

# THE SHERIFF'S STAR



## Madison's John Sleigher Wins Deputy Sheriff of the Year

From left, Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher, Deputy John Sleigher, Jr., his wife and daughters, Suzanne, Sarah and Rebecca. Story page 6.

### Also in this issue:

### FSA Thanks Legislators!

From left, FSA President  
Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary,  
Rep. Everett Rice (R-Indian Shores),  
Hillsborough County Sheriff Jim Coats.  
See page 4.





## *From the desk of . . .*

*Gary Perkins, Executive Director  
Florida Sheriffs Association*



**M**any of the benefits the Florida Sheriffs Association offers citizens in this state come through our organization's networking.

Any law enforcement officer will tell you that the most powerful tool for solving crime is intelligence.

"Intel," as it's called, is gathered from a variety of sources. Law enforcement agencies work across local jurisdictions, state lines and even national borders to get the details they need to solve crime. The recent news of a suspect captured in the Jon Benet case is a prime example.

The Florida Sheriffs Association functions very much like an "intel" organization. We are one of many partners working together to make our communities safer and our borders secure. We help bring other partners to the table, as needed, for everything from disaster preparedness training (example: FSA Task Force) to bulk purchasing (example: vehicle/fleet management and insurance).

More recently, we have been partnering with other large state associations in the name of stronger law enforcement. FSA has a reputation of getting things done and that's why associations often seek us out.

For example, following the series of hurricanes in the past, we worked with the Florida Retail Federation to get "letters of passage" for retail store owners to get to their places of business and get products on their shelves so they could help the communities recover more quickly.

FSA also seeks out assistance from other associations. For example, we turned to the Florida Restaurant Association when we needed to arrange lodging and meals for first responders in hurricane-affected areas.

### *State level assistance*

Our ongoing partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is well known, but we also partner with state agencies that are less obvious. In recent years, we have built a stronger relationship with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to solve crimes such as cargo theft and drug smuggling.

Agricultural Commissioner Charlie Bronson

attends our conferences and encourages this partnership because of our reputation. Commissioner Bronson's agency is in charge of vehicle check points on Interstates throughout Florida and must call on the Sheriffs frequently. As they inspect shipments and weigh trucks, they often discover people hiding in boxes (illegal aliens), drugs or stolen goods.

Many people don't realize it, but the Department of Agriculture is also the state's leading consumer advocate. They work on behalf of special groups affected by crime, including the elderly and college students, and Sheriffs Offices are often called to assist with these efforts.

### *Financial stakes*

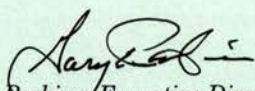
At our last Mid-Winter conference, we paved the way for the Florida Bankers Association to tell the Sheriffs about their "Fraudnet," which is a tool to combat the runaway problem of fraud in this state. Time in front of the Sheriffs at our business meeting is a premium, but FSA recognized the value in hosting the Bankers and encouraging the Sheriffs to utilize the FBA's investigative resources.

Our vendors at conferences are also considered "partners against crime." Year after year, FSA attracts record numbers of exhibitors to its twice a year conferences because they value the networking and partnerships that result.

These dedicated companies spend long hours on the exhibitor floor to introduce the latest technology and crime-fighting tools to the Sheriffs. Most Sheriffs attend the gathering with the specific intention of reviewing products and services that can enhance their agencies. And many make purchases because of time invested at the conference.

Of course, the "partnership" we value most is with the Honorary, Business and Law Enforcement members of the Florida Sheriffs Association. If not for you, FSA would not be in the strong position it enjoys today with these other groups.

And for that, we are extremely grateful.

  
Gary Perkins, Executive Director



## Pinellas Introduces Technology to Detect Stolen Cars

By Mac McMullen  
Public Information Specialist II  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Pinellas County Deputies recently acquired a new tool to detect stolen vehicles and license plates. The tool, known as the License Plate Recognition (LPR) system, photographs license plates then compares them to a list of stolen vehicles and license plates. Once the photograph of the plate is captured, it is displayed on the deputy's laptop for review. If the plate or the vehicle is reported as stolen, within milliseconds, the system sounds an alarm.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office administrators say that the plate information collected by the Deputies is not stored in a database. Each day more than 125,000 updated files of stolen cars and license plates are provided to the PCSO by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. When the Deputies begin their day, they generate a new hot list. License plates captured during the previous shift are deleted.

The systems, built by Remington Elsas Law Enforcement Systems, cost \$20,000 each. PCSO has four: Two were funded by federal technology grants earmarked by U.S. Rep.



Bill Young and two others were funded by the state Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

The LPR system consists of two cameras that are mounted on the vehicle using magnets, plus a processor. These systems are installed on both marked and unmarked patrol cars. Incredibly, the cameras can read license plates of cars operating in up to four lanes of traffic, depending on the camera's angle, which is determined by the Deputy.

According to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office System Analyst Scott McCallum, the LPR system operates "hands free," which enhances Deputy safety by allowing them to keep focused on driving while it's working. In a single shift, a deputy can check up to 10,000 cars. Without the system, Deputies must "run" tags by manually typing the tag numbers into a laptop while still operating their patrol car.

PCSO Sgt. Mike Peasley says they are extremely efficient. "Normally I

can run about 20 cars a night using the manual system," he says. "The first night out with the License Plate Recognition System, I checked over 1,400 cars." It's fast and accurate, too, he says.

Pinellas Sheriff Jim Coats saw the license plate technology demonstrated at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference held last October in Miami and was impressed with its capabilities. His Technical Services Division evaluated multiple LPR systems available and recommended the Remington Elsas system as the most effective and suitable for their needs. One convincing testimony came from an Ohio State law-enforcement agency that credited it for increasing vehicle recoveries by 50 percent.

Sheriff Coats is optimistic and says he expects to see an increase in the recovery of stolen vehicles and arrests for theft. He said his agency is seeking additional grant funding to equip more Pinellas County Sheriff's patrol cars in the near future.

For information on this story, please contact: Mac McMullen, Public Information Specialist II, via e-mail: [mmcmullen@pcsonet.com](mailto:mmcmullen@pcsonet.com), or call (727) 582-6292 ☛

## THE SHERIFF'S STAR

Publisher

Gary Perkins, Executive Director,  
Florida Sheriffs Association  
Editor Julie S. Bettinger  
Graphic Design Frank J. Jones  
In memory of Carl Stauffer

The Florida Sheriffs Association  
does not raise funds by telephone.

JULY/AUGUST 2006, VOLUME 50, NUMBER 4



Published since 1929 by the Florida Sheriffs Association (founded in 1893)

The Sheriff's Star is published six times per year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October and November/December) by the Florida Sheriffs Association, a non-profit corporation, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519 (street address, 2617 Mahan Drive). The subscription rate is \$5 per year and the publication number is USPS 493-980. Periodicals postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Please send address corrections to The Sheriff's Star, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519. Copyright © 2006 by Florida Sheriffs Association. ISSN 0488-6186

E-mail: [jbettinger@flsheriffs.org](mailto:jbettinger@flsheriffs.org) Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org>  
Phone (800) 877-2168 Local (850) 877-2165 Fax (850) 878-8665

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 TOLL FREE, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. OUR NUMBER IS SC-00915.



From left, FSA Government Consultant Frank Messersmith, Fla. Rep. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness), FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary



From left, FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, Fla. Sen. Rod Smith (D-Gainesville), Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson

## FSA Thanks Legislators



Fla. Rep. Pat Patterson (R-Deland) (left) with Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson



Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels (left) and Fla. Rep. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla)



Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner, Rep. Ray Sansom (R-Ft. Walton Beach), FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary

During the 60-day spring legislative session, lawmakers must gain a working knowledge of more than 3,000 different bills. One legislator said he tried to keep track of how many different topics he had conversations about in a single day and lost count at 200.

These statewide issues represent hundreds of interests— and law-enforcement is just one of them. Because of term limits, there's less time to build a personal history with a legislator, which means it's more critical than ever that the Florida Sheriffs have a presence in the Capitol. They must spend time with legislators, raising their awareness level on issues critical to public safety and helping them understand the negative impact of laws proposed by various special-interest groups.

Following the 2006 legislative session, the Florida Sheriffs wants to offer special thanks to lawmakers who gave us extra consideration — providing time on their schedule to listen, sponsoring bills and showing hospitality to the visiting Sheriffs in their Tallahassee offices.

To all Florida lawmakers: We appreciate what you do. And we look forward to forging even stronger relationships with you in the years to come. ★



From left, FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, Rep. Don Brown (R-DeFuniak), Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris



From left, FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, Rep. Everett Rice (R-Indian Shores), Hillsborough County Sheriff Jim Coats



# Help Wanted: Wives of Law Enforcement Learning to Cope

By Julie S. Bettinger

Anyone associated with law enforcement has probably noticed there's a unique bond between sworn officers. It's a sibling type relationship with a loyalty you rarely see in other professions, except maybe the military.

Many observers speculate that there's something about being willing to lay down your life for others (which we all know law enforcement demonstrates by virtue of their job description) that separates this group of men and women from the rest of us.

It's exactly this bond that often puts a strain on the law enforcement officers' marriage and family.

Being married to a cop comes with its own unique job description. Spouses say they have to live every day in fear of that phone call or that visit from fellow officers or the Sheriff, telling them their loved one has been shot, stabbed or killed by a drunken driver. And they struggle to understand the difficulties of the job and how the stress affects their law officer spouse. Unfortunately, a spouse will often suffer alone, as there are few organized support efforts for families of law enforcement officers. Most law enforcement agencies, too, are lacking in support for the special needs of the family.

Trilby Brannon wants to change that – and she's doing it through a new organization called "Bridges of Hope." The mission of BOH is to support wives of law enforcement officers. Their goal is to "equip and enrich" families through educational and inspirational programs and raise awareness of the unique requirements needed to stay strong and together in spite of the challenges.

"We encourage an outreach that

is positive in celebrating our roles to 'serve and protect' our families and what we stand for," Brannon says.

Bridges of Hope's first gathering was a fall retreat held August 26 at the First Christian Church of Merritt Island. Guest speakers included Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker and his wife, Yvette. The featured keynote speaker was Ellen Kirschman, Ph.D., author of the book, "I Love a Cop."

## ***Pain was the seed***

The idea of a law enforcement support group for wives came out of Brannon's own struggles through her 12-year marriage. At its rockiest in 2005, she says, "I found very little direct support for wives and families of officers." She says she decided to start retreats and create time for wives to be restored, to know they are not alone and have an opportunity to turn around some tough situations.

Brannon's own story is one of desperation and courage. Married to a NARC agent, she says her husband Tony was required to live two separate lives – one as the personality of a drug dealer and the other as a family man.

"The thing about NARC agents is that they are professional liars," Brannon says. "They have to pretend in order to be convincing." Their lingo and behavior must be flawless, or they will be detected, which puts their lives at an even greater risk.

While Brannon says she thought she was adapting to this dual life, it wasn't until a series of health challenges (her own and family members) that she realized there was a problem and she needed assistance. The only people qualified to help were other wives who were married to law enforcement officers and coping. She knew they

had to have their own support group, and so Bridges of Hope was born.

Brannon, who was involved in a music ministry at her church, says that starting the group was not in her plan, but the Lord inspired her and is equipping her to do it.

"He's given me a boldness and confidence I've never had before."

She says she realized that by sharing their stories, and mentoring each other, law enforcement wives can learn the coping skills needed – and they can share them with their husbands, too.

"Bridges of Hope isn't about perfection," she says, "it's about hope. It's about loving people where they are. We're all about education, awareness and networking."

## ***One wife hits rock bottom***

Brannon discovered a sister in this new ministry through the story of Kristi Nygren, who lives in Pinellas County. Nygren had been married to her high school sweetheart Jerry for six years before he joined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. She said she suddenly saw this person who was her best friend become detached and absent from her emotionally. Nygren says that even the birth of their two children didn't change him and she became depressed.

After her husband was involved in a fatal shooting of a suspect, her life began to spiral downward. It triggered emotions she couldn't handle on her own.

She started drinking and became addicted to prescription medication and eventually was arrested. Amazingly, the event that could have devastated their marriage saved it. Her husband stuck by her side and she says their marriage and family are stronger as a result.

Nygren has since been sharing

*Continued on page 10*





From left, Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher, Deputy John Sleigher, Jr., his wife and daughters, Suzanne, Sarah and Rebecca.

## Madison County's John Sleigher Wins Deputy Sheriff of the Year

Every year at its summer conference, the Florida Sheriffs Association presents one of the highest awards and honors given by Sheriffs in this state – the Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

The award is reserved for an outstanding individual who has distinguished himself or herself through exemplary performance of their duties in the previous year. We look for those who serve the office of Sheriff with dedication and devotion.

The job of the committee selecting an individual to receive the award is not an easy one, as numerous nominations are submitted from the 67 Sheriffs' offices for consideration.

After hearing the story about the actions of Madison County Sheriff's Deputy John Sleigher, which led his Sheriff to nominate him, you'll likely agree that he is

worthy of recognition.

### *Domestic incident escalates*

On the night of October 5, 2005, Deputy Sleigher was dispatched to assist in what was reported to be a Verbal Domestic in a rural neighborhood of Madison County. While en route, Deputy Sleigher learned that the call had escalated and the suspect was now holding a knife to his victim's neck.

As he arrived at the address, Deputy Sleigher saw a white female standing at the end of the driveway and holding a baby in her arms. She told the deputy that her mother's boyfriend was inside and he had been threatening her mother. The boyfriend was holding a butcher knife to her mother's throat and said he would kill her if he saw any police.

The woman in the driveway said she had not heard her mother's

voice for some time and assumed he had stabbed her. Then she added, "You're probably going to have to shoot him."

Deputy Sleigher drew his .40 caliber Beretta pistol and prepared to enter a door on the doublewide home. He said his thought was that if the suspect had already killed the victim, then the man might be waiting inside to ambush law enforcement.

What happened next took only about 20 seconds, but as any deputy will tell you, these types of confrontations feel like they last much longer.

The door that Deputy Sleigher entered opened to the living room. As he stepped in, he heard a faint cry coming from another room and moved toward it. At the opening of the kitchen, he saw a white male straddling a white female on the floor, holding an 8-inch blade on



the left side of her neck. The man's face was close to hers – so they were almost chest-to-chest.

Sleighter yelled for the man to drop the knife, but the suspect held the knife closer and indicated he planned to kill the woman. Again, Sleighter ordered him to put down the knife. But the suspect made eye contact with the deputy and said, "Shoot me or she dies."

Knowing he didn't have a clear shot, Sleighter moved closer and again ordered the suspect to drop the knife. The man stared back at Sleighter with a crazed expression. He then let out what sounded like a war cry and arched back as if to gain momentum for a stabbing motion. Now with a clear shot, Deputy Sleighter fired two rounds into the suspect's right side, below his armpit, but the bullets didn't seem to faze the man. Instead, he pulled back more and kept the knife in a stabbing position.

Seeing that the suspect was about to lash out, Deputy Sleighter lunged toward the knife and grabbed the victim's left bicep. He pulled her from underneath the suspect with one hand, while simultaneously discharging four more rounds into the suspect's chest and upper torso. Incredibly, all the shots from Deputy Sleighter's gun were fired from a near kneeling position and all hit the suspect.

The man collapsed and rolled onto his back.

Now holding the victim against his chest, Deputy Sleighter pulled the woman into the dining room and checked her for injuries. Amazingly, she had not been stabbed or shot. He called dispatch and advised, "shots fired, suspect down, send EMS."

Deputy Sleighter then escorted the victim out of the house.

### ***Violence, threats a pattern***

Investigators following up on the shooting were able to paint a more complete picture of the incident. The victim and suspect had been dating for almost a year. A medical-

ly diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic who refused to take his medication, the man had a history of abuse in this and previous relationships.

An ex-girlfriend reported that, for a time, the suspect had been hard-working and supported their two children, but he also drank regularly and threatened her. He had physically abused his own body by cutting and burning himself and had once attempted suicide by cutting his wrist. He told his then-girlfriend that he was afraid to commit suicide because he thought he would go to hell.

The relationship between the suspect and his victim had been rocky. The man had been physically abusive to the victim on numerous occasions, convincing her to quit her job of five years because of his paranoia that she was cheating on him. They moved frequently, following his roofing jobs, but he became increasingly paranoid and abusive. On several prior occasions, he had threatened her with a knife to the throat. She managed to get away from him for two months, but he eventually found her, and they moved in together.

The night of the incident, the mother, daughter and boyfriend were drinking beer together and playing cards. After the suspect had consumed about two six packs, the couple started arguing. He was accusing her of infidelity and said he had evidence that she had been fooling around on him.

The woman was trying to get her boyfriend to leave, but the man became violent. He grabbed his victim by the back of the hair and pinned her against the counter, holding the knife to her throat. The daughter tried to intervene, but the suspect pushed her out of the way and said he would kill her mother "as soon as the cops get here." The daughter retrieved her infant from the bedroom and called 9-1-1. She overheard the suspect saying things to her mother like, "You are the last one I will ever be with; there will be no one else."

When the victim tried to get away from her boyfriend, they both landed on the kitchen floor, which is when the suspect straddled her and pinned her down.

### ***Training key to successful response***

It's clear that Madison County Sheriff's Deputy John Sleighter's actions were the result of training he has received in his seven-year law enforcement career – in addition to four years in the military. Deputy Sleighter credits this combination for helping him prepare mentally for the incident as well as recover quickly following the confrontation.

He says he is now using what he's learned from this and other critical incidents to build a Sheriff's Office Tactical Team in Madison County.

For his actions and bravery, the Florida Sheriffs Association is awarding Deputy Sleighter a handsome plaque and a check in the amount of \$1,000. Congratulations, Deputy Sleighter.

## **Two Deputies Named Runners Up**

The Florida Sheriffs Association would also like to congratulate Orange County Sheriff's Deputy First Class Adam Pierce and Lake County Sheriff's Corporal Bruce E. Doyle for taking the Runners-Up spots for the Deputy Sheriff of the Year award.

On October 10, 2005, 25-year-old Deputy First Class Adam Pierce and another deputy were investigating possible drug activity at a gas station on Orange Blossom Trail. After observing what appeared to be a drug transaction between a man on a bike and a man in a vehicle, the deputies chased the suspects. They confronted the bike-riding suspect and Tasered him. He fell to the ground, then rolled over and revealed a handgun. He shot at Deputy Pierce, striking him twice – the first shot grazing his head and

*Continued on page 8*



Continued from page 7  
the second severing his spinal cord.

The deputies and suspect exchanged more gunfire, but the suspect managed to escape. He was eventually apprehended in Brunswick, Georgia, and has been charged with attempted murder of a law-enforcement officer. Deputy Pierce, whose twin brother and father also are employed by the Orange County Sheriff's Office, is paralyzed, though he continues to receive rehab therapy and hopes to walk again.

Lake County Sheriff's Corporal

Bruce E. Doyle is being recognized for helping to save the life of a 70-year-old man who was fishing with his wife in a 9,000-acre lake when he slipped and fell overboard. One leg was tangled in a fish net and he was unable to get back in the boat.

Doyle arrived on the scene on the Sheriff's helicopter, but when the pilot tried to get the copter close to the boat for Corporal Doyle to board, the boat kept drifting, endangering the man. Because the victim had been clinging to the boat for more than 30

minutes and was near exhaustion, Corporal Doyle determined there was no time to waste. After the pilot positioned the copter about six feet above the water, a still fully dressed Corporal Doyle jumped into the murky water. He climbed aboard the boat and held onto the man until the Marine Patrol arrived.

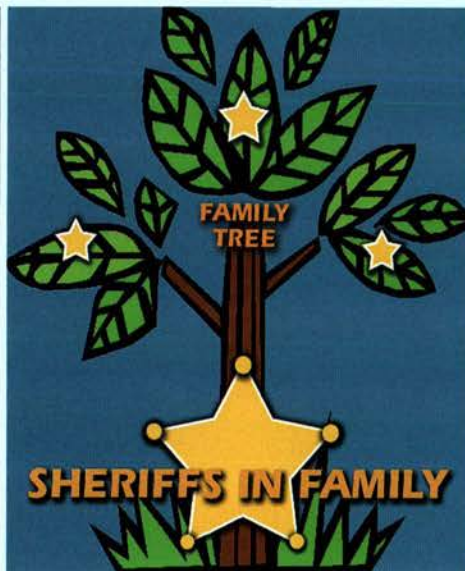
Congratulations to both Deputy First Class Pierce and Corporal Doyle. The Florida Sheriffs Association commends you for your actions, bravery and sacrifices. ★

## Florida Sheriffs: A Family Affair

By Victor R. Silvestri

*Editor's note: Writer Victor Silvestri is compiling historical information on Florida Sheriffs for his book, "The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs and Their Families: 1821-2006 – a Genealogical Excursion Into Florida Law Enforcement." He occasionally pens "the story behind the story," including the following.*

**W**ithout any preconceived anticipation or intentional expectation on my part, as I researched the material for this article I discovered a trend that, at the very least, is worth mentioning for future historians. This trend demonstrates the propensity of certain families to generate successful candidates for election or appointment to the office of Sheriff in the state of Florida. In territorial days, this phenomenon may have been encouraged by civic responsibility but, more likely, it was triggered by the more mundane instinct of survival in a hostile environment. Either of these motives were certainly reinforced by the demographics of the time – there were very few families, and those that were here were often separated by miles of wilderness and roving bands of Indians and desperadoes. Another factor, also closely identified with survival, was the distraction of the need to provide a reliable source of food



and shelter. Faced with these choices, the chore of policing the population very often fell to those families that could afford the time to be away from home in order to indulge in the management of the county government.

Whatever the reason, it is safe to say that our early Sheriffs were generally an altruistic breed. They received no financial assistance from the federal government or from the territorial organization or from the state until well into the 20th century. Sheriffs were paid on a fee system out of fines and the taxes they were fortunate enough to collect. Only after remitting those monies to the territory/state treasury were they able to submit a voucher for repayment of

their expenses which, many times, was refused or discounted. Additionally, when elected or appointed, these lawmen had to post a substantial personal monetary bond. So the question remains: Did these families actively seek a career in law enforcement or was the responsibility thrust upon them by the exigencies of the time?

In support of the second reason, Florida's first governor, General Andrew Jackson, made his first order of business the creation of the office of Sheriff, and he reinforced that order by appointing the first two Sheriffs himself.

In the county of West Florida, the first Sheriff appointed in 1823 was William M. Loftin. As I investigated Sheriff Loftin's family history, I first noted the trend for descendants or relatives of Sheriffs to follow in the profession. Loftin was a very successful Sheriff as well as an astute businessman. He was popular and influential, but when he retired from the Sheriff business there was no immediate family heir to the job. It was not until 1961 when, for no apparent reason, Florida's governor appointed Charlie Abbott as Sheriff of Bay County. Abbott, incidentally, is the great, great-grandson of William Loftin and, after his term in office, went on to continue a distinguished career in law enforcement.

This discovery was electrifying, but I did not immediately recognize it until I continued my research into genealogy.



My hometown county of Walton provided the venue, and the pioneer family of Vaughan provided the history. The Vaughan family had immigrated to the United States before the Revolutionary War. Michael Vaughan Sr. was the first member to bring his family into the Euchee Valley along with Colonel McKinnon and the other Scots some time before 1830. The family settled along the Alaqua River and, when Walton County was established in 1824, the community of Alaqua became the county seat. The new county existed for some time without its own Sheriff, but enjoyed the continuing service from Sheriff Loftin (who covered West Florida).

Then, in 1827, Michael Vaughan was appointed first Sheriff of the new county. He held that post for three years and then became restless and moved his family to an area now in neighboring Holmes County. They established a new community there and named it Vaughanville, and it exists to this day but is now known by various names. It was there that the Vaughan tradition of public service continued and prospered. In 1855, John Angus Vaughan (the son of Michael) became Sheriff of Holmes County. He was elected to a second term in 1859. John Angus then was elected Clerk of the Courts in 1865, Superintendent of Schools in 1874, and County Commissioner in 1877. Further, John's second wife was Pinkie Summerlin, whose close relative, J.M. Summerlin, became Sheriff of Okaloosa County in 1921; there are no further Summerlin Sheriffs because J.M. was killed in the line of duty shortly after his marriage and had no issue.

After this insight, I began to pay more attention to genealogy than to history, and I was soon rewarded with the discovery of other Sheriff family dynasties. In Walton County alone, there were six Campbells who were Sheriff or repeated Sheriff. Additionally, there were two McDonalds, two Adkisons and a related McMillian; there was Murdock Bell and his brother Thaddeus, and Sheriff Curtis Miller who probably had a distant relation to Sheriff Enos Evans through marriage;

and there were four McLeods of just as many generations. In passing, it is noteworthy that the McLeods also were related by marriage to Sheriff E.P. Melvin of Washington County who proclaimed to be an erstwhile Mormon and boasted five wives and 27 children. The mention of Washington County recalls that there was a Sheriff J.A. McKeithen appointed there in 1901 whose descendant, Frank McKeithen, is now Sheriff of Bay County and was previously Sheriff of Gulf County. The McKeithen name is well known in Washington County for other family members who were a part of the law-enforcement establishment as constables and justices of the peace.

And one of the oldest Florida families, the Alvarez family, began law enforcement in Nassau County, continued with a Sheriff in Bradford County, a chief of police, a deputy and a U.S. Marshal, and a Sheriff turned Police Director in Miami-Dade County.

In Holmes County, I was delighted to locate Judge Robert Earl Brown, who can boast no less than four ancestors who were Florida Sheriffs. But there is no more fitting way to conclude this partial mention of famous Sheriff families than to recall the Eppersons of Bradford County who had three Sheriffs, all of whom were killed in the line of duty.

We always can excuse this exuberance for elected office by saying it was the "fashion" for privileged families of pioneers to participate in the management of their government for less than altruistic reasons. We can suppose they only were protecting whatever financial and real estate holding they may have possessed. And I am sure that may be part of the story, but it is a worthwhile ambition that helps the rest of the community and should be recognized as not entirely enjoyable – especially when it is remembered that so many have given their lives in the performance of that duty. And we should be proud and grateful that it is a practice that is still in favor, and we have to look only as near as the Kennedys, the Rockefellers and the Bush families to confirm this.

*This article is an excerpt from "The*

*Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs and Their Families: 1821-2006 – a Genealogical Excursion into Florida Law Enforcement," a work in progress. If you have historical information on Florida Sheriffs, contact the author, Victor R. Silvestri, by writing to him: 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435-8972, calling: 850-892-6962, or e-mailing: summers@gdsys.net.*

### **Sample Entry: The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs**

#### **Sheriff in Three Counties and Father of Three Sets of Twins**

**Moody, Nathaniel M.** [27]: Sheriff of Benton County (now Hernando), FL (1847-53). Sheriff Moody (age about 30) was elected on Oct. 30, 1847, and qualified on Feb. 12, 1848, (there was a second commissioning on Feb. 17, 1848, but cancelled due to the fact that he had already qualified).

Sheriff Moody was re-elected on April 13, 1850, and qualified on May 8, 1850. On Dec. 24, 1850, it was enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Florida in General Assembly convened; "That from and after the passage of this Act, the name of Benton County shall be changed to that of Hernando County, and the said County shall hereafter be known and designated as Hernando County."

So, Sheriff Moody was elected Sheriff of two different counties without changing residence. It also is speculated that he was the "N.M. Moody" who had been the Sheriff of Columbia County, from 1840 to 1842; thus making him Sheriff of three counties.

N.M. Moody shows in the 1860 census as living in Hillsborough County, Fla., and being age 45 and having been born in Georgia; married to Louisiana Moody, age 35 (pb. GA); with children: Simon, age 18; Nathaniel, age 15; Simpson, age 15 (twin); John, age 13; Rebeca, age 13 (twin); Joseph, age 11; Washington, age 9; Nancy, age 7; Sarah, age 7 (twin); and Margaret, age 6. ☼



## LETTERS

Readers –

We received several responses to the letter published in our May/June issue suggesting that *The Sheriff's Star* try to publish more photos of African Americans. We are grateful to all those who took time to write, including this encouraging letter below.

Editor:

When I read my *Sheriff's Star*, I see law enforcement officers. Race has nothing to do with notable performance.

When I call for help, the officer's race is *not* what occurs to me.

I look forward to reading my magazines and save them all. Thanks to all of the ones who risk so much to protect us citizens. All are in our daily prayers.

By the way, we are an African American family.

God bless,  
B.L., Milton

Editor:

We have been members of the Florida Sheriff's Association for several years. I have a suggestion concerning your publications. We do not read the magazine and it is immediately placed in the recycle bin. Why don't you offer the option to exclude this as part of the mem-

bership? I am sure that others feel as we do that the costs to publish and mail the magazine should be used for other purposes.

Thank you.

M.S., no county given

Editor responds:

As the Editor of *The Sheriff's Star*, it's my hope that not many our members feel the way you do...and I'll try not to take this personally.

When members ask not to receive the magazine, we have a code to prevent them from receiving the mailing. We have now coded your membership so that you will not receive our publications.

Although some members don't read *The Sheriff's Star* or *Rancher*, perhaps a better use of them (over the recycle bin) would be to take the copies to your doctors' office or another public reception area and leave them. It's a way that you can help build support for law enforcement in Florida.

Of course, we recommend you take the mailing label off to protect your privacy before dropping them off.

As I write this, I realize that since you don't read the *Star*, I guess you'll miss this public correspondence. But if you make an exception and see this, be sure to write. I'll consider it a little victory. ☺



*The Sheriff's Star* - May/June 2006

### HAVE A COMMENT?

If you would like to send a comment, please write:

Editor, *The Sheriff's Star* Magazine,  
P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL  
32317-2519, or e-mail:  
jbettinger@flsheriffs.org.

While we are not able to publish every letter, or answer them personally, we will do our best to get your comments represented in these pages. Please write legibly. We reserve the right to edit for space considerations. For privacy reasons, we will only publish the initials and city or county of the writer unless authorization is given.

## Help Wanted: Wives of Law Enforcement Learning to Cope

*Continued from page 5*

her story with anyone who will listen – on law enforcement Web sites, through speaking engagements and a Christian Talk Radio show.

"With the amount of drugs I was taking, I should have died and I didn't," Nygren says. "The doctor tested me and I'm as healthy as an athlete and I know it was God who saved me and it was for a reason."

Before she was arrested, Nygren was so desperate; she prayed every night to be cured of her addiction.

She adds, "The prayers were answered – not exactly the way I wanted it to be, but this is what God wants me to do – to help other people."

Sharing a story that involves painful and embarrassing details isn't easy, she says, and few wives of law enforcement officers are willing to do it. But it's necessary to bring healing.

"At first felt very vulnerable telling my story," she admits, "but now I'm proud of it." She says as she tells her story, people feel confident telling her their own story.

"They have told me about their thoughts of suicide, addictions and

affairs," she says. Then they say that Nygren has given them encouragement and the courage to keep going.

These stories are what keep Nygren going, too. She says she plans to keep networking with Brannon and the Bridges of Hope, as well as telling her story on policeusa.com and offering peer support through police chaplain organizations.

For more information about Bridges of Hope, visit the organization's Web site: [www.bridgesofhopeonline.com](http://www.bridgesofhopeonline.com), or write to Trilby Brannon, [info@bridgesofhopeonline.com](mailto:info@bridgesofhopeonline.com). ☺



## What You Need to Know About Background Checks

By Sgt. Rick Hord  
Okaloosa County  
Sheriff's Office



One repair garage advertises an automotive tune-up for \$29, and a different shop promotes a \$99 tune-up. Is the more expensive job a rip-off? Not necessarily, explained a mechanic friend several years ago. "There is no single definition of what a tune-up is," he said. "Some places just replace the spark plugs and call it a tune-up."

As with tune-ups, not all background checks are created equal.

Some people visit the Sheriff's Office, look for arrest reports, and believe they've accomplished a background check. Like the \$29 tune-up, this "background check" accomplishes little. Sheriff's records will show only Sheriff's activity; if that's your "background check," you've overlooked any arrests made by city and state agencies.

A far better way to check for local arrests is through the Clerk of Courts, which maintains records of all cases prosecuted in your county, regardless of which agency made the arrest. Visiting the clerk's office also can uncover civil lawsuits, marriages and divorces, traffic citations and many other public records.

Unfortunately, to cover the state, you'd have to check 67 clerk's offices... and you'd still have 49 states to go for a nationwide background check.

### *Suggested alternatives*

What can you do to check out a prospective babysitter, employee or volunteer? Here are some suggestions:

While it might not be feasible to check with 67 clerks, it is a good idea to check your county and neighboring counties, which can often be done free of charge via the Internet. To find a listing of all county clerk Web sites in Florida, visit the Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers Web page: [http://www.flclerks.com/Clerk\\_webs.html](http://www.flclerks.com/Clerk_webs.html). To be thorough, you also could contact the clerk in places the person lived previously.

The well-known Sex Offender and Predator list on the Internet is one of several useful resources provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). But be aware: not all sex offenders are child molesters, and the list does not include thieves, burglars, drug dealers or even murderers. The FDLE Web site is: [www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us).

From this Web page, you also can request a statewide criminal history background check, or you can call 850-420-8109 for information. This service costs \$23, but it does not provide the same amount of information available through the Clerk of Courts. Traffic violations, bad checks, petty theft, trespassing and other minor offenses might not show up, but all major arrests will – in all 67 Florida counties. If you wanted to check other states, you would need to contact their government Web sites and determine if they offer this service.

Some employers are required to submit fingerprint cards for state and/or national criminal history backgrounds. Fingerprints are the best way to avoid problems with similar names or other misidentification, but the service is not available to the public. Organizations (including churches) that provide services to children, the elderly or disabled – but are not required to submit any fingerprint cards – may

be able to use an optional, voluntary, fingerprint-based criminal history service known as the Volunteer and Employees Criminal History System. For information about VECHS (pronounced "vecks"), call 850-410-8324, or visit their Web page: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/BackgroundChecks/>.

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). ★

### Only in Florida:

### **"Hello, 9-1-1? There's An Alligator In My House"**

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be on the receiving end of a 9-1-1 call? It takes a lot of patience, as emergency dispatchers will tell you.

In a recent newsletter, the Collier County Sheriff's Office shared some examples of calls that were clearly a misuse of the system.

"There's an alligator in my house. It's climbing the wall," screamed a caller, who was clearly unfamiliar with Florida wildlife. The "alligator" was, the deputy discovered, a three-inch-long lizard.

Another caller claimed, "My phone is not working and will only let me dial 9-1-1." And one complained: "There's a possum in the garage eating our cat's food."

Somehow, it seems the numbers 9-1-1 are often punched when cleaning or programming a phone, so the conversations often starts with, "Oooops..."

And yes, there are the "please send a hot deputy" calls.

Enough said. ★



# Let Us Not Forget

the cost would far exceed his budget. So he went to business leaders with a plan. Since these businesses had been on the receiving end of the Polk County Sheriff's generosity in the aftermath of the storm, they started making contributions – to the tune of \$143,535. The Sheriff's Office employees kicked in another \$4,000.

By the time Hurricane Katrina hit August 29, 2005, the Escambia County Sheriff's Office was ready to roll.



Escambia County Sheriff Ron McNesby

## Recovery central

The Florida Sheriffs' efforts were concentrated mostly on Harrison County, Mississippi, which was the

Escambia County Sheriff's Office Disaster Response Team's first assignment. Each day, Sheriff McNesby's team fed hundreds of people involved in the relief effort, and they were able to throw other resources into the mix to help stabilize the community. They used everything from an air-conditioned 48-foot mechanical repair trailer that sleeps eight to a 48-foot logistical support trailer with computers and radios. With Escambia's commercial-grade cookers, griddles and warmers, they were fully equipped to serve as many as 500 people per meal. Food was kept hot in the serving trailer and clean up was made possible through the use of three sinks, complete with hot water.

While mobile disaster response units aren't something any of the Sheriffs are anxious to use, residents of Florida and surrounding states can rest assured that recovery efforts are likely to get off the ground quicker because of them.

For more information on the Escambia County Disaster Response Unit, contact Dean Anderson, Director of Domestic Security and Special Operations, via email: [danderson@escambiaso.com](mailto:danderson@escambiaso.com) or phone 850-436-9588. ★

Those of us who have lived in Florida these last three hurricane seasons are more likely to heed storm warnings and instructions to evacuate.

More people are preparing their hurricane kits in advance and, perhaps for the first time, many businesses have written a disaster plan.

The Sheriffs in Florida, too, have made many changes as a result of the pounding our communities have

taken. Perhaps the biggest step is to add equipment, including mobile units that can serve as a central command center when dispatched to an area following a disaster.

## Escambia prepares

After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Pensacola area in September 2004, Escambia County Sheriff Ron McNesby started designing a Disaster Response Unit that would have all the elements they needed in recovery. His

inspiration came from the Polk County Sheriff's Office mobile unit, which set up at the beach in Pensacola and provided a place for emergency workers to meet, sleep and eat when his community was dealing with the destruction.

With county budgets tight during Escambia County's recovery, though, Sheriff McNesby recognized

**Sheriff McNesby's inspiration came from the Polk County Sheriff's Office mobile unit, which provided a place for emergency workers to meet, sleep and eat when Pensacola was dealing with destruction.**



DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM  
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT







# *“radKIDS” are Ready Kids*

**Polk County is Teaching Children to Defend Themselves Against Predators**

By Donna C. Wood, CPM  
Public Information Officer  
Polk County Sheriff's Office

The school kids were focused and attentive and seemed eager to begin the exercise. The instructor told them, “Use your loud voice and tell ‘Bob,’ No! You’re not my dad!”

The Polk County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Section was presenting its first “radKIDS” training class during the first week of May at Adventist Academy in Winter Haven. All children at the school, which included grades one through eight, participated in the program.

Crime Prevention Specialist Melanie Wood, a certified radKIDS instructor, was teaching this class.

The 10-hour radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education class is a national not-for-profit children's educational program. The course goal is to teach kids how to prepare for emergencies and to avoid or escape danger. “rad” stands for Resisting Aggression Defensively.



Designed for children ages 5-7 and 8-12, the courses include classroom instruction, a manual for parents, and simulation where the kids

can practice the defense techniques they learn on a volunteer “aggressor.”

Topics discussed in the radKIDS program include calling 9-1-1, Home Safety, School Safety, Out & About Safety and Vehicle Safety.

Verbal and physical resistance also is taught and practiced each class.

A simulation session (optional) is held on the last day of class to reinforce techniques that have been taught throughout the week.

radKIDS is *not* a sport; and it specifically teaches children how NOT to fight. radKIDS provides children with realistic skills to recognize, avoid, resist and – when necessary – escape physical violence and/or harm.

The curriculum is covered in five days with 90-minute classes for the 5-7 age group and a two hour class for the 8-12-year-olds.

Parents are encouraged to attend the classes with their children. This can be quality time spent together,



and the parent also can practice the verbal and physical skills with their child at home. This also will reinforce and enhance what already has been practiced in class.

Any group of kids can become “radKIDS.” For more information on radKIDS, visit the Web site: <http://www.radkids.org/>. Or, contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 863-534-6677. ★



# SHADOW

## car program targets aggressive drivers in Pasco County



Pasco County Sheriff Bob White (left) and Deputy Jay Galassi pose with PCSO's new weapon: A fully-equipped vehicle dedicated to curbing aggressive driving on Pasco County roads.

By Doug Tobin  
Public Information Officer  
Pasco Sheriff's Office

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office unveiled a new program to crack down on aggressive drivers who could be in for a big surprise when they look in their rear-view mirror.

In mid-June, the PCSO introduced its new SHADOW (SHeriff's Aggressive Driving Offender Watch) car. The unmarked 2006 Dodge Charger is fully equipped with the latest in police technology, including an in-car video system, lights, siren, radio, mounted radar, handheld radar gun and an emergency light rear-message board to warn motorists of impending traffic stops.

The vehicle is funded through a Florida Department of Transportation Highway Safety Grant. The program is paying for the \$39,613 worth of equipment and for the unmarked vehicle in which the equipment will be fully concealed. The grant also will pay for a full-time Sheriff's deputy dedicated to reducing the aggressive drivers on the road. The total amount the Sheriff's office is receiving from FLDOT to implement the program is \$97,023.

*Continued on page 18*

### "Aggressive" Driving is Real and Unlawful

- An "aggressive driver" is generally defined as a driver who forces his or her way ahead in traffic by engaging in reckless and dangerous maneuvers.
- The Florida Statutes (F.S. 316.1923) say that "Aggressive Careless Driving" means committing two or more of the following acts simultaneously or in succession:
  - Exceeding the posted speed limit
  - Violating traffic control and signal devices
  - Unsafe or improper changing lanes
  - Following too closely
  - Failing to yield the right-of-way
  - Improperly passing
- The fines for these violations range from \$118.50 to \$308.50. Each violation also carries a three- or four-point penalty to the violator's driver's license. An aggressive driver cited for committing multiple violations risks losing their driving privilege for one year due to the accumulation of 12 points within 12 months.
- Aggressive Driving offenses are non-criminal violations. "Road Rage" is a term used to identify criminal offenses, which are the result of some type of incident occurring on the roadway. Aggressive Driving is the leading cause of Road Rage incidents.

### What to Do When Confronted by an Aggressive Driver

- Remain calm. Don't let the driver influence you to become frustrated or angry. Just ignore the driver, relax and use your own safe driving habits.
- Get out of the way. Make every attempt to safely change lanes or pull off to let the driver pass. Don't jump lanes without looking.
- Do not challenge them. Don't speed up or try to hold your own in the lane. Just let them pass.
- Avoid eye contact. Eye contact can cause more aggression in the driver.
- Ignore gestures and don't return them.
- Report the driver. Pull off the road way or have a passenger call 9-1-1. Be ready to give the location and vehicle information including the tag number.
- If an aggressive driving incident escalates into a criminal "Road Rage" incident, call 9-1-1 as soon as safely possible. Pull off the roadway to a safe location. If the person follows, keep driving to a populated area or law-enforcement office. If unable to continue driving, remain in your vehicle with doors locked and do not provoke the situation.



# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

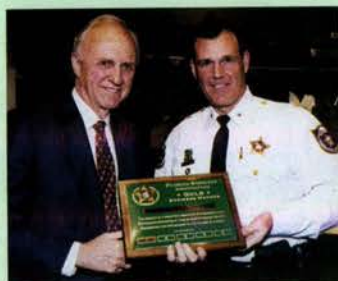
## HONOR ROLL



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



**POLK COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Martha Johnson, who is accompanied by her family.



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** – Gold Business Member award presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jose Docobo to Bill Wagner of Wagner, Vaughan, McLaughlin, P.A.



**LEE COUNTY** – Gold Business Member award presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Syllen Brown of First Home Builders of Florida.



**COLLIER COUNTY** – FSA Lifetime Honorary Member plaque presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Aubrey Rogers.



**LEE COUNTY** – Gold Business Member award presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Tony Lapi of Tween Waters.



**OSCEOLA COUNTY** – Presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Sterling Blake of Sterling Silver Scape & Sod, Inc.



**PINELLAS COUNTY** – Gold Business Member award presented by Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats to Chuck Lesnewski of Cam Connections and Darrin Campbell of Pods Enterprises.



Darrin Campbell



**BREVARD COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker to Doris Elliott.



Lucy Erickson



Sid Sipple

**BREVARD COUNTY** – 25-year certificates presented by Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker to Sid Sipple and Lucy Erickson (and family).



**VOLUSIA COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Hollis Hammond.



**CLAY COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Robert Collins.



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jose Docobo to Raphael Almirola.



# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

## HONOR ROLL *Continued from page 15*



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Arnold A. Bosshard.



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Holden Kriss.



**OKALOOSA COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Caries B. Booker.



**OSCEOLA COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Lee County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Fred Hatfield.



**COLLIER COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Vaughn, Jr.



**HERNANDO COUNTY** – 40-year certificates presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard B. Nugent to Erma Jones and Sue V. Saxon.



Erma Jones



**PALM BEACH COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Rick Bradshaw to Walter W. Marr.



**OKALOOSA COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Billy E. Gartman.



**POLK COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Moses.



**POLK COUNTY** – 40-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Robert Reed.



**SEMINOLE COUNTY** – 30-year certificate presented by Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger to Israel Santiago Montes.



**ST. LUCIE COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken J. Mascara to Robert Summers.



Earl Crews

**POLK COUNTY** – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Earl Crews (and family); 30-year certificate presented to Ben H. Darby, Sr. (and family).



Ben H. Darby, Sr.



# FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

## HONOR ROLL



**CITRUS COUNTY** - Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy to Nature Coast Corvair Club, represented by Kathy Neumann and Mike Schaudraff.



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 Members from 6/1/06 to 7/24/06.

Mr. Walter E. Bailey  
Mr. Stephen T. Balsinger  
Mr. Richard B. Beckner, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Bennett  
Ms. Patricia E. Bergerson  
Mr. Jimmy L. Brooks  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald K. Brummer  
Ms. Sue H. Cannon  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Clark  
Mr. Harold R. Conklin  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cooper  
Mr. Douglas C. Cravens, Jr.  
Ms. Jean D. Delo  
Mrs. Patricia M. DeMartini  
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Dunlap  
Ms. Myra C. Forester  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter I. Georgeson  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Gill  
Mrs. Dorothy H. Haldeman  
Mr. and Mrs. Reed J. Hallock  
Mr. Robert D. Hancock  
Ms. Jacqueline A. Hardin  
Mrs. Ellinor B. Hauke  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Hinman, Sr.  
Mr. J. Emerson Hirsch  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. Hjorth  
Mr. Richard S. Ingham, Jr.  
Mrs. Beryl B. Jacobs  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom O. Jewell  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Johnson  
Mrs. Diane Jones  
Mr. John M. Kindred



Robert Mount

**BAY COUNTY** - Presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen and FSyr Donor Relations Officer Lana Pate to Robert Mount and J. Michael Stewart.



J. Michael Stewart



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY** - Presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Terry W. Ball (left).



Wesley and Marilyn Eustice

**POLK COUNTY** - Presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Wesley and Marilyn Eustice and John C. and Peggy Johnson.



John C. and Peggy Johnson



**FRANKLIN COUNTY** - Presented by FSyr Special Events Manager Joe McLeod (left) to Franklin County Sheriff Mike Mock and former Sheriff Warren Roddenberry for their fundraising efforts through the Franklin County Sheriffs Office Golf Tournament.

Kings Full  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Lehr, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Leslie  
Mr. Jon Lewis  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Little  
Mr. James M. Losey  
Mrs. Maxine R. Marcotte  
Marion Oaks Duplicate Bridge Club  
Mr. and Mrs. Marion D. McLendon  
Mr. Gary W. Moorcroft  
Ms. Connie S. Murray  
Guido I. Podrecca M.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Resch

*continued on next page*



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** - Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jose Docobo to Joseph Emmett.



**MARION COUNTY** - Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Hill.



## ❖ New Lifetime Honorary Members ❖



**OSCEOLA COUNTY** – Presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to OCSO Lt. Ronald F. McCrimmon.



**LEE COUNTY** – Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Ms. Winifred R. Bradley and Mr. and Mrs. Bertram H. Meyers.



Mr. and Mrs. Bertram H. Meyers



**LEON COUNTY** – Presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to Michael Chap.

**NASSAU COUNTY** – Presented by FSyr Special Events Manager Joe McLeod (left) to Nassau County Sheriff Tommy Seagraves in recognition of his annual gospel singing to raise funds for the Youth Ranches.



**HENDRY COUNTY** – Presented by Hendry County Sheriff Ronnie Lee (center) to Walter and Ruth Howard.

**VOLUSIA COUNTY** – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Mid-Florida Air-Conditioning, Inc., represented by Jennifer Richmond.



*Continued from page 17*

Mr. Robin C. Reynolds  
Sylvia O. Richardson M.D.  
Mr. Edwin H. Rohde  
Mr. William S. Root  
Mrs. Hazel I. Ross  
Sarah B. Ruas M.D.  
Mr. Joseph R. Sadowski  
Ms. Patricia R. Saotome  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Saucerman  
Col. and Mrs. Jackie E. Schmidt  
Mrs. Mary Mannion Schmidt  
Mrs. Emily B. Schoenhofen  
Sheriff and Mrs. T. L. Seagraves, Jr.  
Mr. Dennis L. Shears

Mr. Francis G. Shepardson Sheriff and Mrs. Johnny M. Smith  
Col. and Mrs. Samuel L. Smith  
Suncoast Plumbing & Electric, Inc.  
Mrs. Merry Sussman  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Toy  
Ms. Candis C. Turner  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip W. Turner, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter VanSon  
Ms. Barbara R. Vogel  
Mr. Edward W. Whiddon, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Wigh III  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Willingham, Jr.



**LEVY COUNTY** – Presented by Levy County Sheriff Johnny Smith (center, red tie, holding plaque) and FSyr representatives Frank Kenny (second from left) and Joe McLeod (far left) to Williston Highlands Golf Club, represented by Tony Ruccione, and Williston Golf Tournament committee members.

*Continued from page 14*

Pasco Sheriff's Office Deputy Jay Galassi will head up the SHADOW car program and will work closely with existing units within the Pasco Sheriff's Office, including other unmarked vehicles and the Aviation Unit. Together, they will assist in spotting aggressive drivers from the air and ground, then call units directing them to the aggressive driver. Deputy Galassi will be dedicated to strict traffic enforcement and public education to combat speed and aggressive driving.

The goal of the program is to seek drivers' compliance with aggressive driving laws, which in turn is expected to decrease accidents and deaths associated with aggressive driving.

In applying for the grant in March of 2005, the Pasco Sheriff's Office recognizes that speeding and aggressive driving are significant causes of traffic

crashes in Pasco County. A major factor in the majority of these crashes was reported to be unlawful or unsafe speed.

The Sheriff's office increased traffic stops from 39,635 in 2003 to 49,180 in 2005 in an effort to reduce traffic related deaths. The SHADOW Car program is expected to further enhance the Sheriff's Office efforts to reduce traffic-related crashes, accidents and deaths.

The program is now underway, and drivers in Pasco County can expect to see more traffic enforcement on the roads and education programs in the weeks and months to come.

For more information about the SHADOW car program or other Crime Prevention Unit program, call 1-800-854-2862, ext. 3376. You may also contact Public Information Officer Doug Tobin at: (727) 844-7732, or via e-mail: dtobin@PascoSheriff.org





## License Tag Frames now available

The Florida Sheriffs Association is offering another opportunity for you to show your support for law enforcement in your community through License Tag Frames. These handsome frames come in two designs – chrome or brass – to fit most any style vehicle. Demonstrate your support for FSA and the crime fighting efforts of Sheriffs by ordering your License Tag Frame today. And, don't forget, these frames make great gifts too!

These high quality frames are zinc die cast metal with dark green imprint and your choice of polished chrome or brass plating with standard 2 hole mounting. Size: 6 1/4 X 12 1/4 inches

*Frames are for use with your official license tag on the rear of your car. Assure 1/2-inch available space around tag prior to order. Not guaranteed to fit all vehicles.*

### TAG FRAME ORDER FORM

Please return the entire back cover page with your order. U.S. delivery only

☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss

Name (Please print)

Shipping Address

City State Zip Code

Contact phone number

Please make check or money order payable to  
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 12519, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2519

I wish to purchase \_\_\_ Tag Frames  
\_\_\_chrome \_\_\_brass @ \$25 each \$

(postage & handling cost included in prices)

\* Please add 6% Sales Tax for membership items. Tax \$

(Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping) TOTAL \$

\* Add .5%, .75%, 1% or 1.5% discretionary sales surtax, if applicable.

For credit card use

☐ VISA. ☐ MC. Card number

Name on card (please print)

Expiration date

Contact phone number

Total amount

## Attention Members:

### 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.

#### OLD ADDRESS:


#### 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

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

#### NEW ADDRESS: ☐ Permanent or ☐ Temporary

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Area code/phone



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 #  
WOMEN'S  
TWO-TONE  
Face No.

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

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

NOT SHOWN  
Style # Flag Black  
Face No. 3

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

## 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.

Please return the entire  
back cover page with your order.  
U.S. delivery only

☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss

Name (Please print)

Shipping Address

City State Zip Code

Contact phone number

Please make check or money order payable to  
**FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. BOX 12519, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2519

### I wish to purchase :

No. \_\_\_\_\_ \*Golf shirts at \$30.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ White ( size S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ )  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Green ( size S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ )  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*Honorary Member Lapel pin(s) at \$8.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*Belt buckle(s) at \$28.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*Watches at \$165.00 ea. Style No. \_\_\_\_\_ Face No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Flag Style Watches Face: ☐ Gold-1 ☐ Silver-2 ☐ Black-3  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*Hats ( ☐ white or ☐ green ) at \$15 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*Coffee Mugs at \$13 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( postage & handling cost included in prices ) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Please add 6% Sales Tax for membership items \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping ) Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Add .5%, .75%, 1% or 1.5% discretionary sales surtax, if applicable.

For credit card use  
☐ VISA. ☐ MC. Card number

Name on card (please print) Expiration date

Contact phone number Total amount



GOLF SHIRTS  
green or white with  
multi-colored embroidered logo



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



CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN  
with multi-colored embroidery incl  
metallic gold thread, adjustable b



Member LAPEL PIN  
die cast metal with  
or enameled finish



11oz. COFFEE MUGS  
white color, with multi colored  
green bands listing all 67