever the state Emergency Operations Center is activated, a member of the Task Force staffs the Emergency Support Law Enforcement Desk. These officers manage the call up of statewide resources (manpower and equipment) for deployment to specific areas in need.

Our mobilization plan was put into practice during each of the four hurricanes that made landfall in Florida during the 2004 season. Then, following a week-long hurricane preparedness workshop this past spring, the plan was fine-tuned and implemented twice this year – both in Florida and in neighboring states.

Providing mutual aid is not an easy task. As it is, the Sheriffs' offices are under-funded for the most part and are taxed by other challenges, including temporary loss of employees called up for active mili-

tary duty.

In spite of these challenges, our 67 Sheriffs never hesitate when called upon – as you'll see from these stories we've received following Hurricane Katrina.

For those who might wonder, the cost of the mutual aid response is tracked by the individual agencies and may qualify for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

## Central Florida Delegation Included Two Sheriffs

During the first weekend in September, Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and Orange County Public Safety Director Jerry Demings accompanied about 1,800 pounds of relief supplies to Hancock County, Mississippi – the area where a number of Central Florida deputies were deployed to assist with hurricane recovery efforts.

Hancock County and the communities of Waveland and Bay St. Louis in Mississippi were, by all accounts, the point where Hurricane Katrina made her second landfall in the United States. Reports of a 40-foot storm surge





that continued inland over a mile and a half and Category 5 hurricane winds conspired to completely destroy the communities, including their police department.

"We expected to deploy to a hard-hit area to support the local law-enforcement agencies with their recovery efforts," says Sheriff Beary. "When we got there, it became apparent that the Central Florida contingent *was* the law-enforcement agency in that area. Those folks lost everything they had."

#### *Focusing efforts*

After witnessing the devastation, Sheriff Beary focused his agency's relief efforts on the communities of Waveland and Gulfport and made the needs of law-enforcement personnel in those areas known to other law-enforcement agencies and the general public.

The Sheriff's Office created an "Adopt a Cop" program within the agency, explaining that a \$400 donation would provide an officer who had lost everything with some of the basic necessities to get them through at least the short term. The response was overwhelming: More than \$16,000 was raised in about two weeks.

"The brotherhood and sisterhood that is the Sheriff's Office came forward to raise some serious money for our effort," said Orange County Sheriff's Office Master Deputy Noel Beary, who

coordinated the program. Creative efforts included competitions between squads and bake sales. The community also supported the effort.

Donations of clothing to include uniforms, socks, underwear, toiletries, off-duty clothing and some of life's basic necessities were loaded on a tractor trailer donated (complete with drivers) by JRC Trucking.

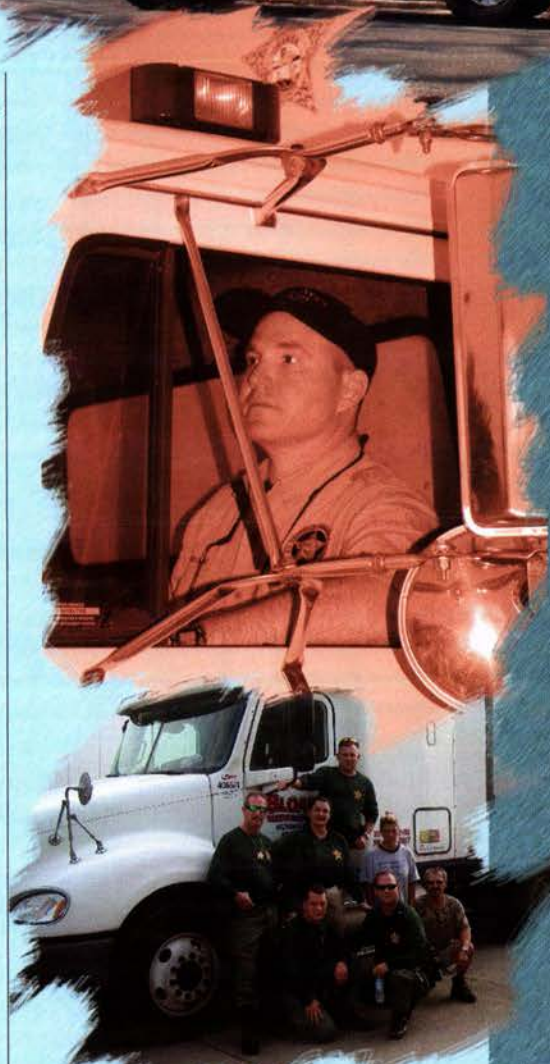
Included in the convoy were eight 2002 Dodge Intrepid patrol cars, emblazoned with markings of the Waveland Police Department, as the agency's entire fleet had either been damaged or destroyed in the hurricane. Sheriff Beary donated the vehicles, originally intended for the auction block.

Employees from Graphic Imagination Fleet Markings, the company providing graphics, added to the effort by loading up the vehicles with supplies.

"We put out the call and our people and the community (did everything they could) to make it all happen," said Sheriff Beary. "A young man who would only identify himself as 'Shane' came up and said all he had was \$8, most of it in change. He insisted we take it for the folks we were helping in Waveland. That pretty much says it all, doesn't it?"

#### **Lee County Responds**

Lee County citizens, businesses and Sheriff's Office employees also teamed up to provide relief supplies in the hurricane aftermath. In all, volunteers sent three caravans in September, totaling 19 semi-tractor loads of generators, water, fuel and



equipment and other supplies for distribution in the storm-ravaged towns of Bay St. Louis, Picayune and Waveland, Mississippi, and Slidell, Louisiana.

Dozens of Sheriff's Office volunteers collected items such as non-perishable food, sanitary products and other toiletries at community drop-off locations and helped to load trucks. Deputies also provided law-





enforcement escorts and helped deliver supplies in partnership with Sloane Transportation. Businesses such as Hydro Rock Company, Chico's, Target and Wal-Mart contributed to the effort.

"I can't thank everyone enough for their compassion and sacrifice in this extraordinary humanitarian effort," said Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott. "It's remarkable that so many donated supplies in a relatively short span of time. People sincerely want to help, and their generosity is having a lasting impact in these communities."

### Pasco Reports

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office sent nine deputies to Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi. They spent their time loading supplies and delivering them to residents who had no way to travel to supply distribution points. They also patrolled many of the hurricane-ravaged neighborhoods on foot. There were a few bright spots, too: Child victims of the hurricane drew posters with supportive messages to thank Florida's Pasco County Deputies.

### Jail and Community Get Assistance from Pinellas County

When Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour requested mutual aid after Katrina, a response team from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office was assembled, equipped

and deployed. Pinellas Sheriff Jim Coats received the request for aid on Tuesday, August 30, and by the next day, the response team was on the road to Harrison County, Mississippi.

Seventeen members of the PCSO Patrol Operations Bureau left for southern Mississippi August 31 to provide law-enforcement services and humanitarian aid. Fifteen members of the Detention and Corrections Bureau went three days later to take over the operation of a county jail in western Mississippi. Another team of eight deputies from Corrections relieved some in the first group, making a total of 23 deployed over a two-week period.

PCSO deputies patrolled for looters in ATVs in the Pass Christian area and provided security at temporary morgues in Gulfport and Biloxi. They also staffed Point of Distribution (POD) centers where ice, water and food were dispensed to residents in need.

#### Call for jail support

While the Patrol Operations team began work along the Mississippi coast on Friday, September 2, another mutual aid request was received for staff relief at the Pearl River County Jail near Poplarville, Mississippi. Members of the PCSO Detention and Corrections Bureau were identified to respond to the request and assembled at the Pinellas County Jail the next day.

The group traveled by convoy to the area, and by Monday, September 5, had assumed total responsibility

for the operation of the Pearl River County Jail. The jail had a population of 325 inmates, which included inmates from neighboring Hancock County who were brought to the Pearl River County facility during evacuation.

The inmate population ranged from misdemeanants to violent felons and included males and females. Team Leader Lt. Vincent Gibney, of the Detention and Correction Bureau, says, "Conditions in the jail were difficult. However, food preparation and laundry services were restored as quickly as possible."

The PCSO corrections group had expected to remain at the jail for seven days, but the detail was extended to two weeks.

Lieutenant Gibney noted that this is the first time a PCSO corrections response team has been sent to a disaster area. "We were glad to be able to help an exhausted local staff, calm the inmates and get the jail back up and running," the lieutenant says.

Pinellas County Sheriff Coats says he believes it's good for the agency to respond to assist other jurisdictions. "Our agency gained valuable lessons from our deployments to areas in Florida affected by last year's hurricanes and applied those lessons to our deployments to Mississippi this year," he says. "We will evaluate and incorporate lessons from this year's deployments into our procedures and be ready to respond when we go again and assist other agencies with humanitarian efforts."

*Editor's note: While more Sheriffs' offices in the state responded, these reports are a compilation of what was sent to FSA following the relief efforts. Special thanks to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Jim Bordner, Public Information Coordinator Marianne Pasha and Public Information Specialist II Mac McMullen; Jim Solomons, Media Relations, Orange County Sheriff's Office; Stan Nelson, Lee County Sheriff's Office and Kevin Doll, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, who contributed to this report. ☺*



# Sheriff Plans Rescue of Stranded Deputy Following Hurricane

**Law-enforcement family teams up across geographic and jurisdictional lines to bring him to safety**

*By Julie S. Bettinger*

Many of us in Florida have felt the anxiety of knowing that a family member is in the eye of a hurricane. Some of us have even provided refuge to relatives, as they sought to get out of harm's way.

But what if you knew that family member had survived Hurricane Katrina, only to become caught up in the chaos that followed? That is, stranded at the New Orleans Convention Center, going for days without food and water, and having their personal safety at risk?

Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells knows how it feels. One of his law-enforcement "family" team members, Manatee Detective Bill Waldron, was in New Orleans on business during the hurricane and was caught in the aftermath.

Sheriff Wells was patient, at first, counting on law enforcement in that area to do the right thing and get his man out. But when he received word that New Orleans police and officials refused to even enter the area, citing it as "too dangerous," he made a decision.

"I knew that if something happened to (Detective Waldron) and we didn't do everything we could, I wouldn't be able to live with myself," he says.

Here's the story of how one Sheriff put everything on the line for his deputy. And how that deputy managed to survive what is being



**Manatee County Detective Bill Waldron**

*Photos by Tiffany Tompkins-Conde, Staff Photographer the Bradenton Herald*

called one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history.

## *Stranded*

Detective Bill Waldron had traveled to New Orleans to testify in the trial of a woman arrested in Manatee County who was being prosecuted for murder in Louisiana. He was scheduled to fly home on August 28, but with Hurricane Katrina

fast approaching, flights were canceled, all rental cars were booked and he soon found himself stranded. Officials advised him to ride out the storm in a hotel along with some of the New Orleans police.

Around 10 a.m. Monday, after the hurricane had passed, Waldron left his hotel to survey the damage. He was able to purchase a can of Pringles potato chips and water – not realizing it would be his last meal for the next three days.

Waldron says he identified himself to the police officers and tried to find out what options were available to him, but communications to the district captain had broken down and they were getting very little information.

That evening is when the looting started.

Since Waldron is an experienced hostage negotiator, has served as a disaster team responder and spent many weeks last fall providing assistance during the Florida hurricanes, his first tact was to offer to assist the police. "But I was basically told, 'Sorry about your luck; you're on your own,'" he says.

He sensed a lot of confusion among the ranks because the radios weren't working, so he just hunkered down in his hotel room and decided to wait.

Tuesday morning Waldron was told that the water behind the levee was rising and he had to leave the hotel. He and others were told to go to the Convention Center, a reported shelter, where there would be food, water and the National Guard.

Arriving at the center, though, Waldron didn't find anything like what he'd been told. Officials refused to allow anyone in the facility, saying it wasn't a shelter and directing them to go to the New Orleans Superdome, instead. Waldron says that would have been a three-to-four mile walk, crossing through about 12 feet of water, so like many others, he stayed at the center.

With so much dissension, chaos and division between local officials and residents, he says, "At that point, I decided not to identify myself any longer as a law-enforcement officer."

Unarmed, he says he played it safe and just told people he was a tourist who got caught in the city. Still, his appearance and mannerisms seemed to betray him.

"Most of the citizens I encountered were black. Here I am, a white guy, about 6 feet, 4 inches tall, 245 pounds with short hair." People began suspecting he was a cop. "They would just come up to me and say, 'You look like one.'" He says he just did his best to fit in and kept busy helping others.

## *More people, no officials*

By around 6:30 Tuesday evening, a New Orleans police sergeant

*continued on page 8*



allowed people inside the Convention Center, but there was no food or water and no law-enforcement presence. Waldron says occasionally he'd see a National Guardsman come through and they could see pallets of food and water, but it was not being distributed to the people.

**"I knew that if something happened to (Detective Waldron) and we didn't do everything we could, I wouldn't be able to live with myself."**

**- Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells**



By Wednesday morning, it was searing hot inside the center with no ventilation and very little light. The doors were all locked and barricaded. More people who had been rescued by boat or helicopter were being brought in.

"They were in pretty bad shape, exhausted and dehydrated," he says. The Superdome was now at capacity and they had orders to bring people to the Convention Center. The numbers quickly swelled from about 5,000 to around 20,000.

"I just stayed busy," Waldron says. And that meant caring for the sick, appealing to the few authorities he met to get assistance for them and covering up the dead bodies out of respect.

It was like the triage scenes from the old "M\*A\*S\*H" television shows. Everywhere he looked there was a need...and yet his hands were tied because he didn't have the resources needed to save lives.

He recalls one woman who was suffering from the heat, and a paramedic, who happened to be on site, said they needed to bring her temperature down. Waldron appealed to a National Guardsman for anything they could use to cool her down and, after much resistance, he was finally given a bag of frozen crab cakes.

The woman died 10 minutes later.

Waldron's voice grows quiet. "Her name was Anita Lopez."

Perhaps the worst discovery was the lifeless bodies of two infants, maybe 1 to 2 months old, wrapped in clothing and paper towels, and left on a bathroom sink.

Despite the horrors and deprivation, Waldron insists there was no evidence of violent crimes – the rapes and murders – that were

reported by the media. And though he saw people coming into the center after looting a nearby mall, they made sure the elderly people got food and water, first. People were really taking care of each other.

#### *Safety concerns*

Waldron had discovered some pay phones in a dark alcove of the center and used a cigarette lighter to see for dialing. It took about two hours to get through, but he was able to reach his 16-year-old son, Nick, and his mother.

"I tried to stay upbeat for my son. I didn't tell him that I was actually scared for myself, with the growing anger toward authority in general. People were coming up to me and saying, 'You're a police officer – what's a white boy like you doing here? You're a cop. You're trying to find out who's doing the looting so you can arrest us afterwards.'"

Waldron says on one of his next calls home, he told his mother about the concern for his safety and she relayed it to the Manatee Sheriff's Office, which had been checking on the family daily.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, Sheriff Wells could see that they were going to have to take things into their own hands to get Detective Waldron out. The Sheriff started a two-pronged approach – first assembling about

two dozen deputies for a rescue mission. They were told of the dangers – New Orleans police were refusing to even go near the Convention Center due to reported sniper fire and gangs – but all deputies were willing to go.

Sheriff Wells also made calls to Gary Perkins, executive director of the Florida Sheriffs Association, and to Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Guy Tunnell.

Perkins quickly got the word to representatives of the Florida Sheriff's Task Force working the law-enforcement desk at the state Emergency Operations Center. He also assigned retired deputy and FSA liaison Phil Rivers to work as many angles as possible to assist in the effort.

Commissioner Tunnell had his people working on the problem, as well.

It happened that Florida Fish & Game Commission's Director of Law Enforcement, Col. Julie Jones, was at the state Emergency Operations Center when she learned of Detective Waldron's plight. She told Rivers that her counterpart in Texas, Col. Pete Flores, already had a contingent in New Orleans, as Florida was responding to Mississippi. After contacting Flores, and getting his support, she arranged to get a driver's license mug shot of Waldron sent to the on-site game wardens via their Blackberries, which were working, though all other cell phone service was down.

#### *"Cowboyed in there"*

According to Colonel Jones, the Texas Parks & Wildlife officers tried to solicit local law enforcement for the mission, but were told the area was too dangerous. Texas PW's Major Butch Shoop told his wardens, "OK, guys, we're cowboying in there."

They armed themselves with M-16s and headed for the center.

That day, Waldron had spent about six hours trying to get phone calls to go through and was on the phone with the Manatee Sheriff's Office when he saw the game wardens he'd been told were attempting to rescue him.

He came out of the dark alcove, identified himself, and the officers



immediately roughed him up and handcuffed him. That was part of the plan; a strategy they thought would prevent resistance from bystanders.

"They were pretty tough about it, and I was convinced for a very brief moment," Waldron says. One of the guys whispered that they were there to get him out and asked if he had any personal belongings. When they went to retrieve them, he says people were asking, "What are you arresting him for?" The wardens answered, "Murder," and the crowd cheered. "It's about time you arrest a white boy," one of them said.

Waldron says he caught the eye of some of the elderly people he had been hanging out with and he says, "I'm sure they were looking at the handcuffs and thinking, 'We were talking to a murderer.'"

#### *Shower, rest delayed*

Relief was still a few hours away, though, as Waldron's rescuers were detoured to help evacuate 60 patients from Charity Hospital. He says he finally got something to eat that night – a spaghetti and meatball MRE. "It was the best spaghetti I've ever had," he says.

They returned Waldron to the command post in Gonzales, Louisiana, where he had the first shower in four days and a few hours of sleep. At 5:30 a.m., he was back up along with the rest who were putting in 20-plus hour days.

That morning, he saw the Manatee County Sheriffs' cruisers pull up, and he says it brought tears to his eyes.

"I expected maybe a car or a truck, but I saw all these 12 guys together, and they had raid vests on, sniper rifles – they'd heard how dangerous it was, and they were ready.

"Their plan was that if they couldn't get me out, even if they had to fight off the police, whatever, they

were coming to get me.

"That's what was so overwhelming – they're taking care of my family, plus coordinating efforts to get me out of there," Waldron's voice grows quiet, "and I'm just one guy."

#### *Credits training for survival*

Though he's still processing the



experience, Waldron says if anything stands out in his mind, it's the value of his years of law-enforcement training. "All those years – some of it's been good and some of it I didn't want to attend – but all of those years of training came back.

"If you train a certain way – and constantly – in cases of high stress, you automatically do those things without thinking. I would find myself doing something and think, 'I remember getting this training,' and I just instinctively did it. Training is very important."

Waldron says communication is key and can go a long way toward preventing problems. "One of the things I heard in the Convention Center is they wanted a law-enforcement presence – they wanted someone there to give them good information." Even if it was bad news, like there wouldn't be any food and water for a few days, he says just telling them what to expect would have helped.

"As rough as the whole thing was," Waldron says, "I am glad I experienced it. It's kind of a life-changing experience to view things as a victim. I was able to see things

from the standpoint of people being displaced from their homes, and what their fears were. I think it will benefit me and I hope it will benefit other people in agencies as a result of my experience."

Sheriff Charlie Wells expressed his gratitude to all the people and agencies that assisted in winning Detective Waldron back.

FSA's Gary Perkins and Phil Rivers "did exactly what any Sheriff in this state would have expected and hoped they would do," he says. He added that even though this scenario involved only one deputy, "They stepped up to the plate and hit one out of the park."

Sheriff Wells offered written thanks and Manatee County Sheriff's

Office's "Distinguished Service Awards" to all who played a role in the rescue.

He says he sent the awards to the governors to ask them to present them on MCSO's behalf.

"Make no mistake about it, the wildlife officers from Texas and Louisiana are my heroes," Sheriff Wells says. "They demonstrated remarkable courage for a brother police officer in the face of adversity – they heard all the excuses of why they couldn't rescue that deputy and they went in there anyway."

Col. Julie Jones says she was happy to lend her agency's resources – including connections – to the cause, and hopes that this event will help all law enforcement in the state to recognize the capabilities at their disposal.

She says the way law enforcement worked together on this mission was thrilling. "It was so cool – it was like (the movie) 'Saving Private Ryan' for me."

And thanks to her efforts and those of her law-enforcement counterparts, it had a happy ending. ☺



## LETTERS

Editor:

Thanks for a very touching and heroic article about Orange County Sheriff's Deputy Jennifer Fulford. Sustaining 10 hits and still firing with concentration – all I have to say is “wow!”

I think that making the community aware of her actions lifts everyone's heart a little, and makes us aware of the fine quali-

ty of law enforcement we have here in Florida.

- FD, Seminole County

Editor:

The September/October issue of *The Star* is the best issue I can remember reading. What ever is different, keep it up.

- GM, Palm Beach County



### Star Briefs



#### Palm Beach County Salutes Military Heroes

In September, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office held a ceremony to honor their Sheriff's employees who have been recalled to active military duty since Sept. 11, 2001. Sixty-seven sheriff's employees, many of them wearing their military uniforms, were recognized at the ceremony. More than 300 people attended, including PBSO employees, family members and state and local elected officials.

Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw addressed the group, and County Commission Chair Tony Masilotti read a proclamation honoring the military reservists. The ceremony included a presentation of

American flags from Afghanistan and Baghdad to Sheriff Bradshaw from various military members who had served in those theatres of war. The gathering was concluded with a prayer and helicopter fly-over from the PBSO Aviation Unit.

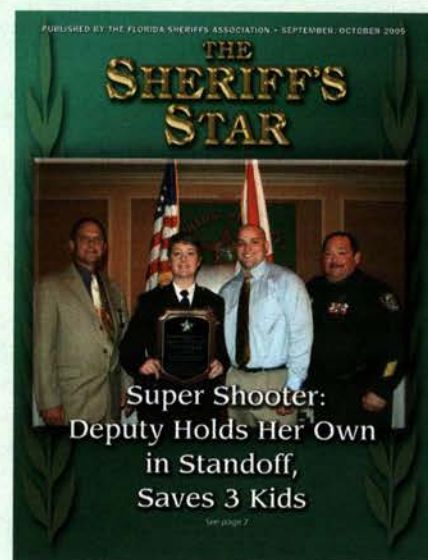
U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw addressed the audience at a luncheon following the ceremony, and each reservist received "The Patriot's Medal," from Sheriff Bradshaw. ☆

#### Polk and Pasco County Deputies and Winter Haven Police Officer Injured In Iraqi Car Bomb Attack

Polk County Deputy Sheriff Paul Buoniconti, a Marine serving in Iraq, was involved in a serious car bomb attack that nearly claimed his life and those of his friends in Florida law enforcement, Pasco County Sheriff's Deputy Josh Cooley and Winter Haven Police Officer Jose Sanchez.

Deputy Buoniconti was well enough to return to active duty, while Cooley and Sanchez returned to the states for medical treatment.

In a recent e-mail to Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, Deputy Buoniconti said they are "writing history" – and while the



*The Sheriff's Star - Sept./Oct. 2005*

cost of freedom is expensive, he knows there are many who support them and would take their place, if possible. Those, he said, "...we take...into battle with us."

In response, Sheriff Judd says, "I am asking that we remember Paul (Buoniconti), Jose Sanchez, Josh Cooley and their fellow troops in our thoughts and prayers. They are fighting for our freedom and the freedom of others across the world - they are truly our heroes." ☆



After a Bonifay Kiwanis Club member heard a child safety program on the radio, Bay County Sheriff's Office Deputy Nicki Vickers was invited to cross county lines and bring the presentation to their club. Little did the Kiwanians know, they would get a package deal: Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen (right) also attended, along with Holmes County Sheriff Dennis Lee.



## Considering Charitable Giving? Beware of What Telephone Solicitors Don't Tell You

By  
Sgt. Rick Hord  
Okaloosa  
County Sheriff's  
Office



"When being solicited by charities – especially toward the end of the year, when you're looking for write-offs – I encourage you to do your research and give wisely."



"If you send me \$10, I'll give \$3 to charity."

Telephone solicitors don't say that, but almost all of them should.

Only a very small number of the people who ring your telephone asking for donations are volunteers. The overwhelming majority are paid professionals. In defending the practice, charities point to the thousands, even millions of dollars that telephone solicitation generates for their programs. Most charities have neither the resources nor the volunteers to conduct their own large-scale fundraising, so they turn to outsourcing. For them, telephone solicitation works... in fact, many say it's the only thing that works.

To find out how much the solicitors are making, go to the Florida Division of Consumer Services' extraordinarily useful Website: [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). At the bottom of the page, click on "Gift Givers Guide."

Checking the two charities that have recently called me at home yielded these results: Charity No.

1 raised \$3.1 million last year; their solicitation firm kept \$2.4 million, or 78 percent. Charity No. 2 collected \$112,000, of which almost \$105,000, or 82 percent, went to the solicitors.

When being solicited by charities – especially toward the end of the year, when you're looking for write-offs – I encourage you to do your research and give wisely.

### Your charity-related questions

We are sometimes asked:

**Q.** The charity that called me is listed in the Gift Givers Guide. Does that mean it's legitimate?

**A.** It means the organization has registered with the state of Florida as a charity and is legally authorized to solicit in this state. It does *not* mean the charity is endorsed by the state of Florida.

**Q.** The organization called me even though I'm on the "no-call" list. How did that happen?

**A.** The no-solicitation list bans commercial calls, not charities. Still, many charities will honor your wish to not be solicited by phone, if you've registered your number. In addition, most charities will respect your wishes if you tell them not call again.

**Q.** I looked in the Gift Givers Guide but couldn't find the group that called me. What does that mean?

**A.** Many charities have similar-sounding names, so it can be a challenge to find the correct listing in some cases. Educational, religious, government and political activities are not required to register and

won't be in the book. Solicitations for a specific individual or family need are also exempt from the registration requirement, so they won't be in the book, either.

**Q.** Does the Sheriff's Office or Police Department ever solicit donations?

**A.** No.

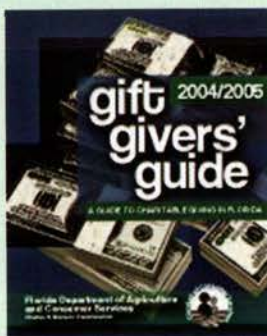
**Q.** Then who keeps calling claiming to be affiliated with law enforcement?

**A.** These groups are classified as "sponsors," which Florida law defines as "a group or person which is or holds itself out to be soliciting contributions by the use of any name which implies that the group or person is in any way affiliated with or organized for the benefit of emergency service employees or law enforcement officers and which is not a charitable organization." It should be noted that the Florida Sheriffs Association *never* solicits by phone.

**Q.** What does your Sheriff's Office recommend about making donations?

**A.** Before parting with your hard-earned money, you should know exactly how your dollars will be used... and that is information that you will not likely learn in a telephone call, especially since the caller is collecting mostly for himself.

*Send your crime prevention and personal safety questions to Rick Hord, c/o Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, 1250 Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32357-1234 or via e-mail: [rhord@sheriff-okaloosa.org](mailto:rhord@sheriff-okaloosa.org)*







# SHERIFFS' OFFICE REPORTS

## Sarasota Cracks Identity Theft/Counterfeit Check Ring

SARASOTA COUNTY - Sarasota County Sheriff's Detectives, assisted by United States Postal Inspectors, arrested seven individuals during an initial investigation of an identity theft/counterfeit check ring.

The investigation centers on the theft of personal identification and checking account information through various means—most significantly mail and vehicle theft, and residential burglary. Once the information was stolen it was provided to ringleader Theodis Peterson who would then use it to manufacture fraudulent checks on a home computer utilizing commercially available software. The check would then be passed at local banks, grocery stores and businesses using stolen identification, or in some cases, even the criminals' own identification.

The suspects would normally keep the check amounts below \$100 dollars so as not to raise suspicion and circumvent anti-fraud protocols in place at most businesses. The group would do this several times a day at numerous locations in Sarasota County. The losses are expected to exceed \$50,000.

The investigation is still ongoing. Additional arrests are expected on both state and federal charges. In addition to charges related to the ring, other charges for those arrested included: an outstanding warrant for battery on a law-enforcement officer, vehicle burglary, violation of probation, driving while license was suspended, burglary and credit card fraud.

- Lt. Chuck Lesaltato, Sarasota County Sheriff's Media Office

## Santa Rosa Makes Arrest on Multiple Bank Robbery Suspect

SANTA ROSA COUNTY - The Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office was called September 26 in reference to a bank robbery at the First National Bank in Navarre. A white female suspect had walked into the bank and stated that she had a firearm and demanded money. She left with an undisclosed amount of currency.

Witnesses described a late model red Chevrolet Blazer being driven by a white female suspect leaving the scene. Shortly after the robbery, a Traffic Unit deputy located the vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The suspect fled at a high rate of speed, ignoring directions to stop. A chase ensued throughout different parts of Navarre, Holley, Milton City, Bagdad, Garcon Point and Avalon Boulevard.

An Escambia Air Unit was a vital part of the chase, enabling officers to back away from the suspect's vehicle, while remaining close by to apprehend her. Other agencies also assisted, including Milton City Police, the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Wildlife Commission.

The suspect vehicle turned on to a dead-end street just north of the Garcon Point Toll Booth and struck another vehicle. She continued to drive and turned into a private drive. The suspect then bailed out of the vehicle and ran on foot. Sheriff's Office K-9 handler Deputy Adam Teichner utilized his K-9, Kai, to apprehend and arrest the suspect.

There were no injuries to any officers, and no serious injuries to either the suspect or other motorist involved in the collision. The suspect was transported to the hospital

to be medically cleared before being taken to the Santa Rosa County Jail. Sheriff's Office investigators strongly believe that this suspect was responsible for the recent string of bank robberies throughout Escambia County.

- Sgt. Scott Haines, Santa Rosa Sheriff's Office Media Relations Unit

## Sheriff Hansell to Host First Meth Lab Workshop in Osceola County

OSCEOLA COUNTY - Due to the increase in meth lab seizures, especially in hotel rooms, Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell hosted the county's first Methamphetamine Workshop.

The inaugural program, part of a series of workshops, was open to all hotel and motel owners, managers and employees. The focus was to help hospitality industry workers recognize meth labs and provide resources to report the crime.

Coordinated by the Osceola County Investigative Bureau and co-sponsored by the Radisson Resort Hotel and Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the training was led by law-enforcement professionals.

Osceola County has experienced a noticeable increase in the use, distribution and manufacture of methamphetamines. Four years ago, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office reported finding five meth labs in the community during one calendar year. Already in 2005, OCSO has uncovered 13 meth labs in the county – three of them in local hotels and motels.

- Twis H. Lizasuain, Osceola County Sheriff's Office Director of Public and Media Relations





# Polk Delivering Crime- Fighting Message Via TV, E-mail

By Michal Shanley  
Public Information Officer  
Polk County Sheriff's Office

Every successful law-enforcement agency recognizes that one of the keys to success in the fight against crime is forming a positive working partnership with the community it serves. With this goal in mind, the Polk County Sheriff's Office has hit the ground running with a number of new and innovative ways to reach out and communicate with the citizens of the county.

One new and successful project is the production of a monthly television show that is aired on the county's government access cable channel. The new program, "Polk Sheriff 24/7," premiered in April 2005 and garnered positive response from the community. The monthly half-hour program showcases the various facets of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, offering viewers a first-hand look at the agency's crime-fighting operations.

Polk Sheriff Grady Judd says, "Here at the Polk Sheriff's Office, we work around the clock to keep citizens safe. And this new show, 'Polk Sheriff 24/7,' offers a unique opportunity for citizens of this county to get to know us a little better."

He adds that fighting crime and keeping the citizens safe are his highest priorities, and he says he



Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd appears on his new television show, "Polk Sheriff 24/7." He says the half-hour program – which is written, directed, taped and produced by his employees – is an effective tool for reaching the community with his crime-fighting message.

believes the new TV show will offer viewers the chance to actively join the Sheriff's Office in that fight.

## *Format delivers*

Through the monthly program, viewers will get to meet the Polk Sheriff's Office team – the deputy sheriffs who patrol the streets, detention deputies who keep criminals in jail and those who work behind the scenes to make it all happen. Specialty units such as K-9, crime scene, aviation, detectives and more also are featured.

Each 30-minute show includes features on current Sheriff's Office programs and events, and a "spotlight" on a Sheriff's Office unit or member. Most importantly, the show features a crime prevention segment with helpful tips to help keep residents safe. The show also encourages the community's help and input through a segment that highlights the county's most wanted criminals, in an effort to get dangerous criminals off the streets.

The TV show – which is written, directed, taped and produced by

Sheriff's Office personnel – is just one of the many new innovative ways the Polk Sheriff's Office is reaching out to the community.

In another effort, the Polk Sheriff's Office recently sent out the inaugural edition of "The Cyber Star" e-newsletter to more than 850 interested citizens. The monthly e-newsletter provides residents with updates on Sheriff's Office activities and highlights useful information. The first edition received much positive feedback and additional subscribers signed up as recipients forwarded the e-mail to friends and family.

"Providing our citizens with useful and relevant information is key in forming stronger and more productive partnerships in the fight against crime," said Sheriff Judd. "These new programs are highly effective ways to reach out to the community and drive home our crime-fighting message in a way never seen before." ☛



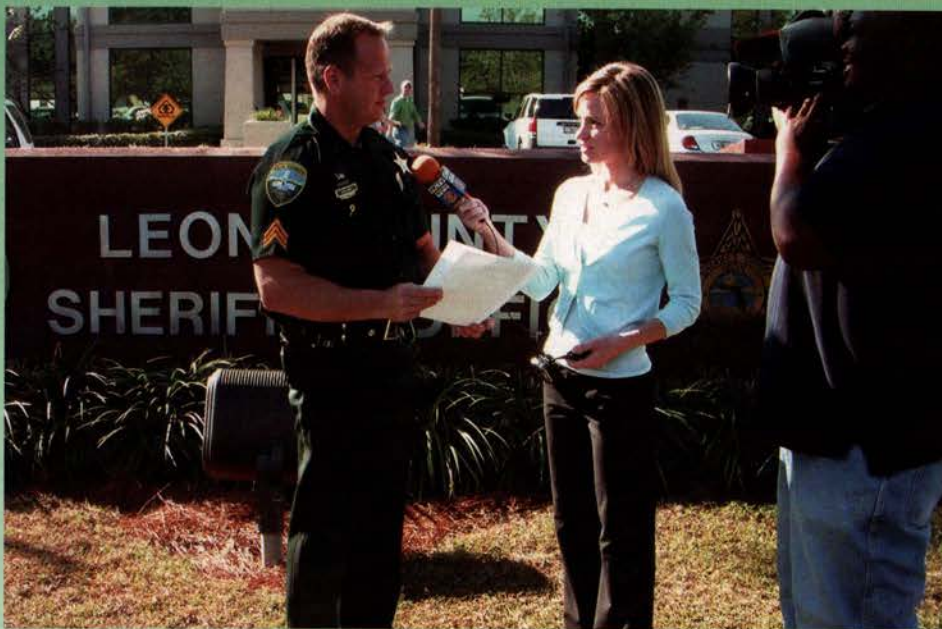
# Winning through a Partnership with the Media "Most Wanted"

By Sgt. Chris Chase  
Public Information Officer  
Leon County Sheriff's Office

Many of us remember when "America's Most Wanted" and other crime reality shows kicked off, which led to a national interest in helping law enforcement "get the bad guy." Through this outlet, many Sheriffs' Offices have teamed up with their respective local media to further their efforts in solving crimes. Numerous cases have been solved through programs such as "Crime Stoppers," and as the numbers of these type programs grow, so does the community participation.

In Tallahassee, the Leon County Sheriff's Office has taken the concept of getting the community involved one step further. In February of 2005, the Public Information Office created a partnership with the local CBS and Fox affiliates to create a "Most Wanted" segment on the nightly news. This program began by profiling subjects who were local residents with active arrest warrants based on cases in our Criminal Investigations Bureau.

Many of the first "wanted" subjects profiled were arrested because of tips from callers. The "Most Wanted" segment began growing in popularity. In tracking the cases, we found a trend. It seemed that the majority of tips came in when the "Most Wanted" person was sought for violent crimes. To continue in a productive direction, we adapted the program to focus on violence-related cases and made Deputy Sam Bruce the point person to receive leads.



Leon County Sheriff's Office PIO, Sgt. Chris Chase, is interviewed by Fox and CBS television field reporter Laura Kadechka for a follow up story from the Sheriff's Office "Most Wanted" segment, featured on the nightly news. Videographer is Freelan Patterson.

## A TV personality

Deputy Bruce is assigned to the North Florida Violent Fugitive Task Force, which is under the jurisdiction of the United States Marshal Service and serves our local region. The task force is given cases based on the type of charge or charges issued and the ability of the agency to locate the wanted person. Many of the task force's cases involve subjects that local agencies just can't find. The task force is comprised of Deputy U.S. Marshals, Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents, Tallahassee Police Department officers and Leon County Sheriff's deputies. By making Deputy Bruce the contact person for the "Most Wanted," we were able to have a steady supply of violent subjects.

Soon after Deputy Bruce became the contact person, we saw an increase in community interest. On a typical segment, immediately following the profiling we listed a phone number to speak directly to Deputy Bruce. Tips continue to come at a steady rate. To date, Deputy Bruce has received information on every wanted person we've profiled, except one. And the information is solid; almost all tips have proved legitimate and have been

verified through other means.

More important: Many of the arrests have been influenced directly by tips received through the program. Currently, the arrest rate on profiled wanted people is 60 percent – quite an accomplishment, considering many of the subjects were at large when profiled.

As the segment's popularity grew, we found another common factor. When we provided a generic contact or gave a detective's name as the contact for leads (vs. Deputy Bruce), we received fewer tips, if any at all. We determined that the community wanted to give their tips to a person they are familiar with—someone they had come to know and trust.

In response to this evidence, we did a feature story about Deputy Bruce to increase the name recognition and link it to his image. After the story aired, Deputy Bruce found more people recognized him in the community, saying such things as, "I know you, you're Sam Bruce." They would often share information on a suspect recently profiled.

This also worked to LCSO's benefit in other ways. Many of the profiled subjects have actually turned themselves in immediately follow-



ing their "15 minutes of fame." Deputy Bruce has received calls from wanted subjects, their attorneys and even a woman wanting to schedule the surrender of her son.

Deputy Bruce laughingly reflects on that particular case. It seems the mother and her son were sitting on the couch watching television when she saw her son profiled. "Mama didn't know anything about the warrants," Deputy Bruce says, "and she was not happy."

#### *Growing without incentive*

In a day and time where technology is leading the way in how law enforcement does business, this program sticks out as an anomaly. The reason the program works so well is because it's law enforcement at its most basic form. A community that knows and trusts its law-enforcement officials is far more eager to share information and assist.

Think about the old Sheriff Andy Taylor and Mayberry community relationship from television. It is



not too far fetched to try to create this relationship with a community by giving them a person behind the authority, not a government agency.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about LCSO's "Most Wanted" segment is there is no pot of money waiting to pay for information. Occasionally, a profiled subject is wanted through the T.H.U.G.S. program (Taking Hoodlums Using Guns Seriously) and there is some reward available, but with the majority of them there is not.

This is not a mercenary "inform-

ant for hire" program. It is citizens giving information because it's the right thing to do.

Adding to the program's popularity has been the publicity that follows segments – stories about the arrests. Fox and CBS field reporter Laura Kadechka was the first media person to express an interest in the program, and she has continued to do stories on profiled suspects that are arrested.

By partnering with our media outlets, Leon County Sheriff's Office is generating positive results in many areas, including promoting a better working relationship with the community. It's also helping to mend and strengthen relationships with the media that haven't always been positive. In our Sheriff's view, that's a winning combination.

*Sgt. Chris Chase can be reached via e-mail: ChaseC@mail.co.leon.fl.us or by phone: (850) 922-0732. ☛*

### **Star Briefs**

## **Lake County Mourns Death of Retired Deputy**

The Lake County law-enforcement community and beyond are mourning the loss of recently retired, 55-year-old Claude Allen Gnann.

Gnann, who retired in October 2004 as Major in command of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Operations Division, enjoyed the respect and admiration of law-enforcement personnel as well as the citizens of Lake County. His position at retirement put him second behind former Sheriff Fred Cobb.

Gnann and his wife, Lyndia, had determined to spend the first 10 years of retirement aboard his 38-foot boat, "The Navy Blue." He expected to use all he learned in Navy training, captaining his boat on a trip around the world.



*Major Gnann*

However, shortly after the couple had put in to the island of Grenada, Gnann suffered a fatal heart attack.

Upon his retirement, Major Gnann had received letters of appreciation for his years of service from President George Bush and Sen. Bill Nelson. The many official acts Gnann performed over his 27 years at the Sheriff's Office – and personal acts of kindness – earned him a two-inch-thick stack of letters

of appreciation from citizens and Sheriff's Office superiors alike.

A Lake County native, Gnann's maternal ancestors homesteaded the county more than a century ago. His family also had close ties to the Sheriff's Office: his father was a decades-long chief bailiff and his mother was the dietitian at the county jail.

Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels recalls Gnann spending hours reading nautical journals, manuals and magazines. Sheriff's Sergeant of Internal Affairs Ron Patton said of Gnann, "He was, through it all, a mentor of others, striving to show his fellow workers and outsiders a better way. He was always helping others and if he couldn't find an answer, he'd find someone who could."

Major Gnann will be sorely missed.

*- William Stokes, on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office ☛*



# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



## HONOR ROLL



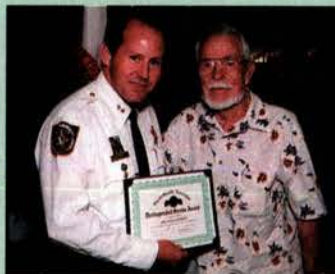
**BREVARD COUNTY** – Gold Business Member award presented by Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker to Dr. James T. Nichols.

This awards program gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association. Certificates are given to those who have been Honorary Members for 25 years or more. A special "Lifetime Honorary Member" plaque is reserved for those individuals who give \$2,500 or more and for law enforcement personnel who have served at least 40 years. Business leaders who support the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities are recognized with plaques and yearly renewals at the following levels: Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) and Bronze (\$50). For membership information, please email us: [membership@flsheriffs.org](mailto:membership@flsheriffs.org) or visit our website: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org)



Jose R. Arenas

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee to Jose R. Arenas, Jack L. Benson, Stanley Krick, Guido R. Massimei, Edwin P. Palz and Elwin A. Stone.



Jack L. Benson



Harold Foster Dukes

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee to Harold Foster Dukes and Lt. Colonel Valentine Krug.



Lt. Colonel Valentine Krug



Stanley Krick



Guido R. Massimei



Edwin P. Palz



Elwin A. Stone



Robert & Ruth Lee

**CLAY COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Robert & Ruth Lee and 25-year certificate to Robert Lenz.



Lenz



**BAY COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Mr. and Mrs. Travis Scott.



**POLK COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Thomas M. Willard.



**OSCEOLA COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Boyd E. Sprinkle.



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee to Herbert J. Kimpland.



**VOLUSIA COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Dr. David Rauschenberger.



**VOLUSIA COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Colonel Robert Scott.



# FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

## HONOR ROLL



CLAY COUNTY – Presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to CCSO Captain Jimmy Wilson.



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 ❖

#### New Lifetime Honorary Members from 9/8/2005 – 10/24/2005.

**Able Body Labor**  
Mrs. Kathleen A. Barbee  
Ms. Lea Beeson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Behnke  
Ms. Carol Branom  
Cinnamon Sticks Restaurant & Bakery Company  
Ms. Kathleen W. Clark  
Ms. A. Louise Cooney  
Mr. Jack E. Corliss  
Dep. Brian Curry  
Mr. Jerry R. Davis  
Ms. Betty J. Dean  
Mr. Gerald W. Dyes  
Farrow and Pulice P.A.  
Flir Systems Inc.  
Sgt. Fryer  
Hasty Greene Investments, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Heidenreich, Jr.  
Lt. James W. Hicks, Jr.  
Mr. Hal Hill  
Lt. Kenneth R. Hinds  
Ms. Jacqueline D. Hubbs  
Cpl. Richard A. Jahnke  
Mrs. Geraldine E. Langlois  
Sgt. Brian Lapointe  
Ms. Marion L. Lozier  
Lt. Ronald F. McCrimmon  
Ms. Patricia A. Medlock  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Mihok, Jr.  
Mr. Bong R. Moon  
Dr. and Mrs. William C. Morgan  
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Pereira  
Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Pressley  
Mr. Robert E. Rhine  
Mrs. Mary E. Riley



Ernest McDaniel



Donald Parot

CLAY COUNTY – Presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Ernest McDaniel, Donald Parot, and the Suncatcher Sams Club, represented by James Schmidt.



James Schmidt

ALACHUA COUNTY – Presented by FSyr President Roger Bouchard (left) to Senator Rod Smith (D-Gainesville) and his wife, Dee Dee (not pictured). Senator Smith is a former member of the Youth Ranches Board of Directors.



Mr. and Mrs. John S. Robinson  
Dr. H. L. Rubin  
Saint James Episcopal Mission  
Mr. Paul W. Smith  
Mr. Charles Stoll, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Treadwell  
Treasure Coast Construction Consulting, Inc.  
U. S. Risk, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Van Scoy  
Dep. John H. Welch  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Werner  
Mrs. Jimmie Ruth Wheeler  
Mr. Milan H. Williams  
Capt. Jimmy Wilson



BAY COUNTY – Presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Lt. Ricky Tolbert.



LAKE COUNTY – Presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Susan Bowden.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY – Presented by Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton to Robert Fletcher and Margery Sella.



Margery Sella



MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Russell F. Anderberg, III.



LEE COUNTY – Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Capt. William Perri.



Continued from page 17



Kathleen Davis

**SARASOTA COUNTY**  
– Presented by  
Sarasota County  
Sheriff Bill Balkwill  
to Kathleen Davis  
and the Venice  
Gardens  
Homeowners  
Association mem-  
bers, represented  
by (from left) Joan  
Lanum, Virginia  
Smith and Shirley  
Snowden.



Venice Gardens Homeowners  
Association members



**VOLUSIA COUNTY** – Presented by  
Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson  
to Gene Neithold.

## The Saga of Pogy Bill

By Victor R. Silvestri

If someone mentions "Okeechobee," most people think of the largest freshwater lake in Florida, and the third-largest in the nation. There is also a town by the same name, and it just happens to be the county seat of Okeechobee County.

The lake has its share of history. During the Indian war days, it became the favorite hideout for the Seminoles, deep within the Everglades. It also used to provide many boatloads of catfish for the commercial markets in Miami and Palm Beach. In 1928, the lake was struck by a Category 4 hurricane; a monster storm that caused the lake to overflow and wash out the farms that were thriving on the fertile muckland around its shores. To prevent a repeat of the disaster, the Army Corps of Engineers was ordered to build huge dikes and levees around the lake to hold back the water and to dig several canals to drain off the water. That was the beginning of the end for commercial fishing.

Before all that happened, Okeechobee had become the adopted hometown of a legendary catfish fishing captain named William Collins, who owned several fishing boats and provided work for many families. Known as "Pogy Bill" to most everyone, this fisherman was also a kind of Robin Hood figure. His favorite pastime was giving away food and clothes to the poor folks around the lake. But the wonder is – how did he

ever find the time? You see, Pogy Bill was also the Town Marshal for Okeechobee. He had married Eddie Merle Dupree, the daughter of Horace Dupree, but they never had children so he sought to fill that gap in his life by sponsoring a Boy Scout troop that he led in the Christmas parade by beating on a snare drum.

### Drifter

You could call Pogy Bill a "good ol' boy," except that, in an autobiographical account, he claimed he was born on a boat in the harbor of Sidney, Australia. How he arrived in America is a mystery, and even more intriguing are the questions of how and why he chose the Lake Okeechobee town of Sand Cut, now located in Palm Beach County, to settle in.

But, after he got there, he certainly made his presence known. Initially, according to legend, he made his living as a prizefighter – in a sport we now call boxing. A notorious practical joker, he sometimes exceeded the legal limits and once was sentenced to 90 days in jail for one of his exploits, but talked his way out by apologizing to the justice of the peace.

His glib tongue kept him out of serious trouble and, during the days of prohibition, Pogy Bill progressed in his chosen career of law enforcement by becoming the elected Sheriff of Okeechobee County. He hired out his fishing boats and continued his philanthropic ways, giving alms to the needy. Sadly, he got himself entangled with the federal government

because he personally did not agree with prohibition in all its aspects. He was not a teetotaler, but he kept the bootleggers and moonshiners under control in his own fashion – regulating their population and not allowing booze to be sold openly at the post office.

The federal authorities did not tolerate this laissez-faire attitude toward law enforcement. Pogy Bill was soon arrested for his misfeasance, not once, but twice. The first time he beat the rap, but the second time he was convicted and sentenced to six years at Raiford. He appealed, and the verdict was reduced to three years probation.

Not allowed to be Sheriff any longer, he moved to Frostproof and became the Chief of Police. When the same job came open in Indiantown, he moved there and was not only the Chief of Police but also a volunteer fireman. He seemed contented with his new life, but tragedy lurked close by. In 1934 or 1935, Fire Chief and former Sheriff William "Pogy Bill" Collins died in the line of duty when he fell off his fire engine and was run over.

*Editor's note: According to the book, "Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945," William Collins served as Sheriff of Okeechobee County from 1919 to 1921, and again from 1925 to 1930.*

*To contribute to development of the "Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs," send letters to: Victor Silvestri, 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defunyak Springs, FL 32435-8972 or e-mail: summers@gdsys.net. ☛*



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8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) <b>FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION 2617 MAHAN DRIVE TALLAHASSEE, LEON, FLORIDA 32308-5405</b>		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) <b>GARY E. PERKINS 2617 MAHAN DRIVE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON, FLORIDA 32308-5405</b>		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) <b>JULIE S. BETTINGER 2617 MAHAN DRIVE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON, FLORIDA 32308-5405</b>		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) <b>FRANK J. JONES 2617 MAHAN DRIVE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON, FLORIDA 32308-5405</b>		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
<b>FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>2617 MAHAN DRIVE</b>	
	<b>TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32308-5405</b>	
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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (See Instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title <b>THE SHERIFF'S STAR</b>	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below <b>July/August 2005</b>	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	<b>117,759</b>	<b>110,422</b>
(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	<b>113,081</b>	<b>106,625</b>
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	<b>113,081</b>	<b>106,625</b>
d. Free Distribution by Mail		
(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,406</b>
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e.)	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,406</b>
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f.)	<b>115,655</b>	<b>109,031</b>
h. Copies not Distributed	<b>2,104</b>	<b>1,391</b>
i. Total (Sum of 15g and h.)	<b>117,759</b>	<b>110,422</b>
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g, times 100)	<b>97.8</b>	<b>97.8</b>
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the <b>Nov/Dec 2005</b> issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>Frank J. Jones, Managing Editor</i> Date <b>Sept. 29, 2005</b>		

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
- In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
- Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
- Item 15h, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
- If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
- In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
- Item 17 must be signed.

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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

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Has your address changed? Please send us . . .

. . . your new address so that you'll continue to receive *The Sheriff's Star*. And please remember to let us know when moving again.

We don't want to lose you as a valuable member, but if your address has been changed, you may not be receiving your FSA mailings.

Please take a moment to check the mailing label on the back cover of this magazine. If your address is different in any way, let us know.

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### RETURN TO:

The Florida Sheriffs Association  
P.O. Box 12519  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (850) 878-8665

E-mail: [membership@flsheriffs.org](mailto:membership@flsheriffs.org)

Or call us at (800) 877-2168

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Style # 4500  
MEN'S GOLD BAND  
Face No. 3

Style # 4200  
WOMEN'S GOLD BAND  
Face No. 3

Style # 4502  
MEN'S TWO-TONE BAND  
Face No. 2

Style # 4202  
WOMEN'S  
TWO-TONE BAND  
Face No. 2

NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring a beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style are available in both all gold or gold/steel two-tone as depicted. In addition to the gold and two-tone bands, we also offer all silver. Also displayed are the patriotic Flag watches. These are available in three background faces: Face 1 - Gold; Face 2 - Silver and Face 3 - Black. All watches carry a 6-year limited warranty from the date of purchase against failures due to defective materials or workmanship. Gold or two-tone bands can be purchased with either of the four available faces. Style 4500 denotes men's gold band; 4502 denotes men's two-tone band; 4503 denotes men's all silver band. Style 4200, 4202 and 4203 are the women's gold, two-tone and silver respectively.

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

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

Style # Flag  
MEN'S  
GOLD BAND  
Face No. 1

NOT SHOWN  
Style # Flag Black  
Face No. 3

Style # Flag  
WOMEN'S  
TWO-TONE BAND  
Face No. 2

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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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Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Green ( size S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ )

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Flag Style Watches Face: ☐ Gold-1 ☐ Silver-2 ☐ Black-3

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

CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN  
with multi-colored embroidery including  
metallic gold thread, adjustable band



Honorary Member LAPEL PIN  
7/8" die cast metal with  
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11oz. COFFEE MUGS  
white color, with multi colored logo and  
green bands listing all 67 counties