

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

Up to Snuff:
National accreditation body
says Seminole Crime Lab has
what it takes



From the desk of....

Gary Perkins

**Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association**

Anticipation is growing here at the Association offices. That's because the Sheriffs have reviewed and accepted a design for the new headquarters building. After losing our previous offices to a fire in April of 2008, I can tell you that we are grateful to have hope for permanent offices by this time next year.

If you look closely at the architect's rendering on this page, you'll see that the plan is to build farther back on the property, behind where our former building resided. The idea is to make the Florida Sheriffs Memorial Wall a focal point for visitors. The wall, which was constructed in 2002, was previously located behind the main building, completed in 1981.

You'll see that the architects arched the structure, kind of semi-circle fashion, which helps to make the Memorial a focal point – even from inside the building. We requested as many windows as possible, like the previous office, as we like the visibility and find it makes a good working environment.

There is so much history on that 5-acre lot, and it's considered



prime real estate in the Capital City of Florida. We're pleased to report that the "granddaddy oak" that stands guard over the memorial, as well as the other huge oak trees, will be preserved. That's one of the things that makes the FSA property so attractive – it has a real woodsy feel to it.

Fireproof?

All of this goes without saying that the new structure will be built according to the latest codes for fire and wind, so that is a major bonus. And by adding another story (the previous building was one level), we are able to more than double the space to gain efficiencies. Another advantage of two stories is providing more opportunity for parking, which was often a challenge with our previous arrangement.

The two-story lobby has been

described as "very stately, professional and warm." We think those terms go well with our mission.

Beyond the attractiveness of the exteriors, our staff eagerly participated in reviews about our operations to determine workflow;

this will assure the interiors will make our day-to-day business operations more efficient and effective.

Cost of the project is nothing to sneeze at – \$4.5 million – but we have studied all of the options and decided that this is an investment in the future of law enforcement in Florida. The Florida Sheriffs and the FSA Honorary Members like you can take pride in helping to make this project a reality.

Please be assured that, once it's completed, we will welcome all those who desire to visit. In fact, we anticipate that FSA's visibility will increase as a result of the new building. We plan to have a special meeting room/conference section, which will lend itself to our expanded training efforts. And we anticipate hosting many dignitaries attending events at the new headquarters building.

No doubt, the building signifies the strength of the Florida Sheriffs, and that is something we need to remind the public and the media. The Office of Sheriff has been threatened over the years by various special interests – but we have withstood the test of time. More than 117 years, to be exact.

Of course, much of that strength and stability is contingent upon the support we receive from members like you. And for that, we are most grateful.

*Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association*



Detention Deputy Uses Biometrics to Ferret Out Inmate's Identity

By Kevin Doll
Public Information Director

Often when people are arrested, they refuse to tell law-enforcement officers their real names. This was the case recently when the Zephyrhills Police Department arrested a man for one count of uttering a forged instrument (cashing a forged check or circulating counterfeit money), eight counts of possession of counterfeit payment instrument (a type of financial fraud), three counts of possession of a fictitious drivers license and one count of obstruction by disguised person.

The suspect was not cooperative with Pasco Sheriff's Office detention deputies who were booking him into the Land O' Lakes Detention Center. He refused to provide his correct name, date of birth or Social Security number. Deputy Keith Adams took the inmate's photograph and then downloaded his image into a new software program that was designed for such situations.

Using the science of biometrics,

Deputy Adams was able to identify the inmate in less than five minutes. Using a facial-recognition software program, he compared the characteristics of the unknown man's face to other photos in a multi-agency database. Five positive photograph matches to the suspect were developed, and Deputy Adams was able to use side-by-side comparisons to positively identify the 43-year-old man. It was determined that he had three additional warrants out of Brevard County, including two violations of probation for grand theft and fraudulent use of a credit card.

“(Arrested individuals) are not the most cooperative when they come into booking,” said Intake Supervisor Lt. Barbara Taylor. “We do get about four or five ‘John or Jane Does’ a month, and this new program can help us determine their identity.” Taylor explained that individuals must have been arrested before and have a mug shot in the database in order to have a comparison. But it has also been used to determine that an unknown illegal alien had not been arrested before.



Deputy Keith Adams
Pasco Sheriff's Office



The new program is a cooperative effort with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, which received a \$3.5-million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Defense as part of an anti-terrorism initiative. This is the first “hit,” or identification, by the Pasco Sheriff's Office since installing the system in their jail booking section. Facial-recognition software uses mathematical algorithms to match characteristics such as distance between facial features to determine possible hits. Pasco Sheriff's Office detectives also have training and access to the program to assist them in their law-enforcement duties.

For more information on this article, contact Kevin Doll, PCSO's Public Information Director via e-mail: kdoll@pascosheriff.org. Or visit the Pasco County Sheriff's Office Web site: www.pascosheriff.org.

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

Publisher Gary Perkins,
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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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Cell Dogs "Make Parole" in CCSO Jail

"Graduation"

By Bob Carpenter
Public Information Officer
Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office officially graduated three dogs in July that were donated by the Animal Welfare League in March and assigned to inmates for obedience training in the county jail's experimental "Cell Dog" program.

During the graduation, Sheriff Bill Cameron told the crowd of about 30 people at the jail training building, "Patch, Abbey Lee and Dolly were not graduating, but were finally being paroled." The three inmate dog handlers – John Robert Joines, Michael Randall Campbell and Matthew Jenkins – paraded their well-mannered pups down the aisle in front of guests, as background music played. Each dog did a trick they were taught by the inmates and were immediately rewarded with treats. Sheriff Cameron also thanked all those at the jail who participated in this first-time project and made it a success.

First time, second chance

Retired Lee County Sheriff's Captain Tom Weaver set up the Cell Dog program at the Charlotte County Jail at the request of Sheriff Cameron. Weaver was very successful in the same program at the Lee County Jail, his previous employer. Once the logistics were worked out, Animal Welfare League Executive Director Dee Ann Roberts provided the three dogs, which were spared from being euthanized. Their second chance came in the form of jail time while assigned to inmate handlers in the Work Release building. The partnership



Inset: Patch as he appeared in March before "jail time." After "graduation," a new, healthier Patch with Cell Dog program coordinator, Retired Lee County Sheriff's Capt. Tom Weaver.



The three handlers with their dogs before graduation. From left: John Joines and Patch; Matthew Jenkins and Dolly; Michael Campbell and Abbey Lee.

proved to be a huge success. All costs were covered, as Crossties Farm & Garden in Punta Gorda provided the startup equipment and supplies.

During the graduation ceremony, Sheriff Cameron presented certificates to all who participated, including new owners, who received a special "pardon certificate" for their pooch.

Lee Hotz of Williams Construction, who is doing the new jail concrete work, became the new owner of "Patch." His pup was noticeably healthier than at the beginning of the program.

Corrections Deputy First Class Melissa Cheng adopted "Abbey Lee," and Vickie Dunn became the proud owner of "Dolly." Dunn, whose other dog died recently, had heard about the Cell Dog program and expressed an interest in adopting.

After the Sheriff paroled the guests of honor, everyone joined in a reception – complete with a dog-theme cake and three doggy baskets.

For more information, contact writer Bob Carpenter by calling: 941-575-5252 or e-mailing: rcarpenter@ccso.org.

The "Voice" of Membership

If you have ever placed a call to the Florida Sheriffs Association asking a membership question, you might have heard a distinctive voice answering the other end of the line – perhaps sounding like a radio DJ.

That voice belongs to Greg Tish, membership accountant, who sometimes is heard over the airwaves in his hometown of Tallahassee. A radio DJ early in his career, the now 39-year-old Tish can be found after hours working the crowd as a DJ or organizing and promoting benefits for charitable causes.

About five years ago, Tish and friend Corrine Rubin wanted to invent a way for young adults to give back to the community. They came up with Party4Purpose, which brings together people for fun events – with a purpose. One hundred percent of the funds raised goes to a worthy "purpose," which is a specific charitable cause.

The group holds four major events a year and about five smaller ones. The best known is their "Return of the '80s Prom," which takes place in downtown Tallahassee. Bands play and representatives from seven charities network with the guests. At the end of the night, there's a drawing, and one charity walks away with the proceeds from the entire evening. Last year's winner was Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend, which received \$6,500.

"The idea behind Party4Purpose was to groom the next generation of charity workers," Tish says, between membership calls at FSA. The young, mostly single adults are usually game for a social gathering, and that's a good time to have them learn about different causes in the community and meet those who already are volunteering.

The events have been hugely successful – averaging about 1,000 people. And many of the charities benefit beyond the evening, as party attendees are better educated about their cause. As Tish says, it's a lot easier to get to know a volunteer at a social event than at a meeting.



*Greg Tish and friend,
Corinne Rubin*

Troops receive, too

Recently, Party4Purpose pulled together a different event – "Kickin' It For the Troops" – a citywide kickball tournament. The "purpose" was to raise supplies for local troops, the National Guard's 779th Battalion, which is stationed in Iraq.

Tish and partner Rubin came up with the idea and organized it in only two weeks. Sixteen teams made up of local Tallahasseeans competed, and everyone was asked to bring supplies that the Army doesn't give them, such as deodorant, handi-wipes, playing cards and lotion. Again, the event was a success, which means happier troops.

Besides answering calls and promoting worthy causes, Tish's radio voice also comes in handy for another "after hours" venture. He's a DJ for "GT Entertainment Tallahassee," a company he launched in 1995. Tish still owns it, but is offsite and mostly just works as one of the DJs in the evenings and on weekends.

The FSA connection

In his job with the Florida Sheriffs Association, Tish processes mail, inputs orders in the computer and takes membership calls. "Many people don't realize it, but everything FSA does is in-house," which helps keep overhead to a minimum, he says.

Tish gets a kick out of seeing FSA tags on cars, whenever he travels. "I think, 'I sent that to them... I put that five-year sticker on that tag for them.' It means something."

He really enjoys talking to members, too. "What they say is taken to heart," Tish says. "We appreciate hearing from them."

Especially when they pass along a compliment. Says Tish, "One woman told me, 'You're nicer than my grandson on the phone.'"



Up to Snuff: **National accreditation body says Seminole Crime Lab has what it takes**

*By Kim Cannaday
Public Information Specialist
Seminole County Sheriff's Office*

On June 10, 2009, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office ended two years of exhausting and intensive preparation. That's the day they learned their Forensic Laboratory Services Division was awarded accreditation through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Director's Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB).

In awarding accreditation, the ASCLD/LAB acknowledged the accomplishment. The report stated, "Accreditation is granted only after a thorough evaluation of a laboratory's management practices, personnel qualifications, technical procedures, quality assurance program and facilities." The report went on to say it reflects, "extensive commitment of resources and much preparation by the management and personnel in (the Seminole County Sheriff's Office) laboratory."

Receiving accreditation came with further

To receive accreditation through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office had to satisfy 120 standards, write and adopt over 75 standard operating procedures and create six training manuals. They also accounted for all evidence dating back more than 30 years.

prestige, as the SCSO Forensic Laboratory Services Division is one of only six in the state to be accredited. The award included accreditation of the Latent Print and Crime Scene Sections as well, making Seminole one of only two Florida Sheriffs' Offices in the state to have those sections accredited.

To receive accreditation, the Laboratory had to satisfy approximately 120 standards set forth by the ASCLD/LAB.

Rigorous training and documentation

Part of the accreditation process included writing and adopting over 75 standard-operating procedures. Six training manuals as well as a safety manual, had to be written, and a Forensic Science Quality Manual also was created to cover the disciplines of crime scene, latent prints, biological screening, impression evidence, bloodstain pat-

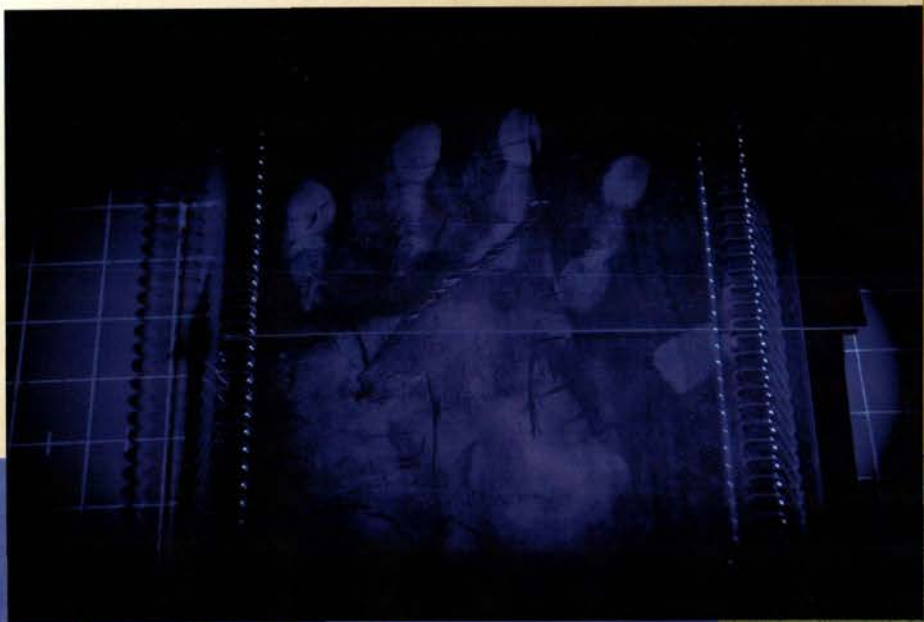
tern analysis and evidence.

On the practical side of the process, the SCSO Laboratory conducted validation studies on 18 different processing techniques used in the field and in the laboratory. Extensive research, testing and documentation were performed for that accomplishment. Accreditation also requires that all personnel conducting forensic examinations be proficiency tested annually. All members of the Laboratory conducting these examinations successfully completed internal and external proficiency testing during the process. The Evidence Specialists spent long, arduous hours preparing and revamping the Evidence and Property Section to ensure all areas were neat, orderly and well organized. Extensive research also was conducted to account for all evidence dating back more than 30 years.

Sheriff Don Eslinger stated, "I am tremendously proud of this achievement on the part of our Forensic Services staff. This accreditation is a significant milestone for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and the community." Sheriff Eslinger noted that the accurate, timely and impartial examination of evidence is essential to ensuring successful prosecution of criminals who victimize citizens. "Meeting and exceeding

the ASCLD standards assures the highest level of efficiency on the part of our Forensic Services staff."

For more information regarding SCSO's ASCLD accreditation please contact Laboratory Director Jennie Ahern at 407-665-6927 or via e-mail: jahern@seminolesheriff.org. Contact Public Information Specialist Kim Cannaday by phone: 407 665-6978 or e-mail: kcannaday@seminolesheriff.org



Legislature 2009: Are We In Florida or Las Vegas?

By Frank Messersmith
FSA Governmental Consultant

The 2009 legislative session was curious and historical as the annual 60-day session actually finished in 65 days in order to finalize the \$66.5 billion budget for 2009-2010. The final budget is \$5 billion less than it was two years ago, and there is now a possibility that the Legislature will have to readdress the budget as a result of two budget vetoes by Gov. Charlie Crist. Lawmakers were already planning on returning late in the fall to vote on the results of the Seminole Indian gaming pact negotiations that also impact the budget.

The session resulted in the passage of a relatively small number of bills – 271. And to get even that limited number of bills passed took some creative management of rules and process.

The economic slide in Florida was the underlying cause for many of the legislative problems and issues. This was made more difficult by the fact that – for the first time in state history – the Speaker of the House was replaced on the opening day of the legislative session.

The budget process was complicated with a Senate controlled by those seeking to balance the budget by making Florida a replica of Las Vegas, complete with gaming machines and gambling tables throughout the state. Conversely, the House of Representatives leadership opposed such proposals, and the result was a proposed new gaming com-

pact with the Seminole Indians and some changes for the pari-mutuel industry in the two Florida counties that have provided for gambling by referendum. The Seminole Tribe also has to approve it in negotiations with the Governor, and then the Legislature has to vote to endorse the final pact.

Another odd twist in this session with fewer average bills passed than normal is the fact that FSA tracked 403 bills filed in the Legislature that affected the Sheriff's Office. That is about 100 bills more than normal.

Given the scope and number of issues to cover, the Sheriffs enjoyed significant success in managing, amending and killing bad legislation.

On the FSA priority list this session, we succeeded in passing one of

negatively affect Sheriffs' Offices. Following is a brief listing of the most important and demanding legislation with which we were involved.

Our effort to amend the **collective bargaining impasse language** in statute died without a hearing as a result of the Chair of the first House committee of reference, Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera of Miami, adamantly refusing to schedule the bill for a hearing. Rep. Alan Hays of Umatilla is commended for stepping forward to file the legislation for the FSA, as well as Sen. Steve Oelrich.

Service of Process. Passed – again – doubling the fee from \$20 to \$40 for service of process. Also modifies five areas of service of process as requested by the FSA Committee. This legislation was passed previously – once vetoed by the Governor and once dying on the Senate clock.

PBA Police Bill of Rights is issue, HB 1107 by Rep. Paige Kreegel and SB 624 by Sen. Mike Fasano – the focus of significant effort and controversy. It was ultimately compromised in negotiations with the PBA and passed 24-12 in the Senate and unanimously in the House, despite opposition from numerous Sheriffs.

FSA supported the House leadership in their effort to **oppose the expansion of gambling**, and we spoke in support of their limiting effort, and also spoke in opposition to the Senate position of expanding gaming statewide. The issue was compromised and although it *did* expand the Indian gaming – due primarily to federal law, and pari-mutuel gaming in Broward and Dade counties – the legislation did not contain the enormous expansion proposed



Frank Messersmith presented Pinellas Sheriff Jim Coats with a "Lights and Sirens" award for providing testimony and support on legislative issues.

the two bills we sought, and of the seven bills we initially opposed, one was withdrawn early in session and two were not filed, directly as a result of our opposition. We amended the others.

As important – and apart from the Sheriff's priority list – we were able to kill or amend numerous bills that were filed this session that proposed legislation that would



At the FSA summer conference, Frank Messersmith (far left) thanked three Sheriffs for their support during a tough Florida legislative session. Receiving "Lights & Siren" awards are (from left) Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson, Hamilton Sheriff Harrell Reid and Bradford Sheriff Gordon Smith.

by the Senate. The final Seminole gambling pact is still in negotiations.

The **"double-dipping"** legislation, HB 479 by Rep. Robert Schenck and SB 1182 by Sen. Fasano, as originally filed, would have basically eliminated many current and prospective constitutional officers from seeking election or reelection. It contained numerous problems, in particular the prohibition of a person being able to collect their retirement income if they were elected or reelected to a public office with a salary exceeding \$100,000.

FSA worked behind the scenes with leadership to amend this issue. Rep. Adam Fetterman, from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, was one of the few House members to speak against the proposed legislation. Ultimately, the bill passed, providing, among other things, that officials and employees who retire from the FRS are prohibited from returning to work for one year, and they cannot begin a second FRS retirement.

Other issues requiring significant effort throughout the session included:

Rachael's Law: legislation filed as a result of the murder of a confidential informant in Tallahassee. The legislation, HB 271 by Rep. Peter Nehr (R-Pinellas), and SB 604 by Sen. Mike Fasano (R-Pasco), as initially

filed, would have eliminated the use of confidential informants in law-enforcement work.

With strong support from Sheriff Jim Coats working with Rep. Nehr and his office, FSA was able to amend the legislation to make it not only workable, but perhaps a model for the nation. The bill was amended to replicate a similar process used with previous legislation involving tasers, racial profiling and forfeiture of stolen property. Basically, the legislation requires all law-enforcement agencies to have a policy for utilizing confidential informants.

Michael Ramage, Chief Counsel for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), should be commended for his legal assistance in writing much of the language in the new bill. The Florida Police Chiefs Association also worked diligently with the FSA to amend the confidential informants legislation.

Dispatcher Certification: This legislation was filed at the behest of special interests seeking to require all 911 emergency dispatchers to be certified by the Florida Department of Health.

The legislation, HB 769 by Rep. Ken Roberson and SB 2040 by Sen. Nancy Detert, as filed, would have been costly to the Sheriffs and taxpayers, as well as conflicting

with the Sheriffs' independence to control their own employees. The Sheriffs were strongly opposed to the initial legislation.

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Cameron provided excellent involvement as the issue was based on an incident in his county and the legislators were from his county. Both Rep. Roberson and Sen. Detert are good supporters of the Sheriffs, and they worked in cooperation with Sheriff Cameron as he and his Office completely rewrote the legislation to make it acceptable and workable.

The bills ultimately died in their last committees as a result of opposition from a group of dispatchers who have their own plan to move dispatchers to a Special Risk position in the Florida Retirement System, and an organization that provides dispatcher training – which would have prospered if the original bill had passed, but not with the rewritten version.

Forfeiture Issues: Without question, the proceeds from forfeitures are of great importance and sensitivity to Sheriffs, and over the last several years, we have opposed numerous efforts to "take" portions of forfeiture proceeds to spend for products and services outside of law enforcement.

This session, there were three forfeiture issues, two of which the Sheriffs strongly opposed, and the third supported.

We opposed HB 407 by Rep. Jennifer Carroll (R-Duval) and SB 1166 by Sen. Steve Wise (R-Duval), which would have required Sheriffs to donate 15 percent of their forfeiture monies for the use of non-government, nonprofit organizations. Sheriff Rutherford weighed-in as both legislators are from his county, and although a number of alternatives were discussed, the legislation died without a hearing.

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CRIME PREVENTION & PERSONAL SAFETY

Women Learning Rape Aggression Defense (RAD)

By Deputy Shawn Pagel, RAD Coordinator and Katheryn Odom, PIO Secretary, Alachua County Sheriff's Office

It was a beautiful early May morning – perfect for jogging on one of the many well-maintained paths in a prestigious upper-class neighborhood in Gainesville. The 36-year-old married mom took her cell phone with her, told her husband which way she was going and slipped out the back door of her home. Within moments she was on her way down the trail straight into the waiting arms of danger. An attacker jumped from a concealed position and brutally attacked and raped her. He no doubt intended to kill her, too, but was interrupted by another approaching jogger. Instead, he left her with severe life-threatening injuries, broken bones and disfiguring scars.

The physical wounds would heal, of course, but the emotional trauma is far more difficult to address. The woman was stripped of her sense of safety and security in her once "peaceful" neighborhood.

So how does this woman begin to overcome her fear and distrust of others? How will she overcome the fear of going outside? Will she ever fully recover from the emotional trauma? After such an experience, can a woman regain her sense of security?

The Alachua County Sheriffs Office decided to ask themselves how "we," as community-oriented,



Hands-on defensive training is a critical part of the Alachua RAD program. Techniques are based on simple gross motor skills (using large muscles of the body) and can become instinctual through repetition. Students participate in a "simulated assault" at full contact with RAD instructors who wear state-of-the-art protective gear. This allows them to consider how they will react in an actual scenario, as their heart rate and adrenaline rise.

awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance and then progresses to the basics of hands-on defense training. RAD is a nine- to 12-hour course that is usually taught

in three, four-hour sessions. The first block is a classroom discussion about risk-reduction strategies, date-rape mentality, continuum of survival, defensive strategies and the basic principles of defense. Other topics include:

- Developing a defensive mindset
- Understanding offensive and defensive postures
- The benefits of yelling versus screaming
- Recognizing vulnerable locations
- Utilizing personal weapons

The second block introduces stu-

law-enforcement professionals, can assist her on that journey. We answered by bringing together the four key elements of empowering women through self-defense: 1) education, 2) dependency on self, 3) decision-making responsibility, and 4) self-realization of physical power. All of these are included in the Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Basic Physical Defense program.

The Alachua RAD program is a course of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques – geared for women only – that starts with

dents to the hands-on defense training. The techniques are based on simple gross motor skills (using large muscles of the body) and are developed to the point that they become instinctual through repetition. In the third section, students will participate in "simulated assault" scenarios at full contact with RAD instructors who wear state-of-the-art protective gear specifically designed for this training. Women are able to utilize their skills in a safe environment monitored by instructors. By taking training to this level, students can see how they will react in an actual scenario by getting their heart rate and adrenaline pumping.

R.A.D. Systems, Inc. is the country's largest and fastest-growing self-defense program for women and children. The curriculum is taught at over 450 colleges and universities,

police departments, Sheriffs' offices, local transit companies, military bases, women's centers, rape crisis centers and independent locations across the United States and Canada.

R.A.D. was developed by the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) and is the only self-defense program ever to be endorsed by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). Because this is an international alliance, any R.A.D. graduate from any class in the U.S. and Canada can attend another instructor's class for practice – free of charge – for the rest of her life.

At the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, the RAD program has been offered for the last two years and has been a full-time program with a dedicated full-time RAD Coordinator for the last year. By far, this program

has brought the most positive response from the community and is widely accepted throughout the county. Any community-oriented agency can benefit from such an empowering course for women and girls (ages 13 and up).

For more information on the R.A.D. program, visit the R.A.D. Web site at www.rad-systems.com. Considering threats like what the woman jogger experienced, women and girls need to be given back their sense of security in the community. Once they learn and better understand their options in self-defense, they are more likely to approach any threat with a different attitude.

Contact Deputy Shawn Pagel, RAD Coordinator for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, by calling 352-367-4044 or e-mailing: spagel@alach-uasheriff.org.

Legislature 2009: Are We In Florida or Las Vegas?

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The other forfeiture issue we opposed was the subject of an amendment and not filed legislation and it proposed that 5 percent of forfeiture monies be provided to the State Attorney Trust Fund that was created this session. This language was amended onto HB 427 by Rep. Adam Fetterman, forfeiture legislation that the Sheriffs did not oppose. Rep. Fetterman's bill expanded the use of forfeiture monies by law enforcement for economic crimes, gang crimes and sex-offender programs. Additionally, it provided for the posting of forfeiture complaint information on the Internet instead of the costly publication now required.

The newspaper publishers strongly opposed Rep. Fetterman's legislation due to the financial implications of losing the requirement that such forfeiture complaints be published in local newspapers. The legislation died in Committee.

Prison concerns. This session,

we observed a number of efforts to divert people from prisons and to find alternatives to building more prisons. Clearly, this is driven by the economic crisis, but it falls right into the hands of those who seek to weaken Florida's strong laws that require those convicted of serious crime to actually serve hard time.

During the session, Sheriffs reviewed a proposal from Probation and Parole to create a Community Incarceration Program to divert people from prisons. Targeted are those with sentences expiring in six to 12 months, those completing nine months of work release and those not in high risk. In those instances, the releasees will be under the supervision of parole and probation agents. The proposal followed presentations by the DOC regarding creating a sort of halfway jail that is somewhere between the county jail and the full-scale prisons.

Additionally, the Senate Criminal

Justice Appropriations Committee and Sen. Victor Crist, (R-Hillsborough), sponsored and passed legislation that prohibits a person with fewer than 22 sentencing points, and deemed not a risk to society, from being sentenced to state prisons.

It is Sen. Crist's expressed intent that the purpose of the bill is to move specific offenders out of incarceration, presumably including county jails, and into alternative programs. This language also supports the belief in the Senate Appropriations staff and the DOC, that people with fewer than 22 sentencing points are not the kind that ought to be in the hard-core prison system.

Regardless, this issue as a whole does not sit well with Sheriffs and many in law enforcement, and it is an issue of major concern for the next session.

For an expanded version of this article, please visit the FSA Web site: www.flsheriffs.org. Choose the "Legislation" link.



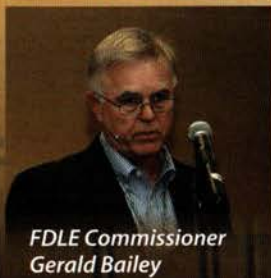
Chief Walt McNeil
Juvenile Justice Secretary



State Senator Dan Gelber (D-Miami Beach)



Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw



FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey



Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean



Don Hunter
Representing Child Predator Database
Retired Sheriff, Collier County



Bob Butterworth
Representing Child Predator Database
Previously served as Sheriff, Attorney General and Dept. of Children & Families Secretary



Bill McCollum
Attorney General



Capt. Larry Williams
Polk County Sheriff's Office



FSA 2009 Summer Conference

Training an emphasis for Sheriffs during their three-days in Palm Beach County

The Florida Sheriffs Association annual summer conference, hosted by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, took place at the PGA Resort & Conference July 20-22, 2009. It was one of the highest attended in recent history, with 137 exhibitors.

With the challenging environment facing today's law enforcement officer, the conference planning committee packed the agenda with training focused on improving operations and other hard-hitting topics.

Popular speaker and trainer Gordon Graham, a former motorcycle



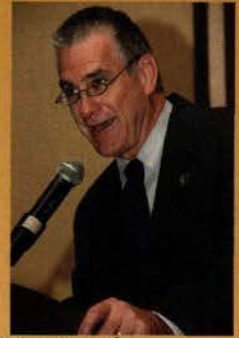
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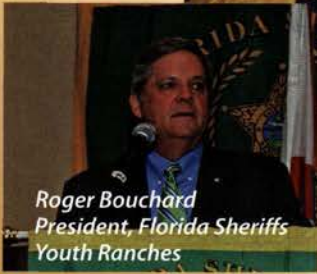
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Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp



Cpl. Ernie Armistead
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office



Roger Bouchard
President, Florida Sheriffs
Youth Ranches



Brian London
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Department of Financial Services



Sgt. Kevin Purinton
Citrus County Sheriff's Office

cop-turned attorney and risk management professional, managed to hold the Sheriffs attention with a combination of war stories and the real life lessons they hold for today's law enforcement professional.

Graham's company, Lexipol, has helped 90 percent of the law enforcement agencies in California standardize their policy, procedures and training.

"If you study tragedies, you'll see that patterns start to appear," Graham told the Sheriffs. He gave examples from airline accidents to nuclear disasters.

"Risk managers look for the real root cause (of the accidents). They are problems lying in wait." The idea is to identify the problem, then put measures in place to avoid them.

In his presentation, Graham used the "7 Rules of Rickover." Admiral Hyman Rickover, known as the father of the U.S. nuclear navy, was obsessed with safety and had stringent standards. As head of the development of the nation's nuclear submarine program, his approach is credited for the United States Navy's continuing record of zero reactor accidents.

Graham applied the 7 rules to law enforcement operations: continuous improvement, quality people, solid supervision, a healthy respect for risks, make every day a training day, use audits and analyze past data.

"Risk managers love checklists," Graham said. They are key to accountability.

continued on next page



Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy
Internet Safety & Sexual Predator
Awareness



**Manatee County Sheriff
Brad Steube**



From left, Keynote speaker Gordon
Graham; Dan Merkle, Lexipol and Polk
County Sheriff Grady Judd.



**Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott (left) with
Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres)**



Left to right, Agriculture Commis-
sioner Charlie Bronson; Emery
Gainey, Attorney General's Office;
FSA President Sumter County Sheriff
Bill Farmer



Sheriffs' Annual Summer Conference continued...

continued from page 13

In other news

During the conference, the Sheriffs learned about new software that has been developed – and will be made available free of charge to all Sheriffs – “as a tool to recover children and pick off offenders” in their jurisdiction.

Retired Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter and Bob Butterworth, who has served as Sheriff, Attorney General and head of the Department of Children & Family Services, introduced the engineer behind the software. Flint Waters, a former Wyoming police officer, has made it his life's work to create technologies systems and tools that protect children, people, companies and countries from risk, fraud and theft.

The focus of their presentation to the Sheriffs was “Operation Fair Play,” software that will allow Sheriffs to identify what computers are trafficking in child pornography and building investigations to target those individuals and businesses where the computers are located. It's a sad fact that people who are viewing and dealing in child pornography are hands on abusers, as well.

As Waters said, “The pictures in the video of a child rape victim match the picture on the mantle.”

“This is really an epidemic,” Butterworth said. Their hope is to convince Congress and Internet Service Providers to take child pornography off the Internet, completely.

To demonstrate the comfort and fit of one of their vests, Mark Altman (left) and Al Wesenick (far right) of Gator Hawk Armor/GL Distributors, Inc. fitted Volusia Sheriff Ben Johnson with one of their products. Photo by Jon Singley, Thurgaland Marketing, www.sheriff-photo.com



FSA President Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer receives a custom-designed sword from Tom Sweeney, Executive Vice President of Sales for GTL – Global Tel Link Inmate Communications Systems. GTL started the tradition of presenting a sword to the FSA president in 2003. Photos by Jon Singley, Thurgaland Marketing, www.sheriffphoto.com



Hurricane preparedness

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Cameron and Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall provided a training session on hurricane preparedness that came from their experiences in recent years.

“Until you live it, you don't know how unprepared you really are,” Sheriff Cameron said.

He told stories of living out of mobile kitchens and band-aiding cars together for three weeks. “Getting things becomes your No. 1 job – getting what you need, when you need it.”

Sheriff Hall said he went into Hurricane Ivan expecting to be secure in a facility that was supposed to be secure. But when the roof started coming off near midnight, he had a big problem on his hands – moving the 450 inmates located in the facility.

Progress and politicians

As a change of venue, the conference included an extended lunch for Sheriffs only, which allowed them to network and hear from several politicians and heads of state agencies. Each was given a time limit, which they respected.

For more information about the sponsors of the summer conference or details about the 2010 events, check the FSA Web site: www.flsheriffs.org.

Liberty County: Low Population, Low Sheriff Turnover

By Victor R. Silvestri

While Liberty County lies within the Florida median county size at approximately 843 square miles, in 1988 it had a population of only about six persons per square mile, ranking it 67th out of the state's 67 counties. Today it claims a population of 7,782, and Liberty remains the least-populated county in the state.

Founded in 1855 and created out of Gadsden County, it would be expected that Liberty's law-enforcement history rests in the median range also – but such is not the case. A cursory review of the number of Sheriffs elected in similar-sized Florida counties that were established at about the same time as Liberty (or a little later) shows that all had been required to replace their Sheriffs more often. In its history, Liberty County has had 26 Sheriffs to date, while Baker County had the highest figure of 41 Sheriffs since 1855, and the remainder of similar counties lie somewhere in between.

Taking this intriguing detail one step further, it was discovered that, of Liberty's 26 Sheriffs, three were from the Owens family, three were from the Revell family; Sheriff Shepard was elected to two non-consecutive terms and Sheriff Rankin was retained in office for 20 years. All of which goes to demonstrate the value to law enforcement of stability in a community or in a county.

What does this mean? Probably two things that would affect the political stability of the area – the first being that law enforcement might have been easier in a county with a small population; or, more likely, that the quality of those chosen to be Sheriff were of outstanding character who also possessed the required management and leadership skills.

This doesn't mean to imply that law enforcement has been an easy gig in Liberty County. Tragedy struck suddenly and violently in August 1899 when Deputy Sheriff Van B. Jackson attempted to arrest a black man by the name of Melvin Washington. The exact reasons for this attempted arrest are lost in the antiquated archives of history, but Washington did not surrender peacefully. Instead, there was an exchange of gunfire in which Washington was wounded but Deputy Jackson was killed. A search ensued, and the fugitive was captured, brought back to the county jail at Bristol, and then kidnapped by a mob and lynched in the only occurrence of its kind in Liberty County. The Sheriff of record at the time was Ben F. Owens.

Owens lineage

Benjamin Frankland Owens came to the Office of Sheriff in 1891. Owens was selected by Governor Fleming to replace Sheriff Sam Edwards, who had resigned for some mysterious reason just one year after being appointed. In his first term, Owens served just under one year and was replaced by Green M. Deason who was appointed to completed Edwards' original term in office. Ben was the youngest of the Owens' brothers to be Sheriff, and he was elected to office on his own merit in 1898 and served until 1899, resigning just three months after the murder and lynching. Other Owens brothers who served as Sheriff of Liberty County were James (1887-90), who died while in office, and Levi (1899-1901).

The following abbreviated genealogy is from correspondence from Minnie Shuler, an Owens family member and genealogy researcher:

The Owens family and related families is very large. John Owens, supposedly from England, came to Virginia early on. His son, John, married Rebecca Hale and remained in Virginia. His grandson, John the Elder, married Eleanor Gallop who was the great-granddaughter of Keziah Arroyah, a descendant of the Pocahontas Indian family (...not a descendant of Pocahontas, but of her uncle). John the Elder had a son, John Owens the Younger, who married and moved to Edgecombe County, NC...the connection extends through Solomon Owens who appears in Gadsden County, FL... From there some family members, notably cousins such as Levi DeCarr Owens, moved to Liberty County. Their descendants may be found today in various locations in Liberty County. A different branch of this family is through the Shuler Family line in Washington County, FL where Arthur Shuler Jr. married Indianna Farrior. Indianna Farrior is the daughter of Washington County Sheriff Henry Monroe Farrior (1913-21), (1925-33) and (1941-45).

More on the Owens family and other Liberty County Sheriffs may be found in the CD Version of "The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs" and in the second edition of the same reference.

The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs: 1821-2008 may be obtained by calling 1-800-568-1611 or faxing your order to: 1-502-423-9017.

Contact author Victor R. Silvestri by writing: 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defuniak Springs, FL or e-mailing: summers@gdsys.net.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONORARY & BUSINESS AWARDS



PALM BEACH COUNTY – Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Michael Walsh, Ocean Properties, LTD.

These awards programs give 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



DESOTO COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Will Wise to former DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Buck Kinnaird (left photo) and Robert Houck.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara to Daniel A. Maddaluno.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Gerardo Suarez.

STAR-BRIEFS

Teen Driver Challenge: Saving Lives

It was the beginning of the summer and 19-year-old David Sovran was driving on Florida's Turnpike, maintaining the posted speed of 70 mph. He was in the passing lane, when he felt an explosion.

"The whole car started rocking," Sovran says. His instincts kicked in, reminding him of what he learned at the Teen Driver Challenge two years before. "I had a flashback. I accelerated a little bit, then eased on the brake and drove onto the left shoulder." Sovran turned on his emergency lights, called for roadside assistance, then got out to inspect the damage. That's when he discovered he had been riding on a hot piece of rubber – there was no tire.



When he tells the story about the day his tire blew, most people react with a version of, "And you're still alive?"

Sovran knows it's true – he not only saved his own life through what he learned from the Teen Driver Challenge, offered through the Osceola Sheriff's Office, he likely saved others who were sharing the highway with him that day.

That's not the only time Sovran used what he learned. He avoided another accident earlier in the year

near Disney. When traffic came to a dead stop, his anti-lock braking system kicked in, which was a good thing. And Sovran knew not to let up on the brake, as that only releases the system. "I avoided rear-ending someone because of it," he says.

With all the applicable experience that David Sovran has gained, his mother urged his younger brother, William, to take the Teen Driver Challenge. William just finished the course and his big brother is continuing to coach him.

The Teen Driver Challenge courses are continuing to expand across the state. If you have a teenager interested in participating, check with your local Sheriff's Office. Or, visit the TDC Web site: www.fsa-teendriverchallenge.com.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



New Lifetime Members from 6/20/09 to 9/2/09

American Legion Post No. 3
Jefferson County Sheriffs Office
Golf Tournament

Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Oldag
Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Wiedman
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lewis
Ms. Claire S. Clark

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.



MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Mr. Roy T. "Thad" Boyd III.



Michael Anthes



Antonio Richard



Rina Lener



Mrs. & Mrs. James Sterrett

PALM BEACH COUNTY – Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Michael Anthes, Antonio Richard, Rina Lener and Mrs. & Mrs. James Sterrett.



OSCEOLA COUNTY – Presented by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch Chair, Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, to Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell and his wife Linda, for personal giving to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



PALM BEACH COUNTY – Presented by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch Chair, Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, to Palm Beach County Sheriff Rick Bradshaw and his wife Dorothy, for personal giving to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY – Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara to Mrs. Jean Dombkowski.



Loyal Order of Moose Legion #27



Carl Dickinson

VOLUSIA COUNTY – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson and FSJR Donor Relations Officer Debi Girard to the Loyal Order of Moose Legion #27, represented by Keith Bradshaw and Everette Goodwin (both in yellow jackets); and to Carl Dickinson.

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."

Members: You Can Now Renew Online

By popular demand, the Florida Sheriffs Association has just launched "online membership renewal" for existing members.


When you receive your annual renewal form, just go to the Florida Sheriffs Association Web site: www.flsheriffs.org/. All you will need is your membership number (located above your name, on the address panel on the back of this magazine) and a valid credit card. You'll enter

your last name with member number to access your membership record, then fill in the renewal request.


In addition to renewing, you'll have the opportunity to order tags – all in one place.

Look for the Membership Renewal link on the front page at: www.flsheriffs.org and renew today!


This order form not valid after December 31, 2009.
For future orders check our Online Web Store
coming soon at www.flsheriffs.org




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



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




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




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


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




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



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



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



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

NOT SHOWN
Style # Flag Black
Face No. 3

MEMBERSHIP ITEMS ORDER FORM

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

☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss

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_____ *Belt buckle(s) at \$30.00 each. \$ _____

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

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Attention Members:

Are you moving? 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.

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E-mail: membership@flsheriffs.org

Or call us at (800) 877-2168

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

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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 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 zinc 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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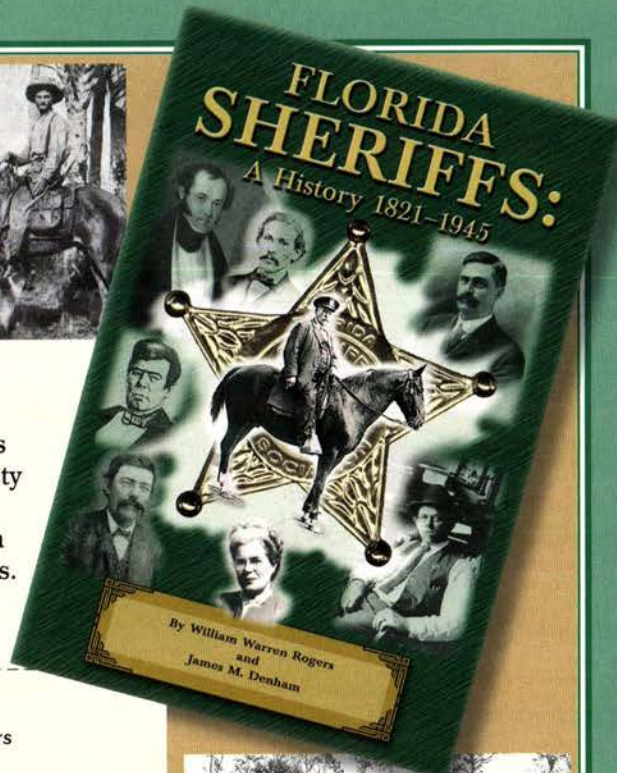
Florida Sheriffs Association
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Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519
(street address, 2617 Mahan Drive)

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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