

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

"SHERIFFING 101"

**FSA Welcomes 21 New Sheriffs-Elect at the
Florida Sheriffs Basic Institute**

See page 4



From the desk of....

Gary Perkins

Executive Director

Florida Sheriffs Association



You will likely be getting this issue of *The Sheriff's Star* shortly after the New Year. Our once-every-four-years "New Sheriffs Basic Institute" was held in December and we wanted to reserve space in the magazine to welcome our 21 new Sheriffs. You can read more about what was covered and see some of the new faces beginning on page 4 of this issue.

Of course, you will have complete biographies on all new and returning Sheriffs – plus "everything you need to get things done in Florida" in our Annual Guide to Government edition – which publishes in late February.

Stay tuned.

Have a budget story?

Budgets are on everyone's minds these days – personal and business – and it's the same at every Sheriff's Office in Florida. In an effort to encourage cost savings, we have been asking Sheriffs to tell us about ways they have saved money or otherwise become more efficient in the face of budget cuts. Our country's history is filled with stories of innovation that came as a result of difficult economic times. And I believe that our Sheriffs' Offices have what it takes to stand up to these challenges – to seek new and creative ways to deliver services, despite cutbacks.

We plan to share these stories with our readers, beginning with this issue. In one example, The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office took a donated ambulance and, using

inmate labor, transformed it into a "Crisis Negotiation Command Center" on wheels. The savings: nearly \$100,000.

In another example, with an \$8,000 investment in a nitrogen tire inflation system, the Marion County Sheriff's Office is saving at least \$100,000 annually in fuel costs and tires.

There are bound to be many more stories out there – and we want to share them. If you know about a cost-saving measure at any Sheriffs' Office, please let us know. Use the contact information on the opposite page to reach our editor.

A little about the past

As our FSA staff gathered for a Christmas celebration, we couldn't help but recall the challenging year. Yes, we not only lost our headquarters offices to fire, but we lost some important figures, too, including our former Executive Director Buddy Phillips.

Despite the challenges, I can assure you that we are coming back strong. We have recently cleared the former headquarters site of all debris and have selected a contractor to re-build. We don't have a firm date for construction, but our hopes are to start seeing activity in early 2009. Watch for updates in

our publications and on our Web site at: www.flsheriffs.org/.

Looking ahead

For several years now, we've been noticing an interest in higher levels of membership for the association. We felt strongly that we needed to keep the basic Honorary Membership accessible – especially in these difficult economic times. So we came up with a solution: We've added two new levels to membership in the Florida Sheriffs Honorary Membership program – Silver and Gold. You can learn more about the benefits that go along with these new levels on page 7.

We are also looking at other aspects of membership, including expanding our Law Enforcement option. The Florida Sheriffs have enjoyed great partnerships with those who provide services that fit our law-enforcement member needs. Look for a future announcement in upcoming issue of *The Sheriff's Star*.

Here at the Florida Sheriffs Association, we are counting our blessings and you – our loyal members – are at the top of that list. We look forward to continuing to serve the Sheriffs of Florida and their supporters in 2009.

Please let us know how we're doing!

Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association

Staying Safe on Social Network Sites

A special report from the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team

The popularity of social networking sites, such as Facebook and MySpace, continues to increase, especially among teenagers and young adults. The nature of these sites introduces security risks, so you should take certain precautions.

Security implications

Social networking sites rely on connections and communication, so they encourage you to provide a certain amount of personal information. When deciding how much information to reveal, people may not exercise the same amount of caution as they would when meeting someone in person. That's because 1) the Internet provides a sense of anonymity, 2) the lack of physical interaction can give them a false sense of security and 3) they tailor the information for their friends to read – forgetting that others may see it.

While the majority of people using these sites do not pose a threat, malicious people may be drawn to them. And the more information people have, the easier it is for them to take advantage of you. Predators may also form relationships online and then convince unsuspecting individuals to meet them

in person, leading to a dangerous situation. The personal information can also be used to conduct a social engineering attack (when a person infiltrates a network or organization). Using information that you provide about your location, hobbies, interests and friends, a person with bad intentions could also use it to build rapport and try to convince you to let them access other personal or financial data.

How to protect yourself

Some precautions you can take up front can help protect you while using social networking sites.

- Limit the amount of personal information you post. Do not post information that would make you vulnerable (e.g., your address, information about your schedule or routine). If your "friends" post information about you, make sure the combined information is not more than you would be comfortable with strangers knowing.
- Remember that the Internet is a public resource. Only post information you are comfortable with anyone seeing. This includes information in your profile and in blogs and other forums. Also, once you post information online, you can't retract it. Even if you remove the information from a site, saved or cached versions may still exist on other people's machines.
- Be wary of strangers. The Internet

makes it easy for people to misrepresent their identities and motives. Consider limiting the people who are allowed to contact you on these sites. If you interact with people you do not know, be cautious about the amount of information you reveal or meeting them in person.

- Be skeptical. Don't believe everything you read online. People may post false or misleading information about various topics, including their own identities. This is not necessarily done with malicious intent; it could be an exaggeration or a joke. Take appropriate precautions and try to verify the authenticity of any information before taken any action.

Children are especially susceptible to the threats that social networking sites present. Although many of these sites have age restrictions, children may misrepresent their ages so that they can join. By teaching children about Internet safety, being aware of their online habits, and guiding them to appropriate sites, parents can make sure that the children become safe and responsible users.

This article provided by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team. Find out more from CERT's Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov> or access the full text at: <http://www.us-cert.gov/legal.html>

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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

Volume 51, No.6, November/December 2008

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 © 2008 by Florida Sheriffs Association. ISSN 0488-6186

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Franklin County Sheriff-Elect
Lloyd A. "Skip" Shiver



Scott Hunt, HRH/Hunt Insurance Group



Gilchrist County Sheriff-Elect Daniel Slaughter



Nassau County Sheriff T. L. "Tommy" Seagraves

"Sheriffing 101"

FSA Welcomes 21 New Sheriffs-Elect at the Florida Sheriffs Basic Institute

New Sheriffs – and some returning – come to Tallahassee for training

Between the combination of an unusually high number of retiring Sheriffs and several incumbent Sheriffs getting defeated, nearly one-third of the 67 counties in Florida have a new Sheriff in town.

This fact created a relatively large delegation at the Florida Sheriffs Association "New Sheriffs Basic Institute," a comprehensive 5-day workshop that offers the Sheriff a working knowledge of their new position. This year's Institute was held December 7-12 at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Tallahassee. The convenient setting also provided a forum for several VIP drop ins, including Florida Governor Charlie Crist, Florida Senator Charlie Dean (a former Sheriff) and Florida House of Representatives Speaker Pro Tempore, Larry Cretul.

Taking on the job of Sheriff and stepping into management of a multi-million dollar budget, plus personnel can be a bit daunting – not to mention keeping up with the laws that govern the office. That's why the



Jacksonville/Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford



Florida House of Representatives Speaker Pro Tempore, Larry Cretul



Broward Sheriff's Office Lt. Col. Rick Frey





Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler (left) and Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum



Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti (left) and Emery Gainey, Law Enforcement Liaison, Attorney General's Office



Left to right, Dennis Oistacher, National Safety Commission, Inc., Frederick Dunphy, Chairman of the Florida Parole Commission and Chris Knight, retired Col., Florida Highway Patrol.

Photos by Thurgaland Marketing www.sheriffphoto.com

Florida Sheriffs Association first developed a "manual" for Sheriffs in 1946. FSA has continued to make modifications as new laws go into effect that might affect the job description, and offers the training to ease transition for new Sheriffs as well.

Consisting of more than 270 pages, the manual covers everything from qualification for the office to actions that can get this person removed. But more practical are the checklists for transition, responsibilities of the Office of Sheriff (including corresponding statutes), personnel procedures and budget preparation.

No Sheriff would ever want to be without it.

Content during the 5-day seminars is based on the manual and also includes hot topics that have developed in recent years. FSA recruits speakers that represent the highest rank in state government and related organizations for the training.

This year's seminar covered:

- The Florida Retirement System
- Legislative Affairs
- Government in the Sunshine
- The Sheriff's Office Responsibility in Times of Emergency
- County Detention Facilities
- Public Records Management
- Sheriff's Office Budget
- Audits and Management
- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- 1122 and Vehicle Cost Savings Programs

Continued on next page



Florida Senator Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) and FSA President/Okaloosa Sheriff Charlie Morris



From left, Mark Cutcliffe, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge (Tallahassee), Col. Vicki Cutcliffe, Director of Insurance Fraud; Bob Peryam, Sheriff-Elect, Monroe County; Col. Richard "Rick" Ramsay, Monroe County Undersheriff; Joel Norred, Franklin County Undersheriff



Col. Julie Jones, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FSA Executive Director Gary Perkins



Orange County Sheriff-Elect Jerry L. Demings (left) and DCF Director of Criminal Justice Services, Ed Hardy



Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary George Sheldon (left) and DCF Director of Criminal Justice Services, Ed Hardy



From left, Florida Department of Corrections Secretary Walt McNeil, Bradford County Sheriff-Elect Gordon Smith and Gadsden County Sheriff Morris Young.

Vince Edwards,
Florida Department
of State



Alachua County
Sheriff Sadie
Darnell



Jacksonville/Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford and Escambia County Sheriff Elect David Morgan



From left, David Jacobs with Tyco Electronics, Charlotte County Sheriff-Elect Bill Cameron and David Plezbert, Tyco Electronics.



Charlotte County Sheriff-Elect Bill Cameron, Mary Jo Phillips and her son, Mike Phillips, FDLE

Continued from page 5

- The Florida Sheriffs' Self-Insurance Fund and Other Insurance Programs
- Sheriffs and Office Litigations
- Checklist for the Assumption of Office
- General Organization and Management of the Office of Sheriff
- Media Relations
- Civil Judicial Process
- FSA Legal Services & Employment Law
- Impact of Employment Issues on Your Agency
- Labor Law Issues
- Collective Bargaining Issues
- The Florida Commission on Ethics
- The Sheriff's Relationship to Their Command Staff
- Florida Sheriffs Teen Driving Challenge Program

There is no doubt that the Sheriffs were overwhelmed by the amount of information covered during the Institute and may have only absorbed a portion of it. So perhaps the most important task accomplished during their time in Tallahassee was reassuring them that they can always turn to the Florida Sheriffs Association for any matter – and if the FSA staff doesn't have an immediate answer, they will find it. Most Sheriffs would agree that this fact alone was worth their 5-day investment.

Welcome, New Sheriffs

The Florida Sheriffs Association publishes an "Annual Guide to Government" each February that includes complete biographies on all new Sheriffs. In the interim, please help us welcome these new (and one returning) Sheriffs:

- Bradford County Sheriff-Elect Gordon Smith
- Charlotte County Sheriff-Elect Bill Cameron (served previously)
- Collier County Sheriff-Elect Kevin Rambosk,
- Columbia County Sheriff-Elect Mark A. Hunter,
- Desoto County Sheriff-Elect William P. "Will" Wise
- Escambia County Sheriff-Elect David Morgan
- Franklin County Sheriff-Elect Lloyd A. "Skip" Shiver
- Gilchrist County Sheriff-Elect Daniel Slaughter
- Hardee County Sheriff-Elect Arnold Lanier
- Hendry County Sheriff-Elect Steve Whidden
- Holmes County Sheriff-Elect Tim Brown
- Indian River County Sheriff-Elect Deryl Loar
- Jackson County Sheriff Lou Roberts
- Lafayette County Sheriff-Elect Brian N. Lamb
- Liberty County Sheriff-Elect Donnie Conyers
- Madison County Sheriff-Elect Benjamin Stewart
- Monroe County Sheriff-Elect Robert "Bob" Peryam
- Orange County Sheriff-Elect Jerry L. Demings
- Putnam County Sheriff-Elect Jeff Hardy
- Sarasota County Sheriff-Elect Thomas Knight
- Walton County Sheriff-Elect Michael A. Adkinson Jr.

Nitrogen-filled Tires Brings Cost Savings to Marion SO

By Capt. James M. Pogue
Information Services
Marion County Sheriff's Office

When you have a fleet of 700 vehicles which travel eight million miles per year, every penny saved is a penny earned. The Fleet Manager Director for the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Wyatt Earp, conducted a three month long preliminary in-house study on the effects of nitrogen-filled tires on six police cars. The results indicated a half-mile per gallon savings – which may not sound like much, but it adds up quickly.

With an increase of a re-occurring cost such as fuel, even that small increase is a cost savings of

\$82,000 in one year. Earp also anticipates an additional savings of \$44,000 a year due to the tires lasting up to thirty percent longer. This is due to the nitrogen in a tire not expanding dramatically like compressed air, which causes the tires to wear more evenly. This equates to improved handling, control and brake efficiency.

The nitrogen tire inflation system cost about \$8,000. However, with these estimated cost savings,

it should pay for itself within weeks. The machine simply separates the nitrogen molecules from the oxygen and fills the tires with nitrogen automatically. With other industries such as air travel and NASCAR already using the nitro-filled tires, it appears to be a future standard.

For more information, contact Capt. James Pogue via email: jpogue@marionso.com, or call: 352-368-3594.



St. Lucie Crisis Team Gets Bargain Command Center on Wheels

By Mark Weinberg
Public Information Officer
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

When the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office reorganized its Crisis Negotiation Team, it became obvious they needed a custom-designed rolling command center. But in these days of tightened budgets, it also became obvious that the team's vehicle would have to be a low-budget production.

The solution, according to St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken J. Mascara, was a donated ambulance from the county Fire District and a remodeling job using jail inmate labor.

Sheriff Mascara reasoned that the work crew was already helping save thousands of taxpayer dollars annually by picking up litter at public facilities and maintaining environmentally sensitive lands – so why not add this project to their task list?

"The Crisis Negotiation Team truck was a real money saver," he said.

The Fire District donated the ambulance to the Sheriff's Office because the district now uses rescue vehicles larger than their older ambulances. All it needed was some conversion and technology.

The Crisis Negotiation Team needed it to serve as a self-contained "situation room," complete with video monitors, other electronic equipment, conference tables and



St. Lucie County Sheriff
Ken J. Mascara



Starting with a free ambulance then adding free labor from Jail Inmates, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office was able to create a Crisis Negotiation Mobile Unit for under \$10,000. A similar vehicle would cost in the area of \$100,000 if purchased new and fully equipped. Interior: The "situation room" is air conditioned and powered by a generator.



dry-erase boards to keep track of negotiation details.

Jail inmates got to work. They rebuilt the floor, insulated and carpeted the walls and ceiling, enclosed what used to be the ambulance's rear door and installed wiring and a generator as well as custom doors and other items. They also built an air-conditioning intake grill from an old speed limit sign.

The total cost was under \$10,000, including a new paint job. A similarly equipped crisis negotiation center mobile unit would cost in the area of \$100,000 if purchased new and fully equipped.

"We got everything we asked for at a great price," said Sgt. Adam Goodner, the team's commander. "Now, we can get to the scene, sit down and go to work."

Communication central

When the Crisis Negotiation Team is called out, six members of the team respond, including team commander Goodner. From the team's mobile unit, team members can monitor the scene of the negotiations, stay in touch with the Sheriff's command staff and remain in constant contact with the agency's SWAT team.

"Our mobile unit is just the right size for us to do what we need to do," Sgt. Goodner said.

The Crisis Negotiation Team recently completed a nine-hour training scenario at the south St. Lucie County courthouse annex in the city of Port St. Lucie. The scenario was designed by two experts who have trained the team: George Flannigan, Ph.D., of LED Incorporated and Bob Beach, Chief of Police of Longwood

University in Virginia. Chief Beach was formerly a Major in charge of crisis negotiations with the Fairfax County, Va., Police Department.

The scenario included the Crisis Negotiation Team, SWAT Team and Bomb Disposal Team. It was followed the next day by a four-hour debriefing so deputies could learn as much as possible from the training scenario.

"The more we train together, the more we learn about effectively managing crisis situations," Sgt. Goodner said. "Our mobile unit is going to improve our effectiveness and help keep the public safe in crisis situations."

Contact writer Mark Weinberg, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, via e-mail: weinbergm@stluciesheriff.com, or phone, 772-201-0264.



Everything they need on site: Negotiation exercise at the south-St. Lucie County Courthouse Annex involved (left to right) the Multi-Agency Mobile Command Center, Sheriff's Office SWAT truck, Crisis Negotiation Mobile Unit and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team Mobile Unit. A Sheriff's Office squad car is shown in the lower left.

Introducing....

FSA Membership at a Whole New Level...or Two!

Your Florida Sheriffs recently voted to expand the Florida Sheriffs Association Honorary Membership program to better accommodate the needs of supporters.

Beginning this winter, in addition to the traditional \$25 Honorary Member level, we're offering **Honorary Silver** (\$50) and **Honorary Gold** (\$100) levels.

Here's what's included:

Honorary Member (\$25 annually): Honorary Member I.D. card, window decal, bumper sticker, plus annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines.

Silver Honorary Member (\$50 annually): Honorary Member I.D. card, window decal, bumper sticker, annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, PLUS an official Florida Sheriffs Association license tag and lapel pin your first year of membership.

Gold Honorary Member (\$100 annually): Honorary Member I.D. card, window decal, annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, PLUS an official Florida Sheriffs Association license tag and tag frame your first year of membership.

Be sure to spread the word...and don't forget - Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association makes a great gift!

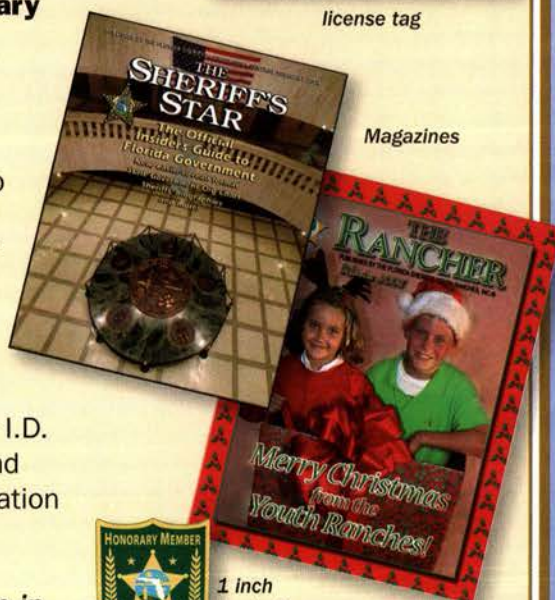
Find more information online at: www.flsheriffs.org, choose the "Membership Info." icon.



window decal



license tag



Magazines



1 inch lapel pin

tag frame



CRIME PREVENTION & PERSONAL SAFETY

"A Cop's Letter to Santa"

By
Sgt. Rick Hord
Okaloosa
County
Sheriff's Office



Dear Santa,

This year, could you help me get rid of bad days at work? That may sound selfish, but when I have a bad day, it's almost always because someone else is having a worse day. If you could pack your sack of goodies with a few things, I wouldn't have very many bad days. Here are a few ideas:

For every new camera, iPod, GPS, and other small valuable: Could you include a note pad? That might help the new owner to write down the serial number and save it in a safe place. For jewelry or other valuables that don't have serial numbers, maybe you could leave a note suggesting the new owner take a few good close-up photographs. Sadly, some of these nice items will get lost or stolen. When I try to find stolen property, serial numbers and photographs sure help.

For kids and adults getting bicycles: Could you remind them to ride on the right side of the road, with the flow of traffic? Quite a few people ride facing oncoming traffic, unaware that's the No. 1 cause of bicycle-versus-car crashes. A new bicycle is an excellent opportunity to teach youngsters about traffic laws, such as stopping at stop signs. When I stop a kid or a grownup who just pedaled right through a stop sign without so much as slowing down, they're usually astonished to learn they should have stopped.

For parents: Could you introduce all the parents to the parents of their child's

LETTER

- When I try to find stolen property, serial numbers and photographs sure help.
- Bicyclist: Remind them to ride on the right side of the road, with the flow of traffic
- The law in Florida: move out of the lane closest to the emergency vehicle, or slow to 20 miles per hour less than the speed limit.
- Count slowly to 10 before saying or doing anything when you're angry.

friends, and then make sure they stay in touch with each other? I can't tell you how many bad days could have been avoided if the parents communicated and conspired with each other half as much as their kids do. I see kids every day heading straight for trouble, while the parents remain clueless.

For people who drive a car: Could you remind them to be alert for emergency vehicles with flashing lights? You'd be surprised how many drivers don't see me at all when I'm coming down the road on an emergency call. An even bigger concern is the number of drivers who keep cruising on down the road without slowing down or moving to the other lane when I'm stopped by the side of the road. That's not only a safe and prudent thing to do, it's the law in Florida: move out of the lane closest to the emergency vehicle, or slow to 20 miles per hour less than the speed limit.

For everybody: Could you remind them of one simple thing their parents taught them: count slowly to 10 before saying or doing anything when they're angry. If parents aren't teaching that lesson anymore, they should. Any time



someone acts impulsively out of anger, several people are likely to have a bad day.

Thank you, Santa. I know my suggestions are nothing new for you; you've always done your best to spread cheer and goodwill.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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.

Best Place to Work (Sixth Year in a Row): Indian River County Sheriff's Office

How does Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond do it? On November 14, the Treasure Coast Human Resource Association named his Sheriff's Office the "Best Place to Work in Indian River County," again. This is the sixth year in a row the SO has received the honor.

As usual, the Sheriff took no credit. He said, "I sincerely believe we *do* have a great place to work. But, it is the outstanding employees of the Sheriff's Office, who have made this the Best Place to Work and my thanks goes out to each of them for their support and dedication to our agency and the citizens of our county."

Congratulations, Sheriff. What a way to go into retirement!

One Inmate's Will to Change

By Matt Costine
Video Production Manager
Polk County Sheriff's Office

Tyrone Summerall grew up in a good home with a loving family. But as he grew older, the influence of the mean streets of Haines City, in east Polk County, began to take hold of his life. "I was raised in the church," Tyrone says. "I believed in Jesus, but I didn't live for him. In the daytime I was one person, but at night I was a whole different person." Because Tyrone is a rare success story, we decided to produce a video we could show in the Polk County Jail, called *Will to Change*, in hopes that it would inspire other inmates to make a positive change as well.

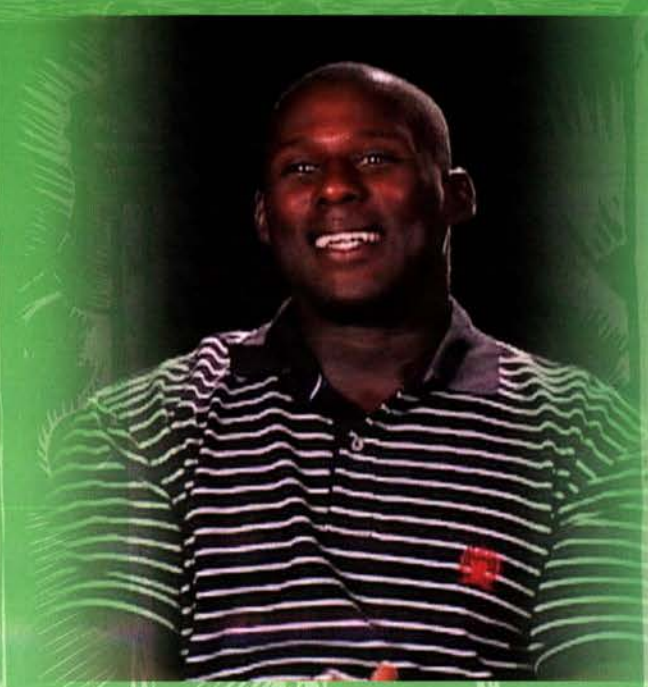
By the time Tyrone was a teenager, he was well known to police. Although he was never arrested for a serious crime, Tyrone had earned the reputation of being a bad kid. "Older people told me that I was going to die before I was 21," he said. "When I was younger, one police officer told me that his target was my chest. I was *that* bad."

In 1998, Tyrone's luck ran out. He was arrested and charged with several serious felonies. He was placed on probation and released. Not long after his release, Tyrone was arrested again for violating his probation. It was during that time that he began to reassess his life. "I remember that all I wanted was to be out. It was during Christmas, and I remember watching TV and seeing people that had joy, and I didn't have it. I wanted what they had. I just made up my mind that I was not going to be the

same person I used to be."

Tyrone began to change his life while incarcerated in the Polk County Jail. "I started reading the Bible and being serious about it. From that process I started just obeying the rules. I didn't fool myself. I said, 'If I am going to live right I have to start now, I can't wait until I get out.' I learned how to respect people – I learned how to love people. When I say loving them, I mean not hurting people and taking advantage of them. I used to hurt people and like it, but I started telling myself that I hate what I did, and that is when my heart started changing."

During his incarceration, Tyrone took advantage of the jail ministry program offered by the Polk County Sheriff's Office. "By the Sheriff's Office allowing people to come and minister to me, it allowed me to grow and be ministered to," he said.



"Older people told me that I was going to die before I was 21. When I was younger, one police officer told me that his target was my chest. I was that bad."

Many of the ministers in the program were themselves ex-convicts. Hearing their stories and testimonies gave Tyrone hope that he too could change his ways. "They made it plain – they made me understand that if you are like me and you can change, then I can change too."

Since his release in 2001, Tyrone has completely changed his life. He has started two businesses and attends Greater Vision Ministries on a regular basis. Tyrone has not only changed his life, but has taken it one step further by offering his story to other troubled people in his community as well as being actively involved in Greater Vision's jail ministry program. "It's my duty and privilege to bring the message to them as it was brought to me. When I see people who used to know me, they say, 'If he can change, so can I.' I take a lot of pride in that."



Polk County Sheriff's Detective Named Retail Officer of the Year

Detective Ostojic was part of the team that cracked \$100-million case

When it comes to investigating crime, **Detective James Ostojic** strives to leave no stone unturned. This quest for information has served Detective Ostojic well and helped him resolve numerous cases during his 13-year career with the Polk County Sheriff's Office. His diligence also helped substantially fracture organized retail theft in Central Florida and earned him the prestigious distinction of being named the 2008 Florida Retail Federation (FRF) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (LEOY).

Two other officers tied for runner-up – Investigator **Christopher J. Ortiz** of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and **Special Agent Kirk Veazey** of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

From left to right are: Investigator Christopher J. Ortiz, Seminole County Sheriff's Office; Detective James Ostojic, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Dan Doyle, vice president of loss prevention and human resources for Beall's, Inc. and Major Joe Halman, Jr. of the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Doyle, who also is chairman of FRF's LEOY committee, made the presentations on behalf of FRF's nearly 10,000 member companies.

Detective Ostojic received a check for \$3,000 and an attractive custom-crafted medallion and plaque during FRF's annual awards banquet held November 19, 2008, at LaPlaya Resort in Naples, Florida. His name also was added to a plaque that lists each LEOY recipient since the program's inception in 1974. Each of the runners-up received recognition at the banquet, a memento from FRF designating the honor and a certificate of commendation for their outstanding work.

Cracking a \$100-million case

In June 2007, Detective Ostojic was assigned to investigate an approximate \$4,500 theft of beauty products from a grocery store chain.

Upon interviewing the suspects, he recognized that this was not an isolated retail theft case, but part of a multi-million dollar retail theft ring in which high-end health, beauty and cosmetic items as well as over-the-counter medications were being stolen from various chain retailers throughout Central Florida. Realizing the extent of this multi-jurisdictional case, the Polk County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and an ad-hoc task force was formed.

Seven months of investigation revealed that teams of retail thieves known as "boosters" would enter stores and steal several thousand

dollars worth of products at each stop. Each "booster" team would hit numerous stores several days a week and then sell these items to "fences."

In January 2008, numerous search warrants were served in a three-county area resulting in 18 suspects being arrested and charged under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. The total losses to the stores involved over a five-year period are estimated at nearly \$100 million. Had it not been for the hard work, dedication and perseverance of Detective Ostojic and the other task force members, this investigation never would have progressed beyond an initial retail theft arrest.

Detective Ostojic joins 38 previous LEOY recipients who represent various branches of law enforcement, including Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Highway Patrol and the former Florida Marine Patrol.

About the Runners-Up

Investigator **Christopher J. Ortiz** has worked for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for eight years and is a community-oriented law-enforcement officer whose proactive policing initiatives are greatly beneficial to Florida's retail community. His professionalism and commitment also daily enhance the lives of the citizens he serves by reducing crime and the fear of crime.

Upon being selected as a General Assignment Investigator in June 2007, Investigator Ortiz immediately recognized that large retail stores were experiencing increased thefts perpetrated by organized "professional" theft rings. In response to this, Investigator Ortiz went above and beyond his regular duties as

a property crimes investigator to launch the Central Florida Organized Retail Crime Enforcement group (CFORCE). The purpose was to promote information sharing and partnerships between businesses and law enforcement.

CFORCE now has more than 200 members, including business owners, managers and loss-prevention and law-enforcement professionals from the Central Florida area. Monthly meetings, hosted in different locations throughout Central Florida, enhance the Web-based information exchange and email alerts. These collaborative efforts can already be credited with

the identification and arrest of retail theft perpetrators. As the CFORCE network continues to grow, so too will its impact on curtailing crime.

Investigator Ortiz was nominated by Seminole County Sheriff Donald F. Eslinger.

Special Agent Kirk Veazey is a 16-year veteran of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He has been involved in numerous investigations in the Jacksonville area over the past year, but one caught the attention of the awards committee. It accounted for millions of dollars in retail theft losses from multiple major retailers.

Stemming from what first appeared to be a simple shoplifting crime, Special Agent Veazey managed and directed a labor-intensive year-long investigation jointly conducted with the United States Secret Service and other law-enforcement agencies, plus retail loss-prevention specialists. Through interviews, surveillance and other techniques, Special Agent Veazey and the team successfully dismantled a decade-old theft ring in which the "fence" equipped "boosters" with shoplifting lists consisting primarily of health

and beauty aids. The items were then sold on the Internet and elsewhere. In April 2008, a search of the suspect's property revealed over 13,000 pieces of evidence totaling more than \$205,000 in retail value.

A consummate professional, Special Agent Veazey is active in the Jacksonville community. He serves on the board of directors of the Florida Law Enforcement Property Recovery Unit and the Financial Institution Security Association of Northeast Florida. Special Agent Veazey was nominated by Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey.

The LEOY Program

The Florida Retail Federation Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program has been an annual event since its inception in 1974. The purpose of the program is to support and encourage outstanding police work throughout the state and to recognize the important contributions made by Florida's law-enforcement professionals in promoting safety and security. The program's time-tested campaign theme, "Often taken for granted, they never stop serving ...because they care," remains as relevant today as when LEOY was first introduced.

The Florida Retail Federation is a statewide trade association that represents Florida's most important industry – retailing – and has served as "The Voice of Florida Retailing" since its inception in 1937. Florida retailers pay more than \$35 billion in wages annually, provide one out of every five jobs in the state, and collect and remit approximately \$22 billion in sales and retail-related taxes for Florida's government each year.

For more information on the awards event or the LEOY program, please contact Brenda Grindstaff, awards coordinator, by phone 1-888-357-3824, e-mail FRFAwards@frf.org or visit FRF's Web site at www.frf.org.

"The total losses to the stores involved are estimated at nearly \$100 million over a five-year period."

A Mother and Her Mission

Editor:

Thank you so much for putting the article ("Mother on a Mission Expands Her Reach") in *The Sheriff's Star* (September/October 2008).

I was so surprised it made me cry. My son's birthday was Sunday (November 2); he would have been 35 and I was feeling so down. God does send Angels when you need one and it was you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for remembering me.

God Bless,

Diane Pearson

www.genepearson.org

Editor's note: Diane later e-mailed an update to say that her "Think Twice Save a Life" awareness campaign received a boost. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation in California awarded her a grass roots grant. The additional funding means she can continue her mission for motorcycle awareness without worry for the coming year. Congratulations, Diane – you deserve it!

Youngest Sheriff Redux

Readers:

We received a letter from a frequent contributor of historical articles, Victor Silvestri, about our story from the last issue, "Who Holds the Title of 'Youngest Sheriff?'" As a recap, two sitting Sheriffs "shared" the designation (based on their

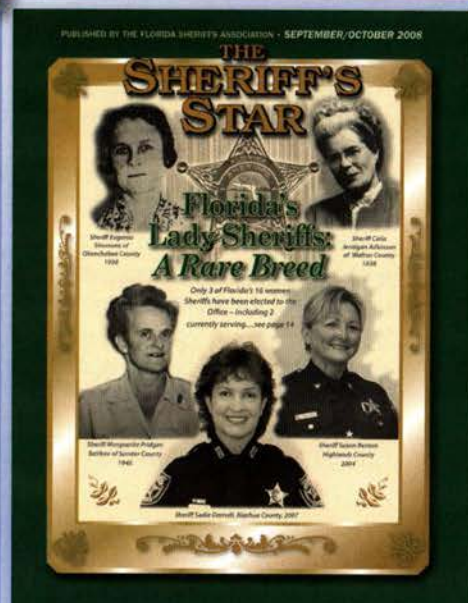
ages at either appointment or election) but were recently notified that a Sheriff in the much earlier days actually deserved the designation.

In our September/October 2008 issue, it was noted that Hezekiah Hopkins Wilder Sr. was the youngest person to ever hold and/or be elected to the Office of Sheriff in Florida. He assumed the office in 1868 at the age of 23 and served one term, leaving office in 1872 at the age of 27.

This information prompted more research – this time by our frequent contributor of historical stories, Victor Silvestri. His information challenges Wilder's position.

Silvestri writes, "The straight skinny is that John Wesley Whidden was the first 'elected' Sheriff at the age of 16 in Manatee County, however he was not allowed to qualify as he was underage. He was then elected again in 1860 at the age of 21 and *did* qualify to serve, which would make him younger than (the other) candidates that were mentioned. Whidden was born on June 5, 1839.

"In the matter of youngest 'appointed' Sheriff we would have to turn to H. E. Hickman of Holmes County who was appointed Sheriff at age 18 by Gov. E. A. Perry and served his first tenure until 1881 with two more to follow and died in office in 1913. This was verified by Holmes County historian Judge E.



The Sheriff's Star
(September/October 2008)

W. Carswell (deceased) in his book *Holmesteading* and further verified in Volume K, page 741 of the Commission Record."

And with that, the defense rests.

May it be in peace!

Silvestri's book, "The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs and Their Families: 1821-2008: A Genealogical Excursion into Florida Law Enforcement," will be published in January 2009. If you have information on any Sheriffs and their family roots, please contact Victor R. Silvestri, 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defuniak Springs, Florida 32435-8972. Call 850-891-6962 or e-mail: summers@gdsys.net.

STAR BRIEFS

Sheriff Gary S. Borders (back row, center) Corporal Tom Brown, the Executive Director of the PAL Program (far right) and members of Lake County Police Activities League really have something to smile about. Sheriff Borders presented the PAL program with a check for \$5,000. Sheriff Borders has been a huge supporter of the program and is always looking for opportunities to assist when possible. The amount comes from drug-seized monies and will directly benefit the PAL program and the youth of their community.



Civilians Are A Vital Part of Law Enforcement Mission

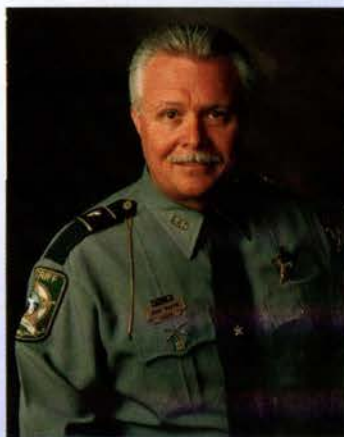
By Kevin Doll
Public Information Director

Although many citizens believe that law enforcement services are provided only by certified law-enforcement officers and detectives, the truth is that without the support of many civilians, their work would be much more difficult or inefficient. One example in Pasco County is forensics investigators, our equivalent of TV's crime scene investigators, or CSI. These vital civilian support personnel are often seen on the news at the location of a major crime like murder or aggravated assault.

But there are many more civilian support positions that are vital to the professional operation of the Pasco Sheriff's Office. One such group of civilians that directly affects the work of our front-line road patrol deputies and detectives is the Crime Analysis Unit.

The Crime Analysis Unit does what its name implies – gathering raw crime and incident data contained in our reports, analyzing this data using sophisticated computer programs and forecasting future crime trends or targets and even identifying the criminals who may have committed crimes. These crime analysts then send out detailed reports to patrol deputies and detectives to assist them in deciding where to concentrate their efforts to catch the criminals in the act, or help them track down the criminals who may have committed crimes.

To determine how important this support network is and whether it's working, we only need to con-



Pasco County Sheriff
Bob White

sider two recent cases:

On October 23, 2007, while watching the evening news at home, Crime Analyst Regina Chimile viewed a news segment about a hit-and-run accident that was being investigated by the Florida Highway Patrol. The accident seriously injured a 16-year-old male walking along State Road 54 in New Port Richey. A witness described the vehicle as a red Ford Taurus driven by a white female in her forties and gave a partial license tag number. At work the next day, Regina utilized a program that enables a search of partial vehicle tags, and discovered a red Ford Taurus whose owner matched the witness description. She also determined that the owner lived in the area where the boy was struck. Regina contact FHP who later arrested the hit-and-run driver.

In a more recent case, 20-year-old Crime Analyst Amber Vogt was reviewing crime reports when she

noted that a white Volkswagen Jetta with a possible suspect description was mentioned in four burglary reports. Other reports noted a suspicious small white car was seen in several other incidents, including burglaries. One of the incidents listed a white vehicle and partial tag number. Amber ran a search of the partial tag and a match was found to a Volkswagen Jetta. Continuing her research, Amber then determined the registered vehicle owner lived in Holiday, had been arrested in 2004 for business burglaries and had recently been released from prison. She also noticed some of the same businesses hit in 2004 by this subject were again hit during this latest series of burglaries. Amber forwarded this information to our Property Crimes Unit where a detective soon arrested the suspect for seven business burglaries, and he could be facing charges for several more.

As these examples illustrate, although the public may not notice the work of civilian employees, their support is vital to the Sheriff's Office. We often hear or read about the honorable actions of our law enforcement and detention deputies, but behind the scenes, there are hundreds of hard-working and dedicated civilians contributing to the safety of our communities.

For more information, contact Public Information Director Kevin Doll via e-mail: kdoll@pascosheriff.org.

Former Okeechobee Sheriff Dies

Jasper Christman McPherson, 81, passed away Sunday, October 5, in Tallahassee. A native of Bellwood, Fla., he resided in Tallahassee for over 30 years. Jasper worked for the State of Florida for 41 years, retiring as Lt. Colonel for the Dept. of Transportation. He was a two-term Sheriff for Okeechobee County, a long-time member of the Florida Sheriffs Association and a Baptist. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Iris

Conrad McPherson; a sister, Marion Taylor of Tallahassee; and a grandson, Shane McPherson of Tallahassee. He was preceded in death by a son, Miles C. McPherson. Donations may be made to: Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee FL 32308.

On behalf of the 67 Sheriffs of Florida, we offer our condolences to the McPherson family.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



HONOR ROLL



LEE COUNTY – Gold Business Member plaque presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Karen Slee of Olsen Marine Services, Inc.

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 \$5,000 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



CHARLOTTE COUNTY – 50-year certificate presented by Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport and Mary Jean Tekip.



Jesse M. Britton



Franklin W. Stoudt

SARASOTA COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to Jesse M. Britton and Franklin W. Stoudt.



CLAY COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Lowell Pritchard.



LEE COUNTY – Gold Business Member plaque presented by Lee County Sheriff's Office Chief Charles Ferrante to Gary Dennis of FPT, Fort Myers.

The Gift That Goes Beyond



If you want to recognize a family member or friend in a special way, you can enroll them as a member of the Florida Sheriffs Association. An Honorary Membership is just \$25/year and includes two publications, a window decal and an ID card. Find out more at: www.flsheriffs.org/. Choose "membership info."



LEON COUNTY – Gold Business Member plaque presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to James Magee of Masonry, Inc.



MARION COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Oran Lloyd.



INDIAN RIVER – Gold Business Member plaque presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Don Niehaus, Niehaus Nursery, LLC.



COLLIER COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Kevin Rambosk to Mr. and Mrs. James K. Towne.



LEON COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Mork.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES



HONOR ROLL



New Lifetime Members from 10/9/08 to 12/29/08

Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Martin
Mr. Jonny Heath
Mrs. Dorothy Truesdell
Talla-Com
The St. Joe Company
Trow Engineering Consultants, Inc.
United States Sugar Corporation
Charitable Trust

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 through their gifts to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a membership card, a Youth Ranches magnet, lapel pin and lifetime subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines. Lifetime Honorary Membership with the Florida Sheriffs Association is reserved for those individuals who give \$5,000 or more to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Additional stars are awarded to recognize additional giving in increments of \$5,000 up to \$25,000.



BREVARD COUNTY – Presented by Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker to Richard Culpepper.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY – Presented by (from right) Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport to Jack Penrod and Pete Rivera, representing Holiday Travel Park Activities, and to Mrs. Kim Jung.

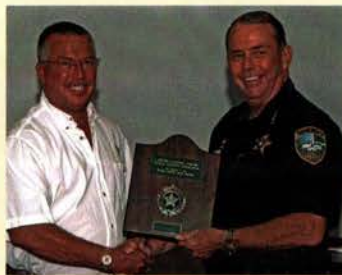


FLAGLER COUNTY – Presented by Flagler County Sheriff Donald W. Fleming to Corrections Deputy Lt. Annette Henry.

OKALOOSA COUNTY – Presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Col. & Mrs. Raymond Hinck.



Capt. Rob Swearingen



Sgt. Steve Norville



Deputy Lewis Milliken



Major Mike Wood

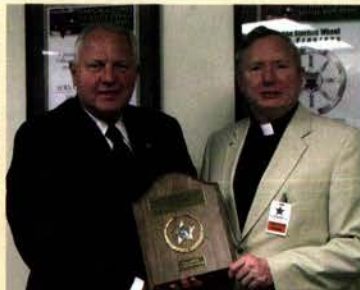
LEON COUNTY – Presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to Capt. Rob Swearingen, Sgt. Steve Norville, Major Mike Wood and Deputy Lewis Milliken.



Koma Byrum



Mary Ann Klein



Pastor Wayne Kofnick

MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Koma Byrum and Mary Ann Klein, practice manager for Equine Medical Center of Ocala and Pastor Wayne Kofnick of Our Savior Lutheran Church.



OSCEOLA COUNTY – Presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Sam Lupfer.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES continued...



HONOR ROLL



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – Presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (right) to Milton Strickland.



LEE COUNTY – Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Edward Seale.



LEE COUNTY – 25-year certificate and FSYR Lifetime Honorary plaque presented to William Horseling.

Local Law Enforcement Purchases at Federal Discounts?

YES!

Sounds too good to be true – but it's not, with 1122.

FSA is the point of contact for the Florida Counter Drug Procurement (1122) Program. That means your agency may qualify to receive significant savings in equipment purchases.

What purchases qualify?

Everything from aviation parts and supplies to body armor, generators and cameras.

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

How much can you save?

The majority of agencies have reported saving between 50 and 75%.

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

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

Or, contact Glenda Travis:
Phone 850-877-2165 or
e-mail gtravis@flsheriffs.org.



Attention Members:

Are you moving for the season? Please send us . . .

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

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!



SPECIFICATIONS: These high quality frames are brass plated metal with black imprint and standard four-hole mounting. Frames are for use with your official license tag on the rear of your vehicle. Please pre-measure before ordering. Size of frame: 6-1/2 x 13-1/4 inches. Not guaranteed to fit all vehicles.

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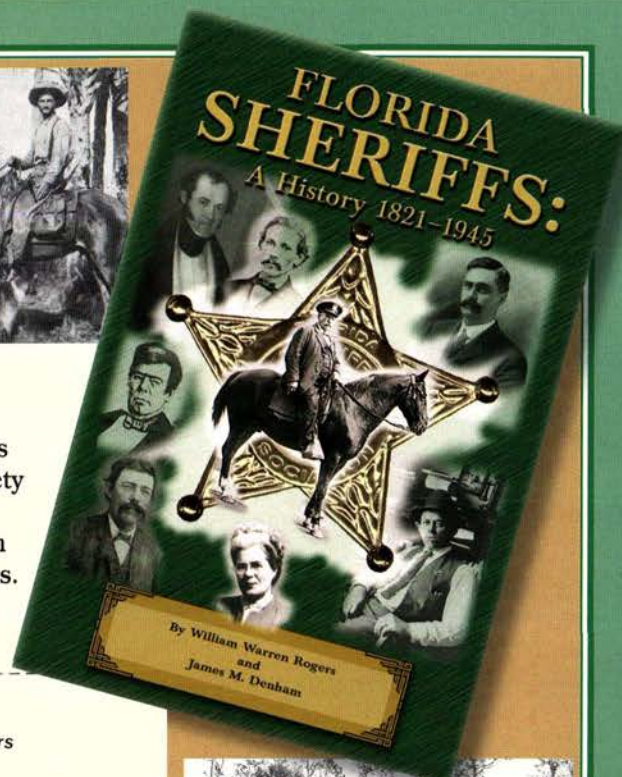
Total amount

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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