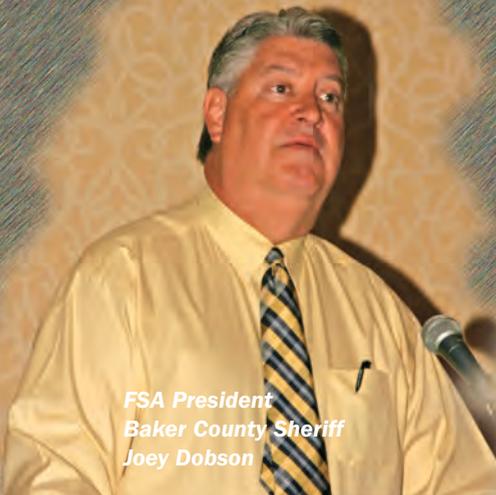
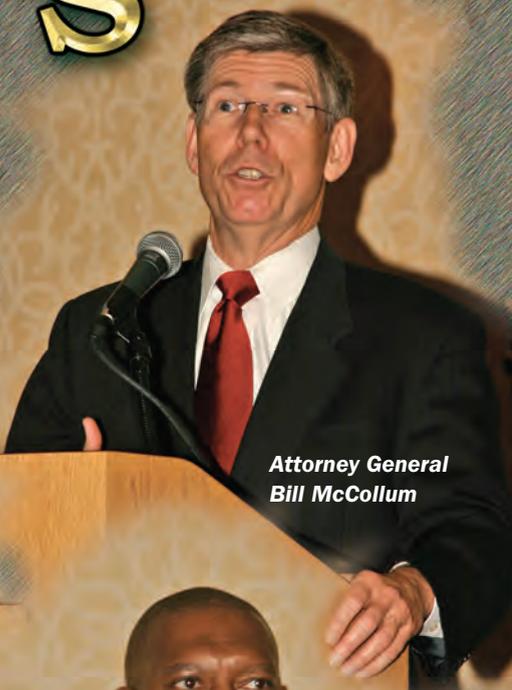


THE SHERIFF'S STAR



FSA President
Baker County Sheriff
Joey Dobson



Attorney General
Bill McCollum



Okaloosa County
Sheriff Charlie Morris



Osceola County
Sheriff Bob Hansell



Darell Dones
Supervisory
Special Agent
FBI Academy



FSA Mid-Winter Conference 2008

Data sharing, gangs and connectivity to solve crimes a focus at St. Augustine gathering.

See highlights, page 4



Donna Uzell
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement
Criminal Justice
Information Service



Sgt. Tracey Booth
Collier County Sheriff's Office
Immigration Enforcement



Rancher Lawson
Florida Sheriffs Youth
Ranches

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

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



You can always tell when it's springtime in Tallahassee. Yes, the blooming dogwoods and azaleas are one indication – but something that gets our attention even more at the Florida Sheriffs Association is the activity in our parking lot. The 67 Sheriffs of Florida generously sacrifice their time to travel to the capital city and represent the safety interests of citizens and visitors to this state during the legislative session.

Our offices become the staging area for much of that activity – including hosting late night sessions to hammer out the details with our governmental consultant Frank Messersmith.

Messersmith relies on the input from Sheriffs as bills develop, and he often gets this through mass e-mails. But nothing is more convincing than face-to-face visits with legislation sponsors. And that requires Sheriffs to come in person and offer their perspective on what might result from laws being proposed.

Legislators want to know as much as possible as they shape the legislation. If a Sheriff is willing to travel to Tallahassee, they usually welcome the visit (with some keen behind-the-scenes coordination by Messersmith).

Some of the legislation being considered this year hold some long-term implications for the state.

Specifically, I'm talking about gambling related legislation. Several proposals suggest allowing electronic gaming at licensed pari-mutuels (horse and dog tracks). Sheriffs oppose any general expansion of gambling because of the long-term societal effects on Florida and the impact on the criminal justice system.

Messersmith sent copies of a *Wall-Street Journal* article that illustrates the point. Titled, "Bad Odds," the article points out that gambling is a matter of over promising and under delivering.

"As more states look to win the economic jackpot with casinos, evidence suggests they are playing a losing hand," it says.

"...studies have shown that casino gambling imposes significant costs on communities. The most important is crime: Cities with casinos provide relatively attractive targets for criminals, who see opportunities in the crowds of people carrying large amounts of cash." The article continues to cite a study of more than 3,000 U.S. counties published last year in the *Review of Economics and Statistics* that showed that on average, about eight percent of crime in casino counties was attributable to the casinos.

Taking all the costs and benefits of casinos into account, the conclusion was that adding casinos has no *net* benefit. The introduction of a casino

ultimately costs a community an average of \$97 per resident per year.

Florida has slowly been inching toward becoming a gambling state, first with the Indian reservations that offer gambling, and now with potential expansion of those lands that offer no tax benefit to surrounding community. The proposed addition of electronic gaming at all licensed pari-mutuels would surely multiply the pro gambling interests.

Sometimes it feels like we are fighting a losing battle: Sheriffs vs. the big money lobbyists. But we will continue to fight it and hold onto whatever ground we can.

Welcome, new members

This is the first issue for many of our readers and I'd like to welcome you to your new membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association. We appreciate your support of law enforcement in Florida and look forward to keeping you informed in the months ahead.

Be sure to check out our Web site to learn more and to meet your Florida Sheriffs: www.flsheriffs.org/. And let us know how we can be of service.

Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association

Parents: This Online Safety Service Protects Your Kids

One parent was able to stop his teenager from sneaking out at night. Another started purchasing gift cards for food and movies, instead of giving cash, as she learned that his friends were using the cash their parents gave them to buy Xanax and alcohol.

McGruff® SafeGuard has become a valuable tool for helping many parents not only get inside the heads of their teens, but also intervene to better protect their children. After installing the free software, many express shock at learning about the online relationships their child shares.

“The McGruff SafeGuard only took one day to do what we wanted it to do,” wrote a parent from New Hampshire. “Our 17-year-old daughter was getting mixed up in some bad situations that could have possibly cost her life.” Using the software, the parents learned their daughter was corresponding with a man much older. “He was telling her everything she wanted or felt she needed to hear. All the while building a trust with her.” With the information they learned through McGruff SafeGuard, they were able to intervene and save her serious heartache and maybe even her life.



“The Florida Crime Prevention Association and its members strive every day to keep families and children safe,” said FCPA president Keith Stripling. “We chose to partner with McGruff SafeGuard because it unites law enforcement and parents in their common goal to protect children.” The partnership allows the FCPA to provide a proven tool to families to help their kids stay safe online.

If a parent discovers an Internet predator, McGruff SafeGuard reports the suspected predator to law enforcement. At the same time, the software blocks that alleged predator from communicating with the child again or with any children protected by the McGruff SafeGuard service.

For a real eye opener, see “Busted: Look Who Got Caught!” on the McGruff SafeGuard Web site: http://www.gomcgruff.com/m/articles_busted.asp

McGruff SafeGuard is a licensed product of the National Crime Prevention Council, the nonprofit leader in crime prevention education and home of McGruff the Crime Dog.

Find out more or sign up for the free service at: www.gomcgruff.com/floridacrimeprevention

Now, the Florida Crime Prevention Association (FCPA) has partnered to get as many families as possible using McGruff SafeGuard. The service allows them to monitor and safeguard their kids’ online activities – without their knowledge. According to the FCPA, it is the first and only service to electronically connect parents with law enforcement in their common battle against sexual predators on the Internet.

McGruff SafeGuard has been tested in homes since 2006. Parents report using it for everything from detecting and preventing Internet predators from contacting their children, to stopping teen drug abuse. The product also is credited with preventing suicide of child victims of Internet abuse.

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.

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

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Citrus County Sheriff
Jeff Dawsy



Matt White
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office



Seminole County
Sheriff Don Eslinger

FSA Mid-Winter Conference 2008

Budget Cuts, Elections On the Mind

FSA conferences are where Sheriffs generally go to share their concerns with fellow Sheriffs, hear some success stories and learn about new tools for combating crime. They usually leave energized and ready to tackle the challenges of their agencies and counties head-on.

The current climate in Florida, however, cast a bit of a pall on FSA's Mid-Winter conference, which was hosted by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. After enduring several budget cuts in 2007 and facing even deeper cuts ahead, following January's property tax referendum, much of the talk was about what law enforcement services their community would have to learn to do without. Considering that many of the Sheriffs are running for re-election this year while juggling the cuts to their agencies, it made for an even higher stress level.

Thankfully, exhibitors and support agencies kept their messages focused on helping the Sheriffs solve their problems and doing more with less. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office **Chief Justin Hill** and **Matt White** presented the Sheriffs with the latest in data sharing – the establishment of Fusion Centers – which enhance the ability for Sheriffs' Offices to track and search large amounts of data in one place. It "fuses" information together, mining databases and Internet sites such as MySpace to fight crime.

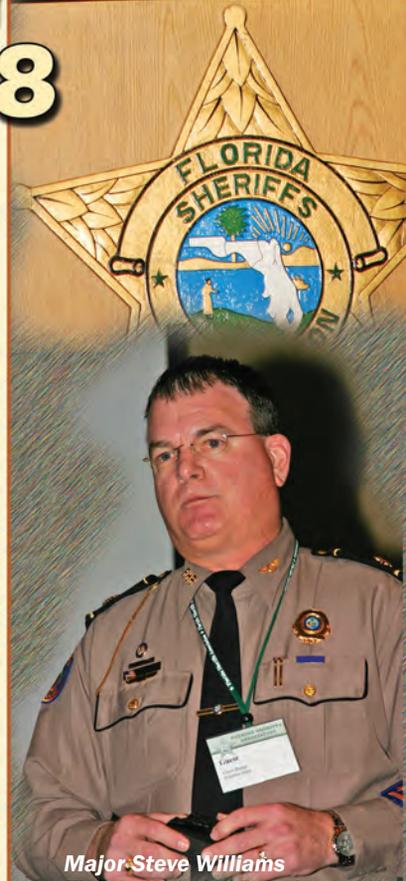
"It's like a search on steroids," White said. The analysis portal is operating in conjunction with the Florida Department of Law (FDLE) and National Crime Intelligence Service. **Agent-In-Charge Ed DeVelasco** gave a hopeful message about gang eradication. He has a proven track record in "destroying



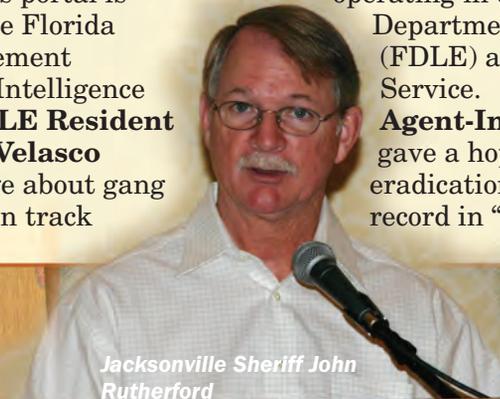
Col. John Dzernis
Director, Florida Highway
Patrol



Walt McNeil
Secretary, Department of
Corrections



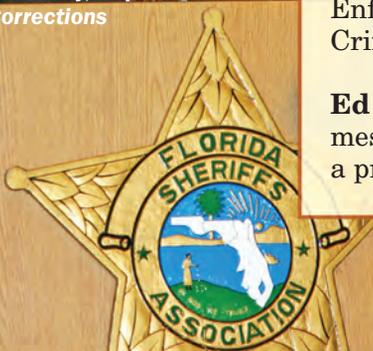
Major Steve Williams
Florida Highway Patrol
Standardized Booking
Procedures



Jacksonville Sheriff John
Rutherford



Charles Shinholser
Concerns of Police
Survivors (COPS)





Collier County Sheriff
Don Hunter



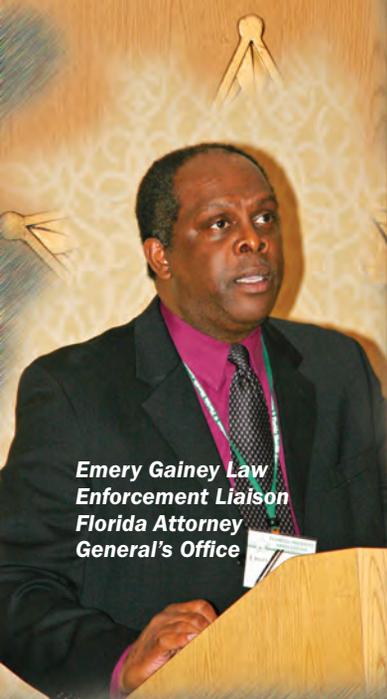
Sgt. Kevin Purinton
Citrus County Sheriff's
Office



Marion County Sheriff
Ed Dean



Robert Weber
Immigration & Customs
Enforcement



Emery Gainey Law
Enforcement Liaison
Florida Attorney
General's Office

Conference continued . . .

gangs by making them ineffectual.” He told the Sheriffs that they needed to look at the patterns of behavior, versus the individual crimes. “It’s not about a drug deal, it’s about an organization.”

DeVelasco has worked successfully with **Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube**, reducing the number of shootings and reversing the skyrocketing crime stats; crime in his county dropped three percent last year. DeVelasco said building partnerships was the key and he planned to apply the same strategies in other communities where gangs have become a problem.

Lee County Sheriff’s Office **Sgt. Tracey Booth** presented a way that Sheriffs could offset the costs associated with processing new sex offenders and predators. After conducting a study on the costs, the agency proposed a county ordinance to begin collecting fees, which was enacted fairly quickly. Now, offenders are charged a fee – from \$60 to \$81 – to be processed, plus \$10 for re-registrations. To date, the Sheriff’s Office has been successful in collecting about half of the amounts billed.

The big talk legislatively was the efforts to expand legalized gambling in the state, including allowing gaming at licensed Pari-mutuels (horse and dog tracks). Sheriffs oppose any general expansion of gambling because of the increase in crime, addictions, demand for services and decrease in the quality of life of residents. In addition, the Miccosukee Indians are once again attempting to repeal all Florida criminal and civil law on the Reservation, where gambling is legal in Florida. As **Jackson County Sheriff Johnny McDaniel** noted, despite the revenues generated, the Indians do not have to pay taxes. So in spite of causing an increase in demand on public services, like healthcare and law enforcement, no taxes are generated. The Sheriffs committed to keep battling the efforts.

*continued on
next page*



Frank Messersmith
FSA Governmental
Consultant



Roger Bouchard
President, Florida
Sheriffs Youth Ranches



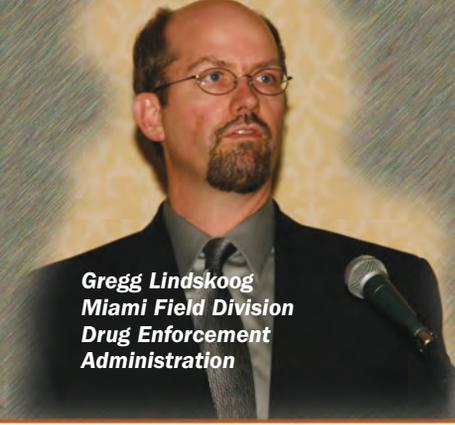
Charlie Schaeffer
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement



Brian Dorian
Immigration &
Customs Enforcement



Ed DeVelasco
FDLE Resident
Agent-in-Charge
Sarasota



Gregg Lindskoog
Miami Field Division
Drug Enforcement
Administration



Sumter County
Sheriff Bill
Farmer



Manatee County
Sheriff Brad
Steube



Kendal Anderson
Jacksonville Sheriff's
Office and Florida
Sheriffs' Explorers



Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler,
Col. T.C. LaCasse and Stacia Carter,
Kustom Signals, Inc./Code 3

Conference continued . . .

Survivors

The Mid-Winter Conference business meetings also included presentations from nonprofits that serve law enforcement. **Charles Shinholser**, whose youngest son was with the Jacksonville Sheriffs before he died, came to talk about the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). His message was solemn, "I didn't choose to be a member of C.O.P.S.," he told the Sheriffs, but added, "Helping families helps me."

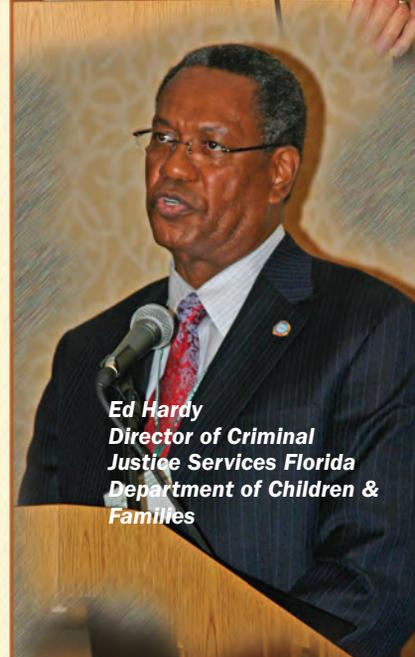
Shinholser reported that last year, 181 police were killed nationally – 16 of those in Florida.

As difficult as it is to hear the message, **FSA President, Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson**, said it was necessary. He told his fellow Sheriffs, "If you stay in the business long enough, you'll experience it."

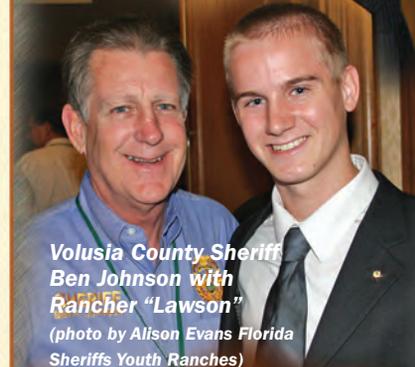
One of the highlights of the conferences is meeting young people representing the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches (FSYR). At the Mid-Winter conference, the Sheriffs met 17-year-old **Rancher Lawson**.

Lawson told the Sheriffs that he had been in and out of nine high schools until May of 2007, when he made a self-referral to the FSYR. Now, he is hopeful. "For once, I have an opportunity to be successful. It's all because of the Ranch." His 12-year-old brother joined him at the Ranch this year.

The Sheriffs will gather again July 27-30 in Orlando for the Summer conference.



Ed Hardy
Director of Criminal
Justice Services Florida
Department of Children &
Families



Volusia County Sheriff
Ben Johnson with
Rancher "Lawson"
(photo by Alison Evans Florida
Sheriffs Youth Ranches)



Bob Thurgaland, Broward County Sheriff Al
Lamberti and Todd Thurgaland, Thurgaland
Marketing & Consulting

STAR BRIEF

PAL juniors and collegiate opportunities

The Lake County Police Activities League (PAL) Cycling Team found themselves in the big leagues recently. They attended an annual collegiate bicycle race weekend at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Seven universities competed, including: The University of Florida, Florida State University, Georgia Tech, Clemson and Auburn. The race weekend had both junior and adult races and PAL had 13 juniors – seven racers and six were spectators. The event encouraged the PAL juniors about collegiate opportunities for the sport they love.



Pictured right: PAL Junior Kaileah Blazek and University of Florida women's team member, Alexis Dabroski. And racers at the starting line-up.



STAR BRIEF

“Hands-On” Sheriff

It just goes to show that some Sheriffs are willing to go to extreme measures to help young people. In La Belle, Florida, Hendry County Sheriff Ronnie Lee paired up with Alan Bowen, director of building and maintenance for the county, to compete in an annual “goat milking” competition. The event was part of the La Belle Youth and Livestock Show held at the fairgrounds. The Sheriff was pleasantly surprised to find that he had a knack for milking goats – they walked away with first prize.



Congratulations, Sheriff. And thanks for all you do for the youth in our state.



Congratulating the 2007 Correctional Officer of the Year Cpl. Kimberly Freeman (center) are, from left: Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker, Cpl. Freeman's son, Travis Troutman; Sgt. Brian Seeley and Lt. Greg Robertson.

Brevard's Freeman Named 2007 Correctional Officer of the Year

One of the highlights of the Florida Sheriffs Association Mid-Winter Conference is meeting FSA's Correctional Officer of the Year. Just like the officers working on patrol and undercover, those who work in our jails and correctional facilities are well aware of the dangers of their work. They never know when they might be called on to save the life of another – or, to defend their own.

FSA's 2007 Correctional Officer of the Year was faced with such a call. She was placed in a deadly force situation where she had to make a split-second decision. Incredibly, she chose to put herself in harm's way to protect a fellow corrections officer.

The incident that led to her nomination occurred on January 17, 2007. Corporal Kimberly Freeman was acting shift sergeant in the 300-pod

maximum security housing of the Brevard County Jail. At approximately 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Corporal Leon Maddox was transferring an inmate to disciplinary confinement because of a rule infraction.

Inmate Mack, who had previously told fellow inmates he "wasn't going back to lockdown," saw an opportunity when Corporal Maddox momentarily turned away.



The inmate viciously attacked the officer with an improvised weapon – a sock filled with imitation ivory dominoes. He struck Corporal Maddox in the back of the head, opening a two-inch laceration in his scalp, and knocking him to one knee.

Though bleeding and dazed from the initial blow, Corporal Maddox tried to block two additional blows by the inmate, but was unable to effectively defend himself from the continuing attack.

Recognizing the threat to her fellow Correctional Officer, and seeing that the inmate showed no signs of ending his rampage, Corporal Kimberly Freeman quickly responded. First, she used pepper spray in an attempt to stop inmate Mack's aggressive behavior. He managed to block the spray's effect by holding bed linens in front of his face.

With no other weapons at her disposal, Corporal Freeman's next move was to step in between inmate Mack and Corporal Maddox to protect the disoriented officer. She now became the target of the angry inmate's blows – many of which were aimed at her head.

Corporal Freeman did not retreat and used her bare arms to defend both herself and her fellow officer. Her quick thinking and willingness to endure physical confrontation from an inmate, without giving ground, provided enough time for other officers to assist. The responding officers distracted inmate Mack and disarmed him using improvised impact weapons, including a broom handle and a chair.

As the reports of this incident noted, it took a great deal of courage for Corporal Freeman to step into the path of this attacker. Her decision was one that few people would consider a viable option.

As one of the officers who was directly involved with disarming the inmate noted: Confronting an out-of-control person armed with a deadly weapon is always a frightening prospect for any law-enforcement officer – even when you know you have a firearm, baton or taser available. So consider that Corporal Kimberly Freeman not only confronted such a person, she did it after seeing him seriously injure a fellow officer. And when her pepper spray didn't work, she deliberately placed herself as a shield to protect her fellow officer. Her actions put her at exceptional risk for her own safety.

The fact that she didn't retreat was also amazing when you consider the force behind the blows to her arms and upper body. The bruises Corporal Freeman received included actual imprints of the imitation ivory dominoes that were stuffed in the sock.

Clearly, Corporal Freeman's actions demonstrated courage and selflessness. She risked her life beyond the call of duty to protect her fellow officer.

And because of her heroic actions, the Florida Sheriffs Association has named Corporal Kimberly Freeman the 2007 Correctional Officer of the Year.

Congratulations, Corporal Freeman.

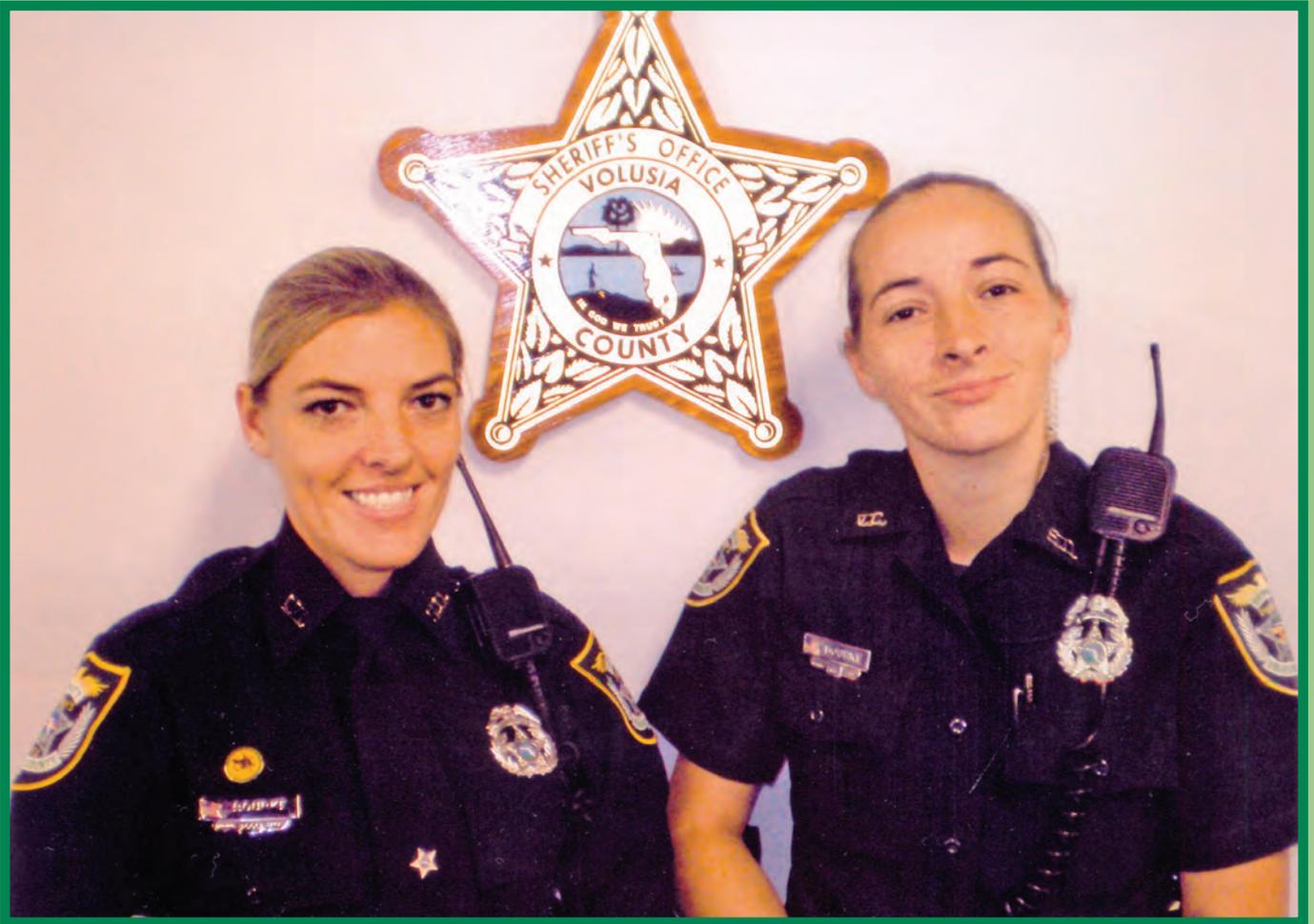
Jax's Glenn Named Runner-Up

Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer Joann M. Glenn, a 17-year veteran of JSO, was named Runner Up for the 2007 Correctional Officer of the Year. Officer Glenn launched a fundraiser to purchase a headstone for the grave of a six-year-old boy who had been kidnapped from his Brunswick, GA neighborhood and found murdered a week later. Three people have been charged with the murder, including a registered child molester and his parents.

After hearing news reports of the manhunt, which included Northeast Florida, and learning of the death of the child, Officer Glenn visited the grave and learned that the family could not afford a headstone. Officer Glenn organized a car wash and collected donations to raise money for the cause. Within two weeks, she had enough support to purchase a headstone marker for the grave, as well as a bench.

The Florida Sheriffs Association recognizes the compassion and drive behind Officer Glenn's personal mission to memorialize the life of Christopher Michael Barrios, a boy she did not know. And the Sheriffs have named her Runner Up for the 2007 Correctional Officer of the Year.

Read more about the life of Christopher on the Web: <http://christopher-barrios.last-memories.com/>.



Sisters Bourke: Deputies Samantha (left) and Christy

A history-making law enforcement sister act in Volusia County

By Gary Davidson
Public Information Officer
Volusia County Sheriff's Office

It was August 2006, shortly before midnight on an otherwise uneventful evening on patrol along the southeastern edge of Volusia County for Deputy Christy Bourke. On the job for about 2-1/2 years at the time, Bourke would be dispatched to a remote area just north of Oak Hill for a seemingly routine suspicious vehicle call that would turn out to be anything but routine.

Responding to the call, Bourke rolled up on a dark blue passenger car parked along a dirt road, the driver asleep behind the wheel. She stopped to rouse the driver and ask what he was doing in such a desolate location so late at night. What happened next would rattle the nerves of any seasoned officer. As Bourke stood by her patrol car, she learned that the man behind the wheel was wanted in Virginia on three open warrants. Bourke, however, wouldn't take the man into custody. She never got the

chance. The wanted man had other ideas, pulling out a .22-caliber, semi-automatic Ruger, putting it to his chin and pulling the trigger, with Bourke just a few feet away.

Emotionally shaken by the events of the evening, Bourke sought the sympathetic and understanding ear of her closest confidante -- her sister Samantha. The two grew up in Ormond Beach as best friends and have remained so as adults. After all, thought Christie, who better to understand her thoughts and feelings than a

sibling, her flesh and blood -- and a fellow deputy.

That's right: Christy and Samantha Bourke are making history as the first ever sister deputies at the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. And their bond has never been stronger.

"It's a good feeling knowing that someone so close to you knows the same thing that you're going through and can tell you how to get through it," remarks Samantha. "It's hard for people who aren't in law enforcement to relate to you and understand how you're feeling and what's going on."

"She understood where I was coming from," adds Christy.

Older by about 17 months, Samantha was fresh out of the police academy and just on the job for just five days as a Reserve Deputy when Christy had her encounter with the suicidal man. While the younger sister, Christy has always been the more adventurous of the two. She was first to go into law enforcement, completing her Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) training in 2003 and joining the Sheriff's Office as a fresh-faced, barely 19-year-old.

"Christy had just turned 19, and she looked like she was about 12," says her father, Tom Bourke, Sr. "She really was very young. Nobody could believe that she was a Deputy."

Nobody, that is, except her parents. In fact, it was at Dad's urging that Christy went into law enforcement in the first place. It was something that Tom Bourke, Sr. always wanted for his children. At first, he wanted his son, Tom Jr., to go into law enforcement. But he pursued a different calling and is now a minister in

Illinois. Another sibling is an EMT. That meant the father's dream would fall to daughters Christy and Samantha. Christy immediately took to the idea.

"After graduating from high school, I didn't know what I wanted," says Christy. "But when I started going through the Academy, I really enjoyed it. I found out that it was something that I loved doing."

Since becoming a full-fledged deputy in July 2004, Christy has spent most of her time in patrol. Like her sister, she has aspirations to one day get into investigations, but for now is content on the road.

"I like going out there," says Christy. "Every day you see something different. I love my job."

Meanwhile, Samantha was more than seven years into a very successful career with Winn-Dixie when she caught the bug. She'd listen to Christy come home and talk about her experiences as a deputy -- who she arrested, what she saw and how she was able to help people. The experience appealed to Samantha on a humanitarian level. She gave up her career at Winn-Dixie to take a pay cut while going through the BLE Academy.

"I thought it was a really helpful job," says Samantha. "You really get to give back to the community. It's very gratifying."

Samantha, who has been on the road since April 2007, says she still has a steep learning curve. But she also loves what she does. "Every day you learn something new on a call that you didn't know the day before."

Although younger, Christy

can't help but watch out for her big sister. Like the time Christy gave Samantha a deadly serious warning about responding to a report of an aggravated assault with a firearm. "Be careful," Christy told Samantha. "If there's one gun, there's probably two." Despite their closeness, or perhaps because of it, the sisters realize that it's probably not a good idea for them to work the same shift in the same district because they might be tempted to focus too much on watching each other's back. Still, Christy is thrilled that big sister Samantha followed in her footsteps.

"I'm happy that she made her own decision to do it. I stand by her 100 percent," says Christy.

Dad couldn't be happier, though he still worries about his girls. He stopped listening to his police scanner because it was too nerve-racking to hear his daughters come up on the radio. But he never stops giving them encouragement and advice. His No.1 street-survival tip to any law enforcement officer, including his daughters: "Whatever you do, protect your gun. Protect your weapon at all costs, even if you have to empty it," says Tom Bourke, Sr. "Don't be a victim of your own gun."

Mom, too, says she couldn't be prouder.

"They've met every expectation I ever had for them," says Karen Bourke.

As far as making history as the first sister deputy duo, the more talkative sister, Christy, sums up her feelings in a short, simple reply: "Yeah, it's pretty darn cool."

LETTERS

Editor:

I am in receipt of the Sheriff's Star, Jan/Feb edition. This will have a reserved place on my desk. It is full of information that would take me hours to locate when needed. It is an excellent copy for which you and your cohorts should be proud. Thank you.

K.B., Walton County

Editor:

I am concerned. Are there any black officers in the association? The reason I ask is that I did not see one black face in your magazine. I need an answer because if this is a white only magazine, I sure don't want to be a part of it. I am not saying that all white people are prejudiced. Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean is one of the best persons one can meet. I hope you see my point because it will pop up again.

P.E.

Editor replies:

Thank you for writing to us with your concern. This is something that all editors face, trying to make sure that the magazine truly reflects the diversity of its readership and the general public. I apologize that the particular issue that you read didn't accomplish this to your satisfaction.

We try to select stories based on the activities of the Sheriffs' Offices and are not always given photos that illustrate the people behind those activities, though I assure you that they are quite diverse. Law enforcement is, in fact, made up of a very demographically diverse group – age, race and gender – and the magazine reflects this in the editorial. We do our best to reflect it in the art (photos) as well.

Please do not judge us on one issue of the magazine, as there is way more to law enforcement than what we can bring in 20 pages.

Keep reading and I'm sure you will discover that the diversity is there. Thank you again for writing.

Additions/Corrections to Yearbook 2008

To date, we have received many compliments on our January/February edition of The Sheriff's Star, "The Official Insider's Guide to Florida Government." At the time of writing, however, several important changes were taking place. We've received updates and additions that will be reflected in the 2009 version.

Until then, please make note of the following:

Fifth Judicial Circuit (page 41)

Corrections:

Administrator phone:
(352) 401-6701

Circuit Judge Carven D. Angel has retired

Addition:

Circuit Judge Robert W. Hodges
Frances Spinale King should only be listed as a Circuit Court Judge

Department of Corrections
(pages 36 and 51)

Walter A. McNeil, Secretary
(James R. McDonough has retired)
2601 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500
(850) 488-7480

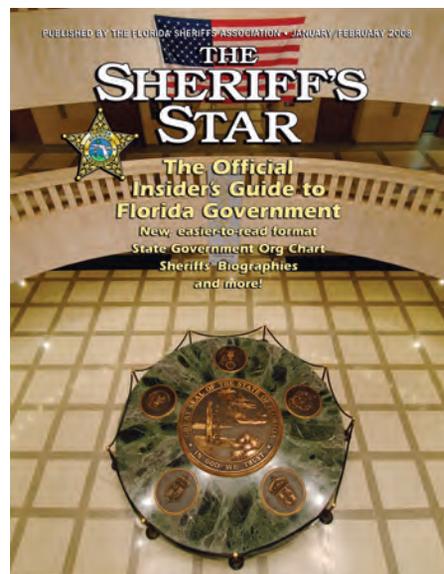
Other additions:

Richard D. Davison,
Deputy Secretary
(850) 488-7480
Sandeep R. Rahangdale, M.D.

Assistant Secretary of Health Services
(850) 922-6645

Kathleen Von Hoene, General Counsel
(850) 488-2326

Alex Taylor, Chaplain



*The Sheriff's Star,
January/February 2008*

(850) 488-3570

Gene Hatcher, Chief Information Officer

(850) 410-4702

And, our apologies for misspelling the name of Ralph Kiessig, Department of Corrections Director of Human Resources.

FSA Conferences 2008

- National Sheriffs Association 2008 Annual Conference & Exhibition, Indiana Convention Center & RCA Dome, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 27-July 2
- FSA Annual Summer Conference, Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Orlando, July 27-30

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.

What's Your ID Checking IQ?

*Sgt. Rick Hord
Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office*



Spring Break season inspired many news stories on underage drinking. These also revealed that many people, even those who sell or serve adult beverages, can use a little ID-checking tune-up.

True or False: Florida law says merchants must check identification.

Answer: False. The law says you must not sell or serve anyone under 21. It's a good idea to check ID, and it's house policy in many stores, bars, and restaurants, but state law does not require it.

What kind of ID should you accept? A college ID? Library card? Vehicle registration? Voter registration card? Birth certificate? How about an official employee ID of a major corporation, government agency or contractor?

Answer: None of the above. Florida law recognizes only four kinds of identification for proof of age when serving or selling alcoholic beverages: 1)-a Driver License; 2)-an official state-issued ID card; 3)-a Passport; 4)-a Military ID card. If you check one of those four forms of ID, you'll enjoy some legal protections if the person turns out to be under-age...assuming you made a legitimate, good faith effort to inspect the card

and customer to verify their veracity.

Here are some tips to make that good-faith effort:

Physically check the card. Don't just look at it. Don't serve a customer who won't remove the card from the wallet and hand it to you. Feel the card for thick or uneven lamination, or worn spots or bumps that could signal a counterfeit or altered card.

Read both sides of the card. Many underagers purchase high-quality fakes on the Internet. Those can often be spotted by reading the back, where the maker usually puts a disclaimer in small print. One dead giveaway is a card issued by the "Department of Identification," or "Bureau of Identification." No state has such an agency.

Is the card expired? If so, be suspicious...be very suspicious. Don't accept excuses for an expired card. Remember, you are never required to accept an

ID for service of alcohol. The customer may be upset, but you cannot get in legal trouble for refusing to sell.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Anyone who doesn't know their own full name, birthday, address, and other information listed on the card has some serious explaining to do. If you think the customer has memorized all the information on a borrowed card, try asking their birthstone or zodiac sign – almost everybody knows their own, but few will know someone else's.

Sign your name here... Chances are, the user of a borrowed card won't be able to pull off a very convincing forgery of the autograph that's on the ID.

A traffic ticket is not a driver's license. In a DUI arrest, the officer will seize the license, and the traffic citation serves as a temporary driving permit. The customer may be telling the truth when he says that yellow slip of paper is the only license he's got; and the clerk will be telling the truth when he says it's not valid for buying beer.

FSA Named "Our Friend" By Boys Ranch Alumni

FSA President, Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson (left) and FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins (right) were presented with the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Alumni Association "Our Friend" award at FSA's Mid-Winter conference. It's the highest honor given by the Alums and is presented to an individual or group that has made a major contribution not only to the Boys Ranch, but the residents themselves. In his presentation, Alumni Association President Bill Riggins (center) said he thought it was especially appropriate to honor the Florida Sheriffs, who founded the Boys Ranch, as the parent organization (Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches) celebrates 50 years of saving Florida's children.



Crisis on Interstate 4

By Carrie Rodgers
Public Information Officer
Polk County Sheriff's Office

January 9, 2008, was one of those days that people in central Florida won't soon forget. Fog, smoke, and speed became a deadly mix on a major interstate highway. Five people lost their lives, dozens were injured and millions of dollars' worth of property was destroyed.

Interstate 4 runs east to west through the state of Florida from Tampa on the west coast to Daytona Beach on the east coast. On that day before sunrise, smoke from a controlled burn combined with an unusually heavy early morning fog decreased visibility on the interstate to about five feet in the Auburndale area, in central Polk County. That limited visibility caused one of the worst multi-vehicle pile-ups that some first responders had ever seen.

Around 5:00 a.m. on that Wednesday, just before the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) shift change, the PCSO Communications Center dispatched deputies in the Northeast District to respond to a traffic crash on I-4 westbound near county road 557. PCSO units begin to respond to work the crash, and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) was also en route. Both agencies do traffic enforcement and work traffic crashes on I-4 in Polk County, often times working the same scenes together.

At 5:23 a.m., Deputy Sheriff James Pruitt, who had just arrived at county road 557 and I-4, advised over his radio, "Just for 1043 (information), there is barely any visibility at all with the smoke out here." Another deputy advised that there were two more traffic



crashes in the area, on I-4 westbound. Sgt. Bart Davis, the Northeast District supervisor working the night shift, asked dispatch to contact the state to see if they could respond with some type of barricades or traffic control devices to assist with traffic control on I-4 westbound.

Deputy Sheriff Pruitt arrived at the scene of the crash in the westbound lane with FHP and reported, "There is zero visibility out here. If one of the other units responding can go east on I-4, we need to get traffic stopped around U.S. 27 or just on the edge of the smoke up there around U.S. 27 and I-4."

Deputy Sheriff Jack "Carlton" Turner, a 26-year-old Deputy Sheriff who was hired in 2006, started heading east on I-4 to assist from the Winter Haven area.

Just before 5:30 a.m., Deputy

Sheriff Turner, who was still eastbound on I-4, entered thick fog and smoke – what he described as "hitting a wall." He slowed down to 15 mph and came upon several crashed vehicles in the roadway. He stopped to get out of his patrol car, and within seconds the car was hit from behind by oncoming cars. Though responding to the crashes, he suddenly found himself in the middle of it all.

At 5:26 a.m., Deputy Sheriff Turner radioed to say, "Signal 4 delta (agency vehicle crash), we got bad car wrecks here. We need definitely signal 35 (assistance) out here. I still hear cars hitting. We need to get this eastbound shut down now! There's approximately 20, 25 cars here. My car's been hit several times."

The dispatcher asked Deputy Sheriff Turner for his exact location and asked if he was OK. He replied that he was east of county road 559 (in the Auburndale area). "I'm still hearing cars impacting. I've heard approximately 30 impacts so far. 30, 32, 33. I'm 77 (okay) so far. I can't see anything. All I hear are people just constantly hitting each other. Right now I'm in front of my vehicle standing by. I don't want to get struck by



911 calls started pouring in from motorists in the crash and from the eastbound lane. It took emergency personnel and Deputy Sheriffs another 30 minutes to locate the multi-car pileup.

next morning, delaying work crews from clearing the burnt shells of semi trucks so that the road would again be passable. I-4 in Polk County was finally operational again by 6:00 p.m. the next day, January 10, thanks to the hard work of DOT in re-paving a section of gouged and melted roadway.

The damage was extensive. A nearby flight line was used as a repository for the 50-plus totaled cars that had to be towed from the scene. The Polk County Sheriff's Office Mobile Command Center was set up at the closest I-4 interchange from the morning of the crash until I-4 was reopened to handle the coordination of services throughout the area. The media staging area also was set up at this location. The crash became national news almost immediately, due in part to the dramatic photos of a column of black smoke rising through the fog. The media crews stayed put for days. Getting the word out to the public that I-4 was shut down and what alternate routes to use was crucial, and the media was more than helpful in spreading the word.

Words can't describe the fire, smoke, wreckage, and human suffering that the victims and first responders experienced that day. First responders performed heroically. Many crawled their way through the thick white fog and smoke to render aid to the dozens of victims who needed it. It is due to their quick actions that only five people died. Deputy Sheriff Paul Buoniconti, a U.S. Marine reservist who served in combat in Iraq, compared the I-4 crash to a war zone unlike anything one would expect to see on American soil. He and Deputy Turner, both key responders that morning, agreed that the crash and its aftermath were something they hadn't specifically trained for – they just did what they could, and they did what they thought was right.

"The selflessness and dedication of these first responders is so impressive," said Sheriff Grady Judd of Polk County. "They are at their best when things seem to be at their worst."

oncoming vehicles."

Deputy Sheriff Turner tried to move his patrol car, but a safety feature that turns off the ignition switch when the car is hit had engaged. Risking his own safety, he got out of his car, opened the trunk to reset the ignition-shut-off switch, and then drove his patrol car into the relative safety of the grass median. He then used his patrol car as a safety barrier for the ever-increasing number of victims who were getting out of their cars and walking around injured and disoriented.

At 5:33 a.m. Deputy Sheriff Turner said, "Reference, since I've been talking I've heard approximately 15 more (crashes). There's at least 50 cars out here. I'm being advised there's a semi that's signal 25 (on fire); unknown if occupants still inside. I have several vehicles on fire at my 1020 (location). I have approximately four vehicles surrounding my patrol car that are all signal 25. I'm trying to locate as many drivers as I can." The dispatcher told him that other units, and an ambulance, were en route.

Sgt. Davis and Lt. Cook, the day-shift Lieutenant for the Northeast District who had just come on duty, began dispatching all available units to respond to the crash, to find Deputy Sheriff Turner, and to use extreme caution due to limited visibility. They sent units to shut down I-4 east and west bound, and instructions were given to all units on feeder roads to I-4 to also shut down. I-4 was closed for the next 36 hours.

Meanwhile, Deputy Sheriff Turner was pairing up the less injured with the more seriously injured who could still walk, and directing them to stand behind his patrol car in the median. He was going from car to car, trying to help whomever he could, and using his agency-issued fire extinguisher to battle the flames. By 5:45 a.m., the fire department still had not made it to the crash site.

When help arrived, it was on foot – firefighters and Deputy Sheriffs had to walk in front of fire trucks and ambulances with their hands on the front bumpers to direct the vehicles where to go – the visibility was that limited. Another deputy said to Lt. Cook, when asked over the radio if he could see Deputy Sheriff Turner's flashing lights on the scene, "Negative – I walk about 50 yards (and) I can't even see mine."

Once help arrived, miraculous rescues occurred. For example, there was the driver trapped for five hours in his car, which was crushed under another vehicle, who held a deputy's hand and used the deputy's cell phone to talk to his wife, thinking it would be the last time he'd speak to her. He was extricated and taken to a nearby hospital, and eventually recovered.

When it was all said and done, the Florida Highway Patrol, the lead agency investigating the crash, reported that five people died in the crash, and dozens of others were injured and hospitalized. In all, 13 tractor-trailers were involved, many of those and other cars engulfed in flames. The fog was relentless, cloaking the area again the

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 or visit our website: www.flsheriffs.org



CLAY COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to David Eure Lighthouse Christian School



BROWARD – 30-year certificate presented by Broward Sheriff Al Lambert to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Monteleone.



CLAY COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lamb.



HARDEE COUNTY – Lifetime Honorary Member award Presented by Hardee County Sheriff Loran Cogburn (left) to Dr. Slade Hayman.



MANATEE COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube to Al Taylor of Gulfstream Natural Gas



HERNANDO COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent to Gordon E. Degeest



HERNANDO COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent to Joseph A. Lake.



HERNANDO COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent to Joe Zuyus.



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul C. May (right) and Undersheriff Noel E. Stephen (left) to Gene Fulford



OSCEOLA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Phillip V. Asche (left) and Gary M. Brown (right).



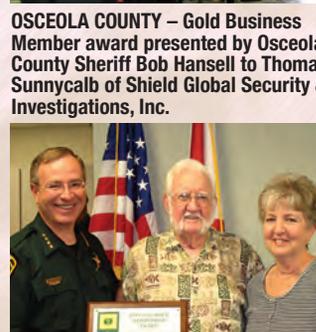
OSCEOLA COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Thomas Sunnycalb of Shield Global Security & Investigations, Inc.



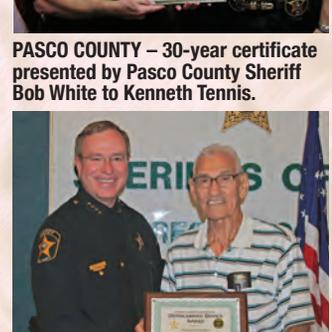
POLK COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Mona Ducker.



POLK COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Coline Gibson.



POLK COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to William Gronlund.



POLK COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Frank Musumeci.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES



BAKER COUNTY – Special recognition from FSyr Chair Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher to the family of the late George Thorne, son Steven, wife Sandi and brother Phillip Thorne.



HONOR ROLL

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 \$1,000 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.



CLAY COUNTY – Presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Roy M. Dowdy and Carol B. Dowdy Charitable Foundation.



COLUMBIA COUNTY – Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Bill Gootee (right) to Keith Norris, Downtown Rotary Club of Lake City.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (right) and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Donor Relations VP Alison Evans to Howard Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch also received a FSyr Golden Star Award.



SUWANNEE COUNTY – Presented by Suwannee County Sheriff Tony Cameron (left) and FSyr President Roger Bouchard (right) to Mrs. & Mrs. Bud Royal and Jerry Willard, a Youth Ranches alumnus.



POLK COUNTY - Presented by FSyr Donor Relations Officer Bill Aust (right) to Cecil Williams.



DESOTO COUNTY – Presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon L. Keen to Lucy Schmidt.



HERNANDO COUNTY – Presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Wuss.



LEON COUNTY – Presented by FSyr Chair Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher to Peggy Goff, FSA Chief of Staff.



ORANGE COUNTY – Presented by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Donor Relations VP Alison Evans to Scott Doll.



PINELLAS COUNTY – Presented by Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats (right) and FSyr Donor Relations Officer Don Meek (left) to Richard Laneau.



SUMTER COUNTY – Presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer to Betty Etter.

New Lifetime Honorary Members from 12/11/07 to 4/2/08

Mr. and Mrs. Garry W. Allen
 Mr. Frederick W. Austin
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Banister
 Mr. Russell L. Bausch
 Mr. William A. Baxley
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. Beauregard, Jr.
 Best Buy Children's Foundation
 Mr. John P. Booth
 Sheriff Gary S. Borders
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Bottger
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Brandt
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Bray
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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ferguson
 Mr. Thomas Fernstrom
 Mrs. Kay Fields
 Mr. William H. Forrester, Jr.
 FSC Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
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 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Galyean
 Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Garner
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale T. Gray
 Mr. Martin A. Gregory, Jr.
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 Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hargraves
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 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas F. Harrison
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 Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Herdrich
 Mr. William A. Herx
 Miss Bernice Heslop
 Col. and Mrs. Raymond W. Hinc USAF (Ret.)

Continued on next page

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL

Continued from page 17

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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hoffman
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Mrs. Christina Janks
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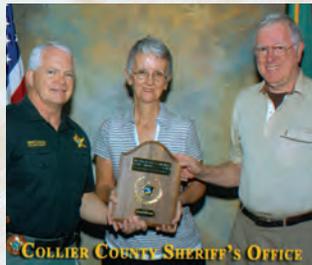


POLK COUNTY – Presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.



POLK COUNTY – Presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Drew and Karen Guffey and their son, Drew.

Mrs. N. Jean Smith-Ford
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Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Strickland
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Mr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Williams, Sr.
Ms. Shirley W. Williams
Mr. T. Gerald Witt
Mr. Michael B. Wood
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Wurtz
Youth Villa Classic Jr. Golf Tournament



COLLIER COUNTY – Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Mr. & Mrs. Roger F. Vaughn.



LEE COUNTY – Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Mr. & Mrs. William B. Nichols.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Mr. & Mrs. Karl Harris and Holger Huels.



Phyllis A. Cram



Nicholas Mancito



Earlene J. Kessler

MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Pastor Wayne Kofink of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nicholas Mancito of Wilco Enterprises, Inc.; Phyllis A. Cram and Earlene J. Kessler.



DUVAL COUNTY - FSYR Chair Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher (left) to J.J. Ethridge, Dana Safety Supply.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee to Brian Cullimore.



SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fleeman.

NEW License Tag Frame Now Available!

The Florida Sheriffs Association is offering another opportunity for you to show your support for law enforcement in your community through a newly-designed License Tag Frame. Unlike many tag frames on the market, this handsome frame conforms to the Florida Statute 316.605 licensing of vehicles requirements, by not covering any type or numbers on the face of the tag. The tag frame will 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!



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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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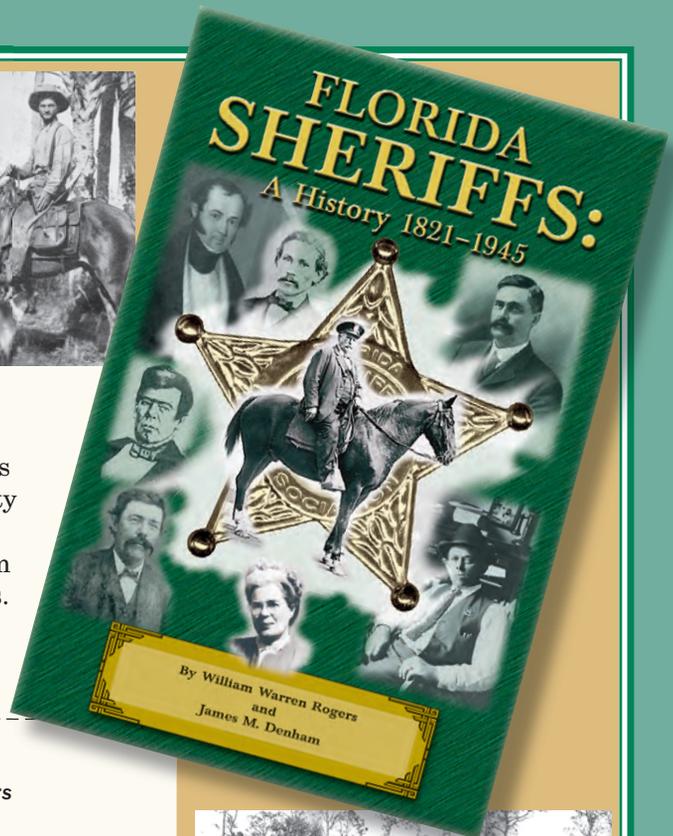
You Can Own A Part of Law Enforcement History



A book about the history of law enforcement in Florida is a rare find. And that makes, "Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945" a real gem.

This book carefully documents the history of early law enforcement in the Sunshine State. In fact, shortly after it was published it received acclaim from the state's Historical Society as one of their "Outstanding Books on Florida History."

Co-authors William Warren Rogers and James M. Denham are not only accomplished historians, but talented storytellers. Don't miss their printed documentary of the chief law enforcers in our state.



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