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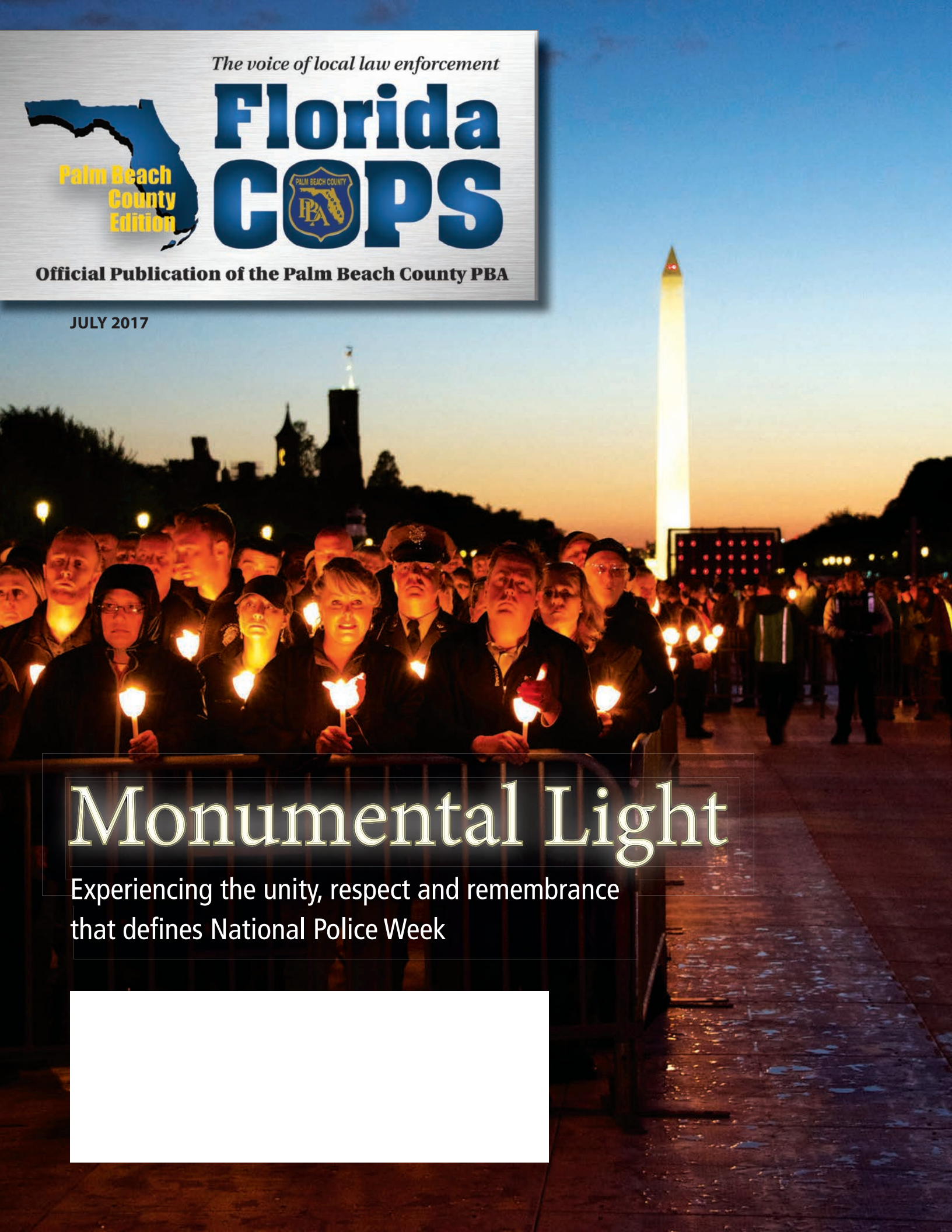
Florida COPS

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA


JULY 2017

Monumental Light

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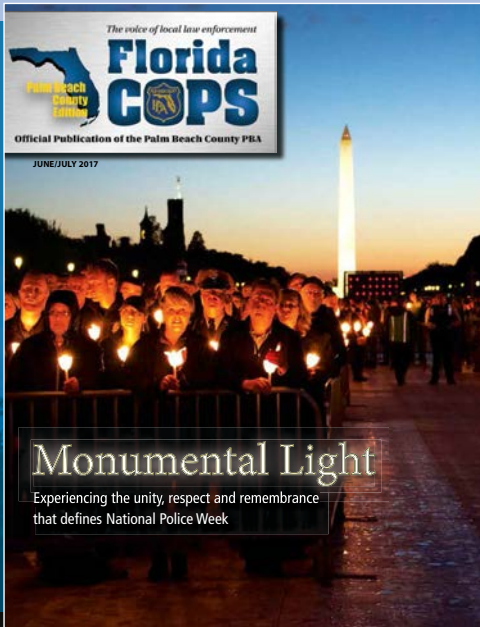
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SHEDDING LIGHT

The Candlelight Vigil, which was held on May 13 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. is one of the highlights of National Police Week, a time when law enforcement officers across the country come together to remember and honor fallen sisters and brothers. Palm Beach County PBA members – including an especially dedicated group from Delray Beach – made the trip to Washington, D.C., to take part in the events, and local ceremonies also offered tribute and remembrance that illuminated how Police Week can be a life-changing experience.

Cover photo by Ed Carattini, Jr.

Having a Ball

The 10th annual Palm Beach County Police Officer's Ball was a night to honor officers for their courageous and heroic work and to celebrate the relentless work of the PBCPBA and its members to celebrate. This special report includes:

Supporting Cast: Rarely has so much love for law enforcement filled on room like it did at the Ball **Page 23**

The Rescuer: The Officer of the Year Award was bestowed on a West Palm Beach officer who ran into the fire to save a man **Page 26**

Getting their man: A team of PBSO deputies that went all out to end a man on a crime spree earned a much-deserved moment in the spotlight **Page 27**

The Rescuer Part 2: An elderly couple comes out of the fire thanks to a PBSO deputy who was humbled by the recognition of his lifesaving work..... **Page 28**



She's the boss

West Palm Beach Chief Sarah Mooney has developed a unique set of skills during her long-time service, which made her the only choice to lead her department **Page 32**

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Correction

On page 35 of the April issue of Florida Cops, PBSO Deputy Sheriff Rudolph Roche was incorrectly identified. We apologize for the error.

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Website: www.floridacopsmagazine.com

MITCHELL KRUGEL

Publisher/Editor

mitch@floridacopsmagazine.com

DAN RAPPOPORT

Sales Director

dan@floridacopsmagazine.com

GINA CROTCHFELT

Art Director

gina@floridacopsmagazine.com

AMBER RAMUNDO

Staff Writer

amber@floridacopsmagazine.com

BRITTANY KRUGEL

Editorial Intern

brittany@floridacopsmagazine.com

KIMBERLY FLYNN

AMY CIAURO STELLABOTTE

Copy Editors

ANGELA TWOMEY

PBA Editor

angela@pbcpsba.org

DEANNA HUNTER

Director of Operations

dee@floridacopsmagazine.com

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CODE THREE

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're on the ball



**JOHN
KAZANJIAN**

We gave another \$120,000 on June 15 in scholarships to help children of our members pursue their education. We give to our members. We give to their kids.

And that's what makes me so proud of our Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball. It's a celebration of all the amazing fundraising work and achievements on the job from our members each year. We had our 10th annual

Ball this year, and every year I'm ecstatic in the days leading up to it, because I know I get to address the crowd and tell everybody about what we all have accomplished together.

It's kind of like my annual report. Even though it starts with my same spiel about how much money we have raised for our charity fund, I think the people who attend the Ball look forward to it because they are the ones who really support law enforcement.

Listen, when I became president 10 years ago and brought the Ball back, we had an opportunity to invite all the people who support us and thank us for what we do. And to have the officers there in the room who represent the best of what we do. That's why we culminate each Ball with our Officer of the Year Awards – to make the Ball a real celebration.

So it's about more than money. The Ball is about presenting what our members have accomplished. It's about different agencies mingling together. Every year, it turns into a little bit of a reunion between members who haven't seen each other in five or 10 years.

And here's another rewarding part of the event for me: A few months from now I will begin hearing from elected officials and others who support our union, asking when the next Police Officer's Ball will be. They look forward to it just to spend time with us. They know how much we work. They know how much we care. They want to come out and support us.

And you know very few people support us like the folks at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens. When we brought the Ball back, we went to Mar-a-Lago the first year and we had a great event. We wanted to go to Palm Beach, but you probably know the town can be challenging



John Kazanjian (left) with Florida State Senator Jack Latvala at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball.

for charitable organizations to work with. Then after a few years at the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan, we came to PGA National. And it's been a home run. They know how to take care of cops.

This year's Ball couldn't have had a more fitting guest speaker than State Senator Jack Latvala. Talk about somebody who supports law enforcement. He is a real friend, and we wanted to thank him for literally bringing the love to our members in Stuart when he delivered Valentines students had made for the police officers after the problems they had with their mayor. You probably remember that. And you probably remember how Senator Latvala single-handedly saved our pensions back in 2010. We can only hope he runs for governor in 2018.

That's how we roll at the Ball. Lot of support. Lots of recognition for our members. Lots of camaraderie. And, yes, lots of fun.

We had a Ball.

As always, get home safe. ♥

Kaz

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Several of our members have incorrect information on file with the PBA office. Please check with your fellow officers to see if they received the magazine and if not, please email

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to update your information.



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Two good things



**LOU
PENQUE
TREASURER**

I do my best to keep my political opinions to myself, because everybody knows what opinions are like! In this past presidential election, I believe our choice was either bad or terrible. But this is the situation we now face, and we must move on and look for the positives.

Here is one positive that is coming out of the Department of Justice. They are already working on overturning an executive order signed in May 2015 to halt much of the 1033 program, which allowed surplus military equipment to be issued to police.

This included Kevlar helmets. Coincidentally, this same type of helmet saved an Orlando police officer's life when he took one round in the head during the Pulse nightclub siege in June 2016. This type of helmet is currently prohibited under the 1033 program. I hope this will soon be reversed, as well as restrictions on other protective equipment that is prohibited under the executive order of 2015.

Another positive coming out of the DOJ has to do with consent decrees issued by the previous administration. It appears they are causing more harm than good for most communities, leaving agencies with low morale and skyrocketing crime rates. As you all know, there are a few bad apples in every agency and those are the ones that need to be addressed. Consent decrees tend to punish an entire agency and the communities they serve, rather than the individuals responsible. It appears to me that false narratives were the reason for the chaos that led to the issuing of these consent de-

crees. I recently heard Attorney General Jeff Sessions speak at the NAPO Top Cops awards dinner, and whether you love him or hate him, you could not deny the fact that this attorney general has got our backs. Below is a partial summary of an April article from *The Washington Post* describing one of the first moves made by the DOJ.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered Justice Department officials to review reform agreements with troubled police forces nationwide, saying it was necessary to ensure these pacts do not work against the Trump administration's goals of promoting officer safety and morale while fighting violent crime.

In a two-page memo released Monday [June 12], Sessions said agreements reached previously between the department's civil rights division and local police departments ... will be subject to review by his two top deputies, throwing into question whether all of the agreements will stay in place...

"The Attorney General and the new leadership in the Department are actively developing strategies to support the thousands of law enforcement agencies across the country that seek to prevent crime and protect the public," Justice officials said in their filing. "The Department is working to ensure that those initiatives effectively dovetail with robust enforcement of federal laws designed to preserve and protect civil rights."

Sessions has often criticized the effectiveness of consent decrees and has vowed in recent speeches to more strongly support law enforcement.

Since 2009, the Justice Department opened 25 investigations into law enforcement agencies and has been enforcing 14 consent decrees, along with some other agreements.

Be safe out there, I believe we are in for a bumpy ride over the next four years. ♥

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PBA Board of Directors Meeting Attendance - June 15, 2017

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John Kazanjian.....✓
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Greg Allen.....✓
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Rick King.....✓
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Rayner De Los Rios, Appt. Alt.....Unexcused
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Vinnie Gray.....✓
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Paul Weber, Alt.....✓
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Scott Logsdon, Appt.....Excused

Lake Clarke Shores

William Howell.....Working/Excused
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James Holloran, Alt.....✓
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Rui Dutra, Alt.....✓
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North Palm Beach

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JOSHUA JOHNSON	PBSO
JAZMIN STEPHERSON	PBSO
AIRD CAJUSTE	RIVIERA BEACH
MYERS MCCRAY, II	RIVIERA BEACH
JESSICA MENDENHALL	PBSO
JONATHAN BENKOSKI	BOYNTON BEACH
MATTHEW BUNDRICK	BOYNTON BEACH
AARON KROMREY	BOYNTON BEACH
VICTOR PIRES	BOYNTON BEACH
GEORGE SOLOMON	BOYNTON BEACH
SCOTT STALEY	BOYNTON BEACH
ANWAR LAMBERT	RIVIERA BEACH
MICHAEL COON	JUNO BEACH
THOMAS SPECIAL	PBSO
ALBENYS MORENO	PBSO
ERNEST BRADFORD	PBSO
COLLIN CORLEY	MCSO
ARTISHA BLACKMAN	PBSO
JACQUELINE MEDINA	WEST PALM BEACH

What it means to be 'at an impasse' in bargaining



**BRENNAN
KEELER**

The purpose of collective bargaining is to encourage "cooperative relationships between the government and its employees" and provide public employees with a means to participate in the establishment of their employment conditions. Any matter addressing a public employee's "wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment" must be collectively bargained in good faith.

Collective bargaining pursuant to Chapter 447, F.S., consists of a series of negotiations between a public employer's chief executive officer and the selected bargaining agent for an employee organization regarding the terms and conditions of employment. Any collective bargaining agreement that is reached must be placed in writing and signed by both the chief executive officer and the bargaining agent. The agreement is effective for a period of not more than three years, at which point the contract must be renegotiated.

It is appropriate to declare an impasse in labor contract negotiations if, after a reasonable period of negotiation, a dispute exists between the parties regarding a mandatory subject of bargaining. If, after a reasonable period of negotiation concerning the terms and conditions of employment to be incorporated in a collective bargaining agreement, a dispute exists between a public employer and a bargaining agent, an impasse will be deemed to have occurred when one of the parties so declares in writing to the other party and to the Public Employees Relations Commission. When

an impasse occurs, the public employer or the bargaining agent, or both parties acting jointly, may appoint, or secure the appointment of, a mediator to assist in resolving the impasse. However, both parties can agree in writing to waive the appointment of a special magistrate and proceed directly to resolution of the impasse by the legislative body; thus avoiding the cost and time needed to have a hearing before a special magistrate.

After a hearing before the special magistrate, a recommended decision is issued by the special magistrate. If neither party rejects in writing any recommendation of the special magistrate, then the recommendations of the special magistrate become binding. In Florida, if a rejection is made, then the disputed issue proceeds to a public hearing before the legislative body (i.e. city council or county commission), which takes into consideration the positions of the parties and the interest of the public. The determination of the legislative body is set down in a document along with the tentatively agreed-upon items and submitted to ratification by each party.

If both votes are favorable, that document effectively serves as an agreement. If one or both sides reject it, the decision of the legislative body resolves the issues before it until the end of the first full fiscal year of negotiations. This is why we always say, "Can you count to three?" This is a reference to the need for a majority of the legislative body's votes in order to resolve an impasse in our favor. ♥

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Critical incidents:

Only conversations with an attorney are privileged



ANGELA
BARBOSA
PBCPBA
COUNSEL

Palm Beach County PBA members are fortunate to have attorneys on call day and night to represent officers involved in shootings and critical incidents on scene. Typically, PBCPBA representatives who work at an agency may be involved in either calling the attorneys to come out or making sure the member's needs are met. As many of you know, PBA reps enjoy privileged communications when acting as union reps in the course of internal affairs investigations or other dealings with the employer. However, there is no recognized union representative privilege for criminal matters. For the purposes of shootings and other critical incidents, we need our representatives

and members to know that only conversations with an attorney are privileged.

Officers involved in critical incidents, including officer-involved shootings, should not discuss anything regarding the incident with anyone except their attorney. Any conversations with other officers, PBA reps or family members are not privileged. This means that if an officer speaks with his or her PBA representative about the case, the PBA rep can be subject to a

subpoena. The PBA rep could be compelled to give a sworn, truthful statement to help investigators and lead to the arrest of the involved officers. The PBA rep may end up having to testify against the involved officer at trial.

In the event of a critical incident, remember the words in your own Miranda warnings -- "anything you say can and will be used against you."

PBA reps: Call the PBA emergency line and wait for an attorney to respond. Do not discuss any details or facts of the case with the involved officer(s). There is no confidentiality for criminal matters with PBA representatives. You need to protect yourself from being the subject of a subpoena and having to testify against the involved member.

Members: Be aware of your rights. If you are a member involved in a critical incident, call the PBA emergency line and wait for your lawyer to arrive on the scene. Do not discuss anything with anyone. Do not answer any questions. Do not send text messages relating to the incident. As soon as you are involved in a critical incident, both a criminal investigation and an internal affairs investigation are opened to review your actions. Your attorney will advise you on how to proceed and will represent you during all aspects of the investigation. ♥



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How a bill becomes law?



**MATT
PUCKETT**
FLORIDA
PBA
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

When I first read the request to write an article about how a bill becomes law, I laughed just a little to myself. And not because I thought the request was altogether funny, but because I knew I would find a degree of humor in my answer. I find it funny because there are really two answers to this question: how the process is supposed to work, and how the process actually works.

In a perfect example, one of our legislative initiatives was moving through the process like a textbook case. We were receiving committee hearings in the House and Senate on a weekly basis. Limited amendments had been filed to the legislation, which meant no active opposition had derailed the bills in a committee meeting — or worse, voted down one of the two bills. You need two bills...typically...one in the House and one in the Senate. The process was working rather nicely, almost like your civics teacher taught you in high school. This legislation was our body camera review legislation and it is now the law of Florida. Textbook.

But things do not always work that way.

The reality is, in most cases, you can move an issue through the process if you have enough support to make your issue work. Amendments can pop up early, or late. Bills can move through a slate of committees, or they can come out a conference committee negotiation. The rules permit varying degrees of introduction and, sometimes, the rules can be waived.

The job of a lobbyist is to know all the variables on an issue and hope that you have a plan for each variable. Yet most importantly, you must have enough support for each plan. If you have no plan and do not know what may lie ahead, there's a strong chance you wouldn't have the necessary support to make a difference anyway.

These things go hand in hand. Support leads to a plan and foresight on what may happen.

So how does a bill become a law?

First, you'd better be working hard to build up a support base. That's why the PBA holds candidate screenings, issues political endorsements and plays in politics every election cycle. Also, your supported candidates need to win. If you never back winning candidates, you probably never have enough support, and therefore even your best plans and clearest foresight mean next to nothing.

While you are building up support, you need to get to know the lay of the land on your issues. Who will oppose you on any given issue? How do they wield their opposition? This part takes years in many cases, so you cannot take an election cycle or a legislative session off. No one is going to wait around for you to get your act together — your political opponents will just run up the score against you.

Finally, you need to understand the rules — and then be ready to accept that the rules do not always apply.

Of course, sometimes you can just be lucky. ♥

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Congress passes PSOB Improvement Act

On May 17, in a major victory for NAPO and public safety officers across the country, Congress unanimously passed the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Improvement Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York). This Act will tackle the issues of transparency and timeliness of case determinations within the PSOB program, as well as protect the ability of survivors, disabled officers and their families to get the benefits they so rightly deserve.

The Act will return the PSOB Program to a presumptive benefit and restore the "substantial weight" standard that requires PSOB to give substantial weight to the findings of federal, state and local agencies as to the cause of the public safety officer's death or disability. It will ensure that children of fallen or disabled public safety officers will still be eligible for education benefits if an adjudication delay causes them to age out of benefit eligibility before their claim is approved. It also will increase transparency through weekly and quarterly public reports on the status of claims.

After years of frustration with the PSOB Program, the enactment of this important legislation is a triumph for NAPO and rank-and-file officers across the nation. It is a priority for NAPO to ensure that the PSOB Program is processing and deciding claims in a timely manner and that the process is transparent and straightforward for those who have lost their loved ones or have become seriously disabled in the line of duty. This is a major step in the right direction, and NAPO will continue to work as part of the PSOB stakeholder community to hold the program accountable.

House passes Thin Blue Line Act. On May 18, the House voted and passed the Thin Blue Line Act by a bipartisan vote of 271-143, with 48 Democrats voting for the bill. This important bill, sponsored by Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-Florida), makes the targeting of, attempted killing or killing of a police officer, firefighter or first responder an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations in federal court. This would be applicable whether an officer were targeted or murdered on duty, because of the performance of their duty or because of their status as a public official. The only requirement is that the homicide provide federal jurisdiction.



This bill is critical, as law enforcement officer assaults, injuries and deaths have increased sharply in recent years. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there have been 51 line-of-duty deaths so far this year, which is a 31 percent increase from this time last year, following one of the deadliest years for law enforcement in five years. In 2016, 135 officers were killed in the line of duty; 64 of those were shot and killed.

A tepid response to the murders of police officers do nothing to discourage future attacks, which is why legislation like the Thin Blue Line Act is so important. NAPO strongly believes that establishing stricter penalties for those who harm or target for harm law enforcement officers will deter violent crimes and add another layer of safety for the nation's law enforcement officers, who put their lives on the line each day to protect our communities.

Senate passes Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. On May 16, NAPO and rank-and-file officers across the country gained another win when the Senate passed the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act, sponsored by Senators Joe Donnelly (D-Indiana) and Todd Young (R-Indiana). NAPO worked closely with Senator Donnelly on this important legislation, which will help law enforcement agencies to establish or enhance mental health care services for their officers. The legislation will make grants available to initiate peer mentoring pilot programs, develop resources for mental health providers based on the specific mental health challenges faced by law enforcement and support law enforcement officers by studying the effectiveness of crisis hotlines and annual mental health checks.

According to the National Study of Police Suicides, officers are 2.5 times more likely to die from suicides than from homicides. State and local law enforcement officers are our nation's first responders. They respond to our country's greatest tragedies, as well as violent crimes that unfortunately occur more frequently in our communities. They have seen and experienced horrors that they cannot forget, yet they still put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities. It is time that the nation recognizes the stress and strain of the job and gives officers the resources they need to address their emotional and mental well-being. ♥

Guiding Lights

Attending Police Week events in Washington, D.C., and Palm Beach and Martin counties reminds officers why they go above and beyond every day



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY ED CARATTINI, JR.

A wave of light unfurls and makes 20,000 people – many of them law enforcement in full dress uniforms – appear to glow in the dark. The U.S. Capitol exudes reverence in the foreground. The Washington Monument stands watch in the background. The world stands arm-in-arm on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to honor and respect police officers past and present, fallen and fervent, in what has become the center of the universe for blue lives mattering, the beating heart for cops to make the sacrifice, ultimate and otherwise, every day.

No hyperbole can accurately capture what takes place each year on May 13. It is the Candlelight Vigil, the centerpiece of National Police Week that brings cops from across the country, many other countries, survivors of officers lost in the line of duty, family, friends and fans to our nation's capital. Each of the 20,000 plus who attend the Vigil lights a candle then uses theirs to light the next in line until flames burn further than the eye can see.

All law enforcement officers should get to see and feel this burning passion at least once during their careers. To say attending the Candlelight Vigil is life-changing doesn't do it justice.

"Once they light that first candle and start passing it, the sky glows," describes Delray Beach PBA Representative Gary Fer-

ri, who attended the Vigil this past May as part one of many trips he has made to National Police Week. "I don't even know how to describe it. At that point, there is such a sense of unity and camaraderie and everybody is there for a common purpose. It's something you never forget."

Police Officers who are starting to feel like what they do just doesn't matter need to come to Washington, D.C. for Police Week. A group of eight female officers from Delray Beach made the pilgrimage this year, and the "South Florida girls" as they were embraced by cops all around the town made an impression and felt an impact from which they will never be the same. Likewise, Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian made his 20th journey to Police Week, leading a contingent from the Executive Board to accentuate the mission of this week to never forget.

Of course, remembering as Police Week commands begins at home, starting with the memorial wall in front of PBA headquarters that is inscribed: "To serve and protect was their oath. To honor them is our duty." Jupiter and Delray Beach presented memorial services for their fallen as examples of the honoring and remembering that takes place during May in Palm Beach and Martin counties and includes bringing back family members of their fallen each year.

"I think it's an honor to remember fallen officers," relates Linda Kennedy, wife of Delray Beach Officer John Kennedy who



was lost in the line of duty in 1974 who makes a 12-hour drive from her Georgia home to attend the Delray Beach Police Week memorial every year.

"It makes you remember that they are a brotherhood," Mrs. Kennedy continues. "They are going to send their brother or sister home in full honor, as much honor as they can give them. It's wonderful to see how proud they are to be a part of this."

Keep their memories alive

John Kennedy's end of watch came in 1974, and on the 40th anniversary Ferreri accompanied Mrs. Kennedy to Washington, D.C., for Police Week. He wanted the honor of showing her why cops from everywhere flock to D.C. each May, and it had everything to do with officers who didn't know John being able to give her a hug. And then hugging back.

Jason Alexander, the sergeant's PBA representative for Jupiter, has been there several times to give that hug. There is a reason why he comes to Police Week, maybe the biggest reason all officers come.

"I try to get there every couple of years because I feel it's important to show respect to the family members of fallen officers," Alexander confirms. "It's one of the most humbling experiences I've ever had."

Or as Kaz reiterates: "You got to keep their memories alive."

To understand the emotion that draws law enforcement to Police Week, follow the path the seven fortified female officers from Delray Beach took to Washington, D.C. They were at a housewarming party Officer Brittany Brown hosted when the idea of a trip first came up. Officer Christine Braswell suggested that trip be to Police Week, but ironically, she couldn't secure the time off to go.

In the meantime, one officer, Gina Gallina, decided to buy a plane ticket. On the spur of that moment, others followed. The trip was beginning to take shape until April 8 when Braswell was tragically killed by a drunk driver while on vacation in Key West (see story on page 38). At that point, the getaway turned into a crusade to honor Braswell, to promote the camaraderie



The "South Florida Girls", from left, Nicole Lucas, Stephanie Holst, Shannon Sniffen, Jasmine Lehe, Kiley Boland, Gina Gallina and Brittany Brown at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week.

she so much loved about being a police officer and to feel the inspiration they anticipated waiting at Police Week.

"To see that ripple of light at the Vigil coming toward you is awe-inspiring," Brown confirms. "People you don't even know are all there for the same reasons. People from the whole country. People from the whole world. We were sitting next to people from England. It actually gave me chills."

It rips your heart out

Return home for a moment to feel the emotion a Police Week ceremony can generate. In Delray Beach, the memorial to honor John Kennedy and Adam Rosenthal, who was lost in an auto accident on Feb. 17, 2011, attracted members of the community who happened to be passing by the police department that morning.

A flyover by the PBSO helicopter started the ceremony that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Gary Ferreri made an etching of Delray Beach Officer Adam Rosenthal's name inscribed on the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.



The tribute Jupiter Officers made to fallen brothers Major Edward Humphrey and Officer Bruce St. Laurent at the department's memorial service on May 17.

was moved to May 19 so those officers who traveled to D.C. could attend. Upwards of 100 people filled the front lawn where the department memorial stands, and 12-year-old Nicholas John Daniel Kennedy, the grandson of John Kennedy, gave a speech to express the gratitude for such a prodigious honor.

"It was a time to reflect, and to see all the officers in their dress blues. It was a celebration," Mrs. Kennedy recognized.

In Jupiter, department members filled the council chambers to remember, including two daughters of their brother, Major Edward Humphrey, who was lost in a vehicle pursuit on Sept. 8, 1995, and Brenda St. Laurent, whose husband Bruce, who was killed when his police motorcycle was struck by a pickup truck on the I-95 on-ramp at 45th Street on Sept. 9, 2012. He was assigned to the motorcade escorting President Barack Obama from a campaign event in Palm Beach County. This captures one of the great residuals of Police Week's reach: making sure those who lost their loved ones will always be part of the police family.

And all it takes is a walk through D.C. during Police Week to feel the power of that family. The Palm Beach County PBA executive board, as well as the group from Delray Beach, began each day of their 2017 tour by visiting the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. It has become a tradition for Palm Beach Cops to do so.

Names of the 21,000-plus officers lost in the line of duty are inscribed on the wall, including six from PBSO Kaz says were personal friends. He visits those friends each year, and though

it's hard, the wall also reminds what makes the job so, well, honorable.

In addition to the names, it's the tributes their fallen family members and departments place at the wall that make this memorial one-of-a-kind. A walk-through will find patrol car doors from an accident in which an officer was killed signed by every member of the department, boots an officer wore on duty every day, badges, wreaths, pictures and notes upon notes, many from children writing how they miss their mothers and fathers.

"When the kids draw pictures for their parents or write letters letting them know, 'It's been six years since you passed and this is what I have done to make you proud,' it absolutely rips your heart out when you see that," Ferreri commented.

The South Florida girls, who also counted among their ranks Nicole Lucas, Stephanie Holst, Shannon Sniffen, Jasmine Lehe and Kiley Boland, made a second visit to the wall just to take a picture in full uniform amongst the statues of the two lionesses that stand guard at the entrance. These are known as the protectors, and they elicit a special feeling Brown explains: "It makes you feel that if you ever have to be on that wall, nobody will forget you."

Mrs. Kennedy visited the wall on the 40th anniversary of John's passing, and she experienced what many family members and colleagues say they feel when visiting a fallen loved one. "You do feel – what's the word – some type of spiritual connection," she recalled.

Our whole nation is grateful

Police Week 2017 presented a boost to law enforcement that had been missing the past few years. At that National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Top Cop Awards on May 12, Attorney General Jeff Sessions made the keynote address and came with messages he said were part of a directive straight from the White House to show support law enforcement has not heard the previous eight years.

Among these statements:

"One of the highest duties of my job is to call attention to your successes and encourage citizens to support your difficult work. So I make this pledge that the Department of Justice will have the back of all honest and honorable law enforcement."

And:

"We need escalation of training, and we cannot retreat from presence on our streets. Working with you, we can make real progress. You have chosen the life of law enforcement and you have chosen to put that badge on to do that hard, unglamorous work of keeping us safe. It's a noble calling, and our whole nation is grateful to each of you for answering that call."

Police Week used to culminate with the President addressing the National Peace Officers Memorial service that concludes the events. President Trump confirmed he would be speaking this year, so Brown said their group wanted to be there. They wound up sitting next to a military veteran (like Brown) and struck up a conversation that left a lasting impression.

"He was sitting with his grandson and told me, 'I really admire what you guys are doing,'" she shared. "It just gave me chills to see other people out there for you."

Count the President as one of those, and he reiterated as much in his speech by saying:

"On this Peace Officers' Memorial Day, we thank God for having blessed so many of us with such incredible heroes. Because you do not hear it nearly enough, I want you to know that patriotic Americans of all backgrounds truly support and love our police."

Throughout Police Week, the D.C. streets are filled with cops from everywhere, most dressed in civilian clothes but wearing their badges on their hips or around their necks. They stop and



The front lawn of the Delray Beach Police Department was filled on May 19 for the memorial to fallen brothers John Kennedy and Adam Rosenthal. Nicholas John Daniel Kennedy made a speech of tribute to his grandfather at the service.



talk to each other even though they have never met, and swap stories that confirm they share the same challenges, but also the same pride, sense of duty and honor.

Ferreri noted that these walkabouts provide another reason why attending Police Week rewards with a feeling that doesn't come from many other aspects of the job.

"As you walk through the streets or walk in the stores, people come up to you and say, 'Thank you,'" he testifies. "They recognize why you are here and it's definitely a time when you are respected by everybody from people riding the train to the bartender serving you a drink to the homeless person sleeping on a bench." ♥



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NAPO Top Cops Awards

The great escape

West Palm Beach Officer's heroic rescue earns national recognition

■ BY BRITTANY KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY ED CARATTINI, JR.

Some people might think that law enforcement officers are similar to superheroes. They save townspeople. They fight the monsters. And sometimes they rush into a burning building to save a life. It almost sounds as if it's straight out of a comic book. But for West Palm Beach Officer Matt Ward, instinct rather than superpowers kicked in as he completed this courageous job without hesitation to save a life.

On Jan. 18, Ward responded to a fire that spread across multiple abandoned buildings on Division Avenue. One of the houses in the area caught fire, so Ward bravely ran into the house to make sure no civilians were trapped inside. When he broke down the door, he found a man sleeping, completely unaware that the house was on fire. Ward proceeded to wake up the man and escort him out of the back door safely.

For his courageous actions, Ward was honored at the National Association of Police Organizations Top Cops Awards on May 12 during National Police Week as a nominee. As Ward's name was announced, the rest of the Top Cops honorees from agencies across the country, family members, friends and a contingent from the Palm Beach County PBA that include President John Kazanjian, Executive Director Ernie George and fellow West Palm Beach Officer Lou Penque who packed the Omni Shoreham Hotel ballroom erupted in applause to recognize Ward's valiant efforts.

But if you think that the honor has gone to Ward's head, think again.

"It's a part of the job," Ward stated. "There's not anyone else in this room who wouldn't have done the same thing."

Ward has been overwhelmed by the amount of recognition he has received since the heroic rescue. And humbled.

"If it wasn't for him, and the way he felt, none of this would have happened," Ward recalled of the man who was overwhelmed with gratitude that his life was saved that day. "He wanted to recognize me."

Ward is a lifelong resident of West Palm Beach and originally planned to go into the family plumbing business. However, he felt that it was vital to serve his community in some respect. Fortunately, he became an officer in the West Palm Beach area and has been on the job for four years. For a man who never planned on becoming a police officer, he has become one of the many heroes that the law enforcement community has given their thanks to this year.

"There are people out there that appreciate law enforcement in this day and age," he confirmed, proud to see law enforcement honored for the work they do to keep people safe. ♥



West Palm Beach Officer Matthew Ward at the NAPO Top Cops Awards.



NAPO President Mick McHale of the Southwest Florida PBA.

Serving to protect

PBSO deputies honored for extreme use of bravery

In the world of law enforcement, protection is key. Protect yourself. Protect your partner. Protect citizens to keep them from becoming victims. Make it out alive. And that can be difficult.

But doing so under the gravest of threats is what makes top cops, or in this case, Top Cops. For facing a man waving a knife at them and emerging without harm last year, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff Humberto Mejia, Jr. and Deputy Sheriff Anthony Siena were recognized as NAPO Top Cops honorable-mention award winners during National Police Week 2017.

On June 22, Mejia and Siena accompanied Adanelis Morales to the home where her estranged husband, Robert Ponce, was living. Morales and her daughter had recently moved into a shelter and needed to retrieve some items from the home. Ponce was under investigation for sexual battery.

When they walked into the house, the deputies ran into Ponce with a knife in his hand and an enraged look upon his face. Both officers demanded that Ponce drop his knife, however he refused to do so.

With their lives in danger, Siena fired his dart gun at Ponce, but the shots were ineffective. Realizing that there were no other options, Mejia stepped in to protect himself, his partner and Morales, and fatally shot Ponce in the upper torso and shoulder.

Neither Mejia nor Siena had any record of fatally shooting a civilian in the past, however they did what they had to do to protect themselves and Morales during the dangerous encounter. The honorable mention of this event at the Top Cops Awards ceremony was met with applause by a room full of law enforcement officials who could appreciate their bravery and understand what it's like to make that difficult decision. ♥

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Standing Tall at the Ball

Palm Beach County PBA's annual extravaganza presents praise and pride for all law enforcement



BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
PHOTOS BY AMBER RAMUNDO

Validation, endorsement, backing and backup oozed from every corner of the PGA National Resort & Spa grand ballroom and beyond.

State Senator Jack Latvala presented the keynote address at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball on June 10 and pledged that until he draws his last breath in public service in Florida, he will stand for a strong pension for law enforcement.

Southwest Florida PBA President, Florida State PBA Vice President and National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) President Mick McHale came to the dais with a message from the White House. McHale related that at a meeting with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, he assured that President Trump and his entire administration truly have your back.

And before even one bite of dinner was served, PBCPBA President John Kazanjian presented a video spawned by the Dade County PBA of "Line of Duty," an original song Grammy-winner Jon Secada recorded as a tribute to law enforcement. Among the messages in his heart-stopping lyrics was the line, "Understand the sacrifice is the truth that can't be compromised."

Respecting the Line of Duty crescendoed the 10th annual Ball as an evening to show the love, feel the support for and celebrate the presence, prosperity and professionalism of the PBCPBA and its members.

"It's running great right now," Kaz announced to the 400-plus in attendance, perhaps as validation of his statement going into 2017 that things are swinging back in favor law enforcement. "Let's keep it that way."

The Ball featured its quintessential pomp and circumstance to kick off the event, including a rousing presentation of colors from a combined honor guard and Pipe and Drum Corps that included members from Jupiter, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, the Martin County Sheriff's Office and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, among other agencies in Martin and Palm Beach counties. West Palm Beach Officer Stacy Boddie sang a perfectly pitched national anthem, and Chaplain Robert Volpe



Guest speaker State Senator Jack Latvala gets a rousing ovation as he makes his way to the podium.



NAPO President Mick McHale presented a long-awaited message of support from President Trump and his administration.



A scene from the "Line of Duty" music video.

of the Jupiter Police Department provided the first inspirational message of support:

"There are two opposing forces we face every day: order and chaos," he preached. "Thank you for everything you do to restore order to that chaos."

To add to the show of support, master of ceremonies Allan Ortman asked visiting dignitaries, including elected officials, leaders from other PBA chapters and the State PBA and good

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

friends to stand up and be recognized. The ensuing line of "Anybody else who has not been recognized, please stand up" was meant to be some good humor, but only confirmed the volume of backup in the room.

Kaz reminded of the benefit and value of the continuing outpouring of support from members and the public with the annual report he takes great pride in making at the Ball. This, of course, is the output of all the fundraising that culminates with the event, which contributed to nearly \$150,000 being awarded in scholarships to children of PBA members this year.

"Last year, I reported that we just hit the \$2 million mark, and this year, we are over \$2 million," he submitted. "We've raised \$2 million and we've given out \$2 million. We don't hold the money. We give it out. That's our philosophy."

The report McHale brought back from Washington, D.C., included a long-overdue endorsement. Along with NAPO Executive Director and former Florida State PBA Counsel Bill Johnson, McHale met with Sessions and asked him to be the keynote speaker at NAPO's annual Top Cops Awards during National Police Week in May. McHale noted that Sessions called back the next day to commit to attending and wanted to bring an emphatic message.

"Basically, on behalf of the president, the attorney general instructed me to make it abundantly clear that as we move forward, the administration has our backs," McHale stated.

Applause erupted and it only became louder when Kaz introduced Latvala. The state senator reiterated the pride he takes in backing law enforcement, and his proof has been in the putting of saving and strengthening the pension through his work in Tallahassee. He added that he is leaving the Senate due to term limits after this year, but noted that, "I might find another way to be involved and continue to fight for the things we fight for."

Whether that means he will be making a run for governor is unclear, but his presence at the Ball reminded how few elected officials have members' backs like he does, which he reinforced even more with his closing statement:

"We've passed laws to help you put the bad guys away and keep them away, and our No. 1 accomplishment is reducing crime and making our state a safer place. Our crime rates are at a 44-year low."

All that was needed now was a song, and that came courtesy of the Secada tune that Dade County PBA President John Rivera debuted at his unit's gala in May. The video accompanying the song is something every officer in the U.S. should see, so if you have a minute, go to YouTube and feel the support of every word up to the culminating lines:

No one is above the law, no matter if we rise or fall.

It's so deep with faith, we will get through this standing tall.

Nothing was more evident than when the Ball concluded with the announcement of the PBCPBA Officers of the Year, which showcased members' amazing sacrifice that won't be compromised. To get full details on the best of these from 2016, read the stories on pages 26-29 and feel what every officer in the PGA National Resort & Spa grand ballroom felt on the night of June 10.

Respect for the line of duty grows every day. ❤️

Snap Shots

The Ball presented many great photo ops. Here are some of the highlights



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Scenes from the Friday Night fest that started the Ball weekend





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A-Ward winner

West Palm Beach Officer Matthew Ward is named Officer of the Year for rescuing a sleeping man from a burning building

■ BY AMBER RAMUNDO

The most noteworthy acts of Palm Beach County PBA officers played out on screen like a marathon of high-action “Cops” episodes. West Palm Beach Officer Matthew Ward sat amongst the crowd of finely dressed law enforcement and their guests in the PGA National Golf Club & Spa grand ballroom. As the life-threatening events played back-to-back in motion picture presentation, Ward was reminded of the many courageous acts that had taken place on the streets and in the homes of Palm Beach County in 2016.

Stories of exchanged gunfire and heated pursuit echoed through the room, making Ward play out the dangers of the events in his mind. Naturally, he wondered how he could be in the same category as these heroes, each nominated for Officer of the Year.

“There are people in this room who got shot at,” Ward stated. “Every single officer in this building, in this job, in this county, puts on a gun and badge and goes out on 65 calls every single day.”

When master of ceremonies Allan Ortman announced the 2016 Officer of the Year, Ward could hardly believe that it was his name and that he was being called to the podium to accept the award. The announcement prompted a standing ovation from an audience of hundreds who cheered Ward for his heroic call to action that rescued a man from a burning building.

“One of our main jobs as law enforcement officers is to preserve life no matter what the situation is,” Ward explained, feeling as though the rescue he performed was simply a fulfillment of duty. “(The award) was a little unexpected because this is what I signed up for.”

Though it may have been the oath he took to preserve life at all costs, there is no getting around the fact that on Jan. 20, 2016, a life was saved due to Ward’s quick and unquestioning actions that led him to kick down the door of a flaming building to check for any residents trapped inside. As smoke filled the residence and flames began to spread like wildfire from the building next door, Ward discovered a man sleeping inside, unaware of the danger that was quickly closing in. Ward led the man out of the building to safety as units arrived to put out the blaze.

Ward’s reaction to being Officer of the Year at the 10th Annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer’s Ball matched the mindset he presented just weeks earlier while being honored at the National Association of Police Organizations Top Cops Awards in Washington, D.C., where Ward again firmly stated that the actions he took to save a life were simply what he signed up for.

“I have a lot of pride with what I do and I try to do the best job that I can every time I show up somewhere,” Ward shared, while his family of supporters waited eagerly to congratulate him for the first time since being handed the Officer of the Year plaque from Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian. “There’s a bunch of people tonight who deserve to be here and it’s nice for the PBA to honor every single one of them.” ♥



Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian presents Matthew Ward with the medal given to the PBCPBA Officer of the Year.



Palm Beach County PBA members stand alongside Matthew Ward as he accepts his award for Officer of the Year. From left, PBCPBA Treasurer Lou Penque, West Palm Beach Commissioner Shanon Materio, PBA President John Kazanjian, Officer Matthew Ward, Chief Sarah Mooney, West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio and West Palm Beach Commissioner Paula Ryan.

The wanted-man hunt

PBSO deputies team up to end crime spree

Teamwork and training proved to be an unstoppable combination for six Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies who put themselves in harm's way to take down a wanted criminal. The team, made up of Deputy Garrett Bechtel, Deputy Robert Zajicek, Deputy Adnan Raja, Deputy Jon Alvarez, Deputy Autumn Krick and K-9 Officer James Barca, was honored at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball for their expert execution of training to close in on the armed suspect while hundreds of civilians stood in a nearby shopping center watching.

Four of the six officers were present at the Police Officer's Ball to accept the award as Officer of the Year first runners-up. As the officers stood in front of the crowd, each unharmed and healthy even after taking part in a dangerous pursuit that put an end to the suspect's streak of robberies and carjackings, they were happy to be there, happy that a man pointing a weapon at them didn't keep them from going home to their families.

"This guy became a special person of interest because he just committed multiple armed robberies to people, businesses and carjackings," explained Deputy Zajicek. "He was on a crime spree for sure."

On a March evening, the deputies put an end to the suspect's crime spree when Bechtel, Zajicek and Krick located him driving recklessly in a stolen vehicle in Lake Worth. A report of his stealing the car came the night before, and they set out on this tour following the description of the stolen vehicle.

Barca identified the vehicle, and the officers followed the suspect in a vehicle pursuit that turned into a potentially deadly situation when he stopped the car outside of a popular shopping plaza and presented a weapon in hand.

"It's something that's evolving so fast and it's happening in real time in front of you," Zajicek described. "We rely on most of our training and our gathered experience together while doing our job."

The proper training necessary to take part in the complex pursuit was fresh in Krick's mind as she helped secure the perimeters of the scene on only her second day on the job. But it was the efforts of all six officers working together that neutralized the subject after he pointed the weapon at the officers and put hundreds of bystanders in danger.

"Our job is not to kill people, it's to stop the threat," said Barca, who was among the officers who opened gunfire on the suspect after he refused to comply with commands to surrender. The suspect was taken into custody soon after.

As the officers reflected on the incident at the Police Officer's Ball, they agreed that there's nothing they would have done differently while working together to rid the streets of a dangerous criminal.

"You rely on your training and come to work prepared. Anything can happen at any time," Krick commented. "All of us want to go home safe. We all want to go home alive. We have families to go home to, so we did what we needed to do." ♥



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies, from left, James Barca, Autumn Krick, Robert Zajicek and Garrett Bechtel.

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Guile by fire

PBSO Deputy Serraes' quick thinking leads to rescue of elderly couple

One story after another of heroic and dramatic policing from Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie county cops mesmerized the nearly 500 people who packed the grand ballroom at the PGA National Resort & Spa on June 10. Oohs and ahhs reverberated as videos that could have filled weeks of programming for *Crime Watch Daily* played on the big screen at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball documenting the responses, rescues and pursuits.

When it came time to announce the first of three that would be honored as the best of the bunch, any of the 12 Officer of the Month honorees for 2016 would have been worthy of being named Officer of the Year or one of the runners-up. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brandon Serraes earning one of those honors only further exemplified the selfless and courageous work cops across the counties heroically perform nearly every day.



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"It feels good to be honored by the PBA," confided Serraes, who is in his third year with PBSO and sixth on the job. "I thought I did what anyone else would do – police officer or not. I mean, you know, you help people out. I saw a way to help them out."

"They" would be 95-year-old Byron Krieger and his 78-year-old wife, Ruth, who had been married for 57 years. On Nov. 7, 2015, the elderly Jewish couple were in the process of celebrating Havdalah, the ceremony that ends the Sabbath on Saturday night and includes lighting a candle.

Byron dropped the candle. His clothing caught fire. The chair he was sitting in went up in flames. So did the curtains behind him.

Serraes had been patrolling the area and received a call from dispatch of a domestic disturbance at the residence at Century Village in suburban Boca Raton. He heard the screams as he ran up the stairs.

"It wasn't until I was on my way up the stairs that dispatch said it's a fire," Serraes related. "I just kind of went up the stairs, went into the apartment and saw the woman and a man and got her out. He was very badly burned."

The fire was isolated to Byron, which enabled Serraes to find his way through the thick smoke to Ruth. When he went back in for Byron, he saw that he was on fire. The entire incident took place in approximately one minute, so quick thinking enabled Serraes to devise a way to get Byron out.

"His clothes already had been burned off, and the chair he was sitting in was still on fire," he continued. "So instead of trying to put out the fire, I tried to drag him out in the chair. I knew

he wasn't breathing very well up there. I'm thinking, 'If I could just get him outside in the fresh air so that he can breathe, we will deal with the fire after that.' It was hot, but you do what you gotta do."

In the Jewish faith, the word "mitzvah" stands for a prominent and selfless good deed, and Serraes did a mitzvah that night. Byron was so badly burned that it was questionable whether he would survive. Byron passed away later that night, but the heroic feeling seemed to be enhanced by Serraes' effort to bring him together with his wife one last time.

"It's one of those situations where it just happens so quick," Serraes recalled. "It was just one of those incidents that you never know."

It was one of those incidents of a hero rescuing a hero. Byron Krieger was an Olympic fencer who competed in the 1952 Summer Games in Helsinki, Finland, and again in the 1956 Games in Melbourne, Australia. He had been suffering from Parkinson's.

For his effort, Serraes was also honored with the "Above and Beyond Award," given by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Foundation, a nonprofit that raises money for underprivileged children and enhancing public safety.

Ruth did not suffer any severe injuries, and a few months after the incident she had the chance to meet up with Serraes and express her gratitude.

"As tragic as it was, I am glad I was able to give her a few extra hours with her husband," Serraes shared. "It's just one of those things you're thrust into and you don't prepare for. I just did it as quick as I possibly could to get everyone out." ♥



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And the winners are...



PHOTOS BY TOM BRODIGAN

To top off the 2016-17 school year, the Palm Beach County PBA recognized its best and brightest high school seniors with scholarship awards to assist in funding their higher education.

Palm Beach County established a charity fund in 2004 to offset the rising costs of college education for law enforcement officers' children and to provide scholarships to children of PBA members pursuing higher education. In 2017, the PBCPBA Charity Fund distributed nearly \$150,000 in scholarships and aid.

"It's really awesome that we gave out close to \$150K," recognized Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian.

The scholarship program consists of the Palm Beach County PBA Scholarship, the Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Sean Alex Memorial Scholarship.

Scholarship applicants are children of Palm Beach County PBA members who are enrolled or plan to enroll in a two- or four-year college. They are required to provide a transcript with their GPA and write a 500-word essay about themselves and their career goals. ♥



Thomas Nield, IV

2017 Scholarship Award Top Winners

Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship

Alexis Feder

PBC PBA Scholarship

Thomas Nield, IV

Connor Nauss

Christian Cruz

Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship

Athena Evrley

Sean Alex Memorial Scholarship

Natasha Felice

Casandra Munoz



Athena Evrley



Connor Nauss



Natasha Felice



Christian Cruz



Alexis Feder



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She's All That

A vast career has made Mooney the right fit for leading West Palm Beach PD

To Sarah Mooney, the West Palm Beach Police Department and its 294 sworn officers might as well be a family business. For 22 years, Mooney “grew up in the department,” as she described, building relationships and developing vast policing skills in community outreach, hostage negotiation and officer training. She established a reputation as a fair but firm leader through management roles as a field operations supervisor and patrol division shift commander and successfully navigated the tightrope that is the role of internal affairs commander. Finally, serving as assistant chief to her predecessor, Chief Bryan Kummerlen, Mooney honed the qualities needed to run a 400-person-and-growing department with an annual budget of \$57.6 million.

So, when Kummerlen announced his retirement in December 2016, West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio didn't think twice about keeping the top spot in the family.

“I've been watching her for a few years,” Muoio stated. “I didn't need to undertake a national search when the talent existed in West Palm Beach.”

On Feb. 12, Mooney dropped the “assistant” from her title and began a department-wide-and-beyond “Meet the Chief” tour in an effort to solidify relationships and present her plan for the future.

“It's been a very, very busy first few months,” confirmed Mooney, 46. “You can't meet with everyone one on one, but I like to have a lot of good communication, so I'm trying to present my goals of where the department is heading and my expectations.”

The direction the department – and West Palm Beach as a whole – is heading is one of significant growth. With billions of dollars of new high-rise and railway construction underway, the next few years will see a large department getting larger as it keeps up with an inevitable population spurt. But Mooney has made it clear that while 2018 could be a year of major changes, the focus of the next six months is on foundation.

“The main plan is to keep things steady,” she affirmed. “We have 20 people retiring this year, and it's a big thing to have that many experienced guys walking out the door. You want to make sure you're hiring quality candidates who will be there in the long run. I've pitched to the guys not to expect big changes during the next six months; my game plan is to wait until the beginning of the year when staffing is back up and people are settled.”

For now, it's staying with the basics. And like the example set by Mooney throughout her career, “basics” means communication and outreach, both in the department and on the street. It's one of the reasons Muoio offered Mooney the job.

“The way she interacts with the public and her background in social work are incredibly helpful in this day and age,” the mayor emphasized.

Initially, Mooney envisioned her career path starting with working in a nursing home. Or maybe becoming a psychiatrist.

Mooney attended the University of Missouri on a swimming

Meet West Palm Beach Chief *Sarah J. Mooney*

Education: Master's in social work from Florida State University

Experience: Twenty-two years in the department, including roles in community outreach, hostage negotiation and police training. She has been a field operations supervisor, patrol division shift commander and internal affairs commander.

Taking command: Mooney became chief on Feb. 12, 2017.



West Palm Beach Police Chief Sarah Mooney addresses members of the media with Mayor Jeri Muoio (right).

scholarship and graduated with a BA in social work. She came out with an idea of what she wanted to do, yet the waters were initially a little muddled about where to go with her career.

“I like to figure people out,” she offered. “I knew I wanted to do something at the ground level but also something a little bigger. But if I ever wanted to own a house and pay my bills, I knew I'd need a master's.”

That brought her back to the Sunshine state, where she completed an accelerated social work program at Florida State University. That led to an internship with the federal prison's drug abuse program.

“There I caught the bug to do something more than just social work,” Mooney explained. “I thought of going into the FBI, but when I applied I was short on work experience, so I decided the best way to make myself marketable was to become a cop. But then I went through the academy and landed in West Palm and I got hooked on the whole idea of this department and this profession, so I decided I was never going to leave this place.”

The next two decades found Mooney sampling every role the WPBPD had to offer. And each subsequent role enabled her to become the well-rounded officer who would inevitably be the best person to run the department.

Roles like being a lieutenant with the hostage negotiation team.



"Being that crisis manager and talking to people and resolving things right at the moment was probably the most fulfilling position," she related.

Or a captain with internal investigations.

"This was probably the best learning in the job," Mooney suggested. "Learning the difference between criminal cases and internal cases; working with the union a lot, with the officers a lot. You want to be someone the officers respect. Stuff happens and you have to look at it from a fair and unbiased point of view. You have to look at the facts and be as diplomatic as possible."

And, of course, being assistant chief.

"There was a lot of opportunity to learn and experience different things," she noted. "It's a matter of following other leaders and seeing how they do things. If you think someone's doing a really good job or a really bad job, you learn in both directions. You put your best leadership foot forward, have some stability and a sense of fairness, and have your troops know you'll do the best for them, the department and the city." ♥

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'I just want common sense to prevail'

The first arbitration Brennan Keeler handled for the Palm Beach County PBA involved a member who had eight years on the job. Injured in the line of duty, the member needed additional time to come back to work. The department decided to terminate him without just cause, and Keeler felt that the member was being railroaded. He built the case, the arbitrator sided with the member and he was reinstated with full back-pay.

"When you're fighting for the rights of law enforcement officers, I find it very fulfilling," explains Keeler, who just marked a year working with the PBCPBA team of attorneys. "At the end of the day, all officers are subject to working for elected officials. But career employees like police officers have an expectation of keeping their jobs, and all it takes is for one person to come along and say, 'I don't like this woman or man,' and try to get them fired. This officer will be here longer than you, so who are you to say you want this person gone?"

Keeler's desire to crusade for officers' rights hatched through what he described as being exposed to the PBA from a young age. His father is a retired Suffolk County, New York police officer. He has three uncles who were on the job, as was his grandfather.

"I grew up going to PBA barbecues and functions," he adds.

After graduating from Boston College and being in the kind of "cold weather that actually hurts," he flew back south – his family moved to Martin County when he was 8 years old – for law school at FSU. Keeler's goal was to work as a prosecutor, and he secured a position in Palm Beach County's 15th Judicial Circuit, where he worked from 2010 to 2013 before matriculating to become the police legal adviser for the City of Port St. Lucie.

In that job, Keeler learned the ins and outs of how a law enforcement agency operates and had an opportunity to form relationships with officers in the department.

At that point, Keeler started to focus on where he could make the biggest difference, where he could provide the most help.

"I liked working in the public sector," he confirms. "I had naturally transitioned to work for local government, and I learned a lot about how the management and employer side operate. I wanted to take that experience and move back to the other side."

Keeler had met PBCPBA attorney Larry Fagan when he represented the lieutenant's unit in Port St. Lucie, and that relationship led to pursuing the opportunity with the union. Keeler had developed a skill set that would prove to be very conducive to working with the PBA legal team.

"From a local government perspective and a law enforcement agency perspective, I felt I knew the rules and how they applied and how to get things that we needed," Keeler explained. "From their policies, procedures and general orders, I know how things should be done and when it's the department or agency that might be at fault, rather than the officer."

Meet Brennan Keeler

Since June 2016, PBCPBA Attorney

What I love about my job: I like that we help members who might not know where to go or what to do. If we can't help them, we can point them in the right direction or at least get an answer for them.

What I love about working for the PBA: Our legal team gets along very well. We're very collegial and we get to bounce ideas off each other. We each bring unique skills and viewpoints that provide many resources for members.

How I approach my job: I don't automatically jump to conclusions. You don't ever know everything. All cases deserve a formal investigation. That's when you sort out the truths from the falsehoods and make a determination of what's credible and what's not credible.



In short, Keeler knows what the other side is looking for and knows what your agencies are scrutinizing. His experience with criminal law can be of great value in critical-incident management, and he advocates logical thinking over combative response whenever possible.

"I just want common sense to prevail," he continues. "Let's take a look at everything and give everybody a fair shake. Everyone deserves a full, formal and fair investigation."

And if the formal investigation leads to mixing it up, well then bring it on. Keeler certainly demonstrated his readiness to get into the fray when guiding the members in Stuart to the response that helped displace Mayor Eula Clarke from office in February.

His other devotion is to his wife, Krista, and their new baby daughter, Emma, who was born on May 11. He relates that his family provides the balance in life to be able to best advocate for members' rights and keep a perspective that provides a voice of reason to the PBCPBA.

"I have a good sense about when I have to resolve something easily and when I have to be more adversarial," Keeler reminds. "Everybody I have dealt with has created a positive experience, and I feel like we are getting some good results for members." ♥



Breathe easy, baby

MCSO Deputy Hanton helps save choking infant

■ BY LISA ARCELLA

During 21 years on the job with the Martin County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Jon Hanton has seen it all. He knows his wife can't go to sleep until he tells her he's on his way home from his shift working in Indiantown, and he doesn't take it for granted that the job is often a dangerous one. He has had guns pulled on him more times than he can remember, and there was that one time when he witnessed a vehicle flying down the highway at 80 miles per hour in the wrong direction.

He sustained serious injuries when he rapidly positioned his police car to take the impact of that careening vehicle so that the many cars and drivers situated behind him could be protected. It's the kind of quick thinking and training that enables him to remain calm in whatever situation he finds himself faced with.

That's exactly what happened when he received a 911 call saying that a 1-month-old infant was in distress. "The baby wasn't breathing and the mother didn't know what to, and I responded," Hanton said. "I cover the 400 square miles at the west of Martin County. It's mostly an agricultural area of sugarcane and vegetable farms where there are a lot of undocumented migrant workers. The mom was Hispanic and didn't speak English, but she ran out and handed me the baby. I just held him and made sure he was breathing. The baby started choking on formula, and being a new parent, she went into a panic. We've all been down that road. The baby started crying, and I knew as an EMT too that it was a good sign. So I just covered the baby and calmed down the mom until fire and rescue got there. Ultimately, the child was fine."

That's when someone snapped a photo the little one fast asleep in the deputy's arms.

The Pittsburgh native has a 25-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old stepson and says his own years of parenting and experience as a police officer helped him to quickly sort out the situation.

"Training has something to do with it," he said. "But it's also time on the job. I think being exposed to different situations for over 20 years is probably the biggest factor."

Hanton said that since the national spotlight has been focused on immigration issues, his own job has faced new challenges.

"Undocumented people are more reluctant to call and speak with us," he explained. "Once we are in a situation,



[they used to be] more forthcoming with information, and a lot of times when you showed up, they would tell you the whole story. Now they'll give you one-word answers. But we have had community meetings to tell them we are not immigration and we are not there to check their status. Then it lightened up a lot. ♥

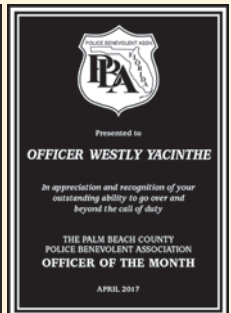
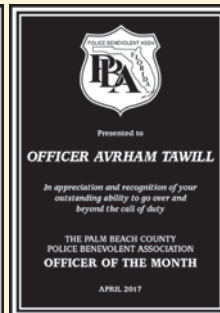
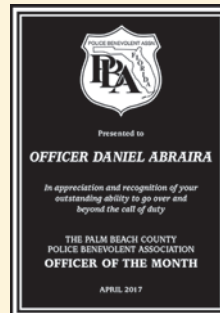
April 2017

Lifesaving response from Palm Beach Gardens officers



Palm Beach Gardens Officer Daniel Abaira,
Officer Westly Yacinthe and Officer Avraham Tawil

Officers Tawil, Abaira and Yacinthe responded to a call for a suicide attempt — a male had used a box cutter razor to cut his neck. He was bleeding profusely and floating in and out of consciousness. The officers immediately rendered aid. Using their knowledge and training, the officers controlled the bleeding with an Israeli bandage. A fire rescue lieutenant who responded later concluded that the man could have died of shock had he continued to lose blood. If these officers had not stepped in and rendered medical care immediately, this man would have died. The officers saved a life that day.



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May 2016

K-9 assists in fetching armed robber

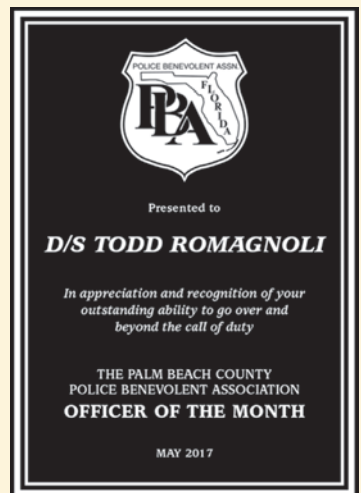
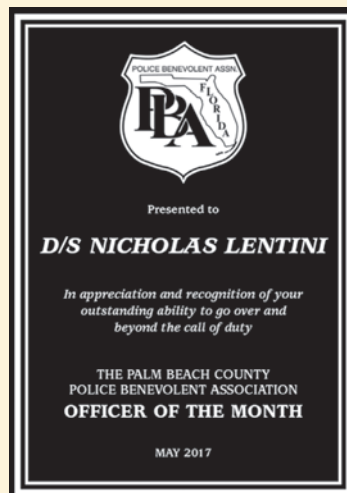
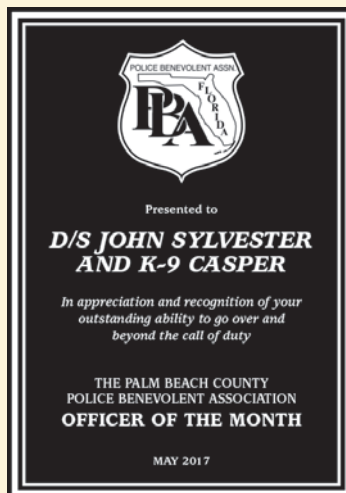
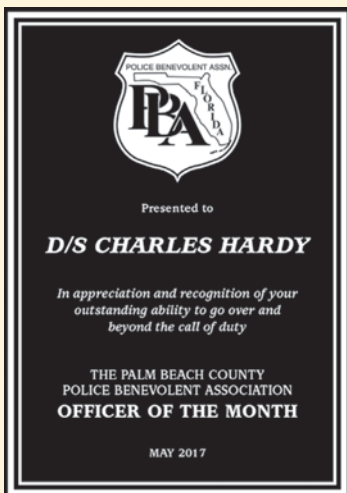


Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputy Charles Hardy, Deputy Todd Romagnoli, Deputy Nicholas Lentini, Deputy John Sylvester and K-9 Casper

Early in the morning on May 12, PBSO received reports of an armed robbery at a pub. As the robber was driving away from the scene, deputies nearby identified his car and a pursuit ensued. The robber wrecked the car and bailed out, which led to a foot pursuit. During the pursuit, the robber fired at the deputies multiple times. The robber got away, swimming through a canal before eventually carjacking someone.

A full manhunt ensued, and the same afternoon, deputy sheriffs Charles Hardy, Todd Romagnoli and Nicholas Lentini located the robber

inside the stolen car. The robber was a known felon with outstanding warrants in North Carolina and Florida for a slew of additional armed robberies and other crimes. The robber got out of the stolen car and fired at deputies, striking K-9 Casper. Deputy Sheriff Hardy fired one shotgun blast to the robber's body mass, thus ending the daylong chase. The deputies successfully tracked down and approached an armed criminal and stopped the threat to the community. It should be noted that K-9 Casper made a full recovery (he's the K-9 of the month).



In Memoriam

Wonder Woman

Delray Beach sniper, S.W.A.T. leader and mentor
was nothing short of a superhero



Officer
Christine Braswell
Delray Beach PD



What should have been a pleasant mid-vacation scooter ride in Key West turned tragic on April 8 when two Delray Beach officers – Christine Braswell and Bernenda Marc – were struck by an intoxicated driver. Braswell was pronounced dead at Jackson South Community Hospital in Miami, while Marc sustained critical injuries.

On April 23, hundreds of people, including law enforcement officers from across the state, attended a memorial service for Braswell at the Atlantic Community High School in Delray Beach.

“She always had a smile on her face, and one thing that I will always cherish about her is her drive and how much she was willing to help other people and love people more than she loved herself,” Marc professed at the service, about a week after she had been released from the hospital.

The “drive” Marc alluded to was one that solidified Braswell’s reputation

as “an animal, a beast,” as Delray Beach Police Chief Jeff Goldman described. After all, the 6-foot, 170-pound Braswell not only physically towered over her peers of either sex, but the 12-year veteran also dominated the profession. Her roles included Police Explorer mentor, Broward College police academy instructor, Delray Beach’s only female sniper and point person on its S.W.A.T. unit – a position reserved for the team’s most skilled officers.

“You don’t see many women on the S.W.A.T. team,” Goldman acknowledged. “But... she’d get through the S.W.A.T. course, and she’d beat out the guys and girls.”

Police spokeswoman Dani Moschella added that Braswell, 40, was “stronger and tougher than some of the men in the department.”

Even though Braswell was known for humbly avoiding the spotlight, Goldman revealed that his favorite memory of her is from the one time Braswell agreed to take a “chelfie,” or selfie with the chief.

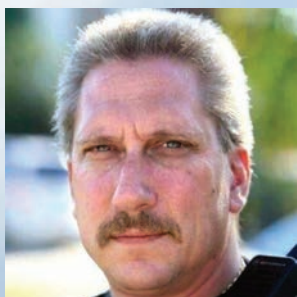
“She would never get in them,” Goldman recalled. “That’s how she was, defiant at first, but then she got it.”

What she also got was a reputation as a role model and a legacy as a leader.

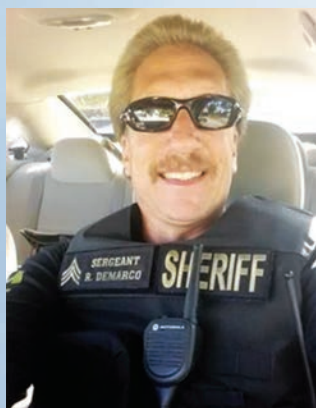
“She just wasn’t a badge number; she just wasn’t an officer in a police car,” Goldman declared. “Her loss is devastating to this community.” ♥

Rest easy, Roy

PBSO Sergeant Roy DeMarco served for more than three decades



Sergeant Roy DeMarco
Palm Beach County
Sheriff’s Office



For more than 30 years, Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Roy DeMarco worked in Florida law enforcement.

Migrating to Boca Raton in 1975 from Naugatuck, Connecticut, DeMarco began his career in Palm Beach County before transferring to the Sheriff’s Department. While protecting the communities in and surrounding Palm Beach County, he was able to earn his master’s degree.

He will be remembered as an example to others of what an officer should be: competent and courageous, tenacious and tough, brave and dedicated. His fellow officers knew him as a cops’ cop, in that he loved his family, loved his friends and loved his job. ♥

Cops' Best Friend

Farewell to PBSO K-9 Officer Richard Barnett



Officer Richard Barnett
Palm Beach County
Sheriff's Office

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officer Richard John Barnett passed away at Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton on May 14. The Baltimore native was 59 years old.

Barnett's law enforcement career began in Jacksonville as a corrections officer, before he hit the road as a patrol officer with the Boca Raton Police Department in July 1981. He finally became a K-9 officer, serving the Boca Raton community with his partners

Branko, Eluo and Rambo.

Barnett retired in September 2000, but it didn't stick. He

missed the badge so much that he started his career encore with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in September 2002, starting again on road patrol before quickly moving to the Palm Beach airport TSA K-9 unit with partners Omar, Nessi and Dax.

Expressions of condolences following Barnett's passing came from family, friends and colleagues, including former mentee and current State Search and Rescue K-9 member Mike McKay.

"Rick was always an inspiration and mentor to me while growing up and interning at the PD," McKay commented on Barnett's obituary website. "He knew how to talk to people in a calming manner that I'll never forget. Rick will be missed by all he helped, befriended and loved. The law enforcement community has lost one of the greatest." ♥

One of a 'Kind'

James Marinelli left lasting impressions around the world



Officer James Marinelli
School Police of
Palm Beach County

Tennessee Williams famously wrote, "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers."

And if that's the case, School Police Officer James Marinelli was one of the most dependable people in Palm Beach County. So much so, that months after his South Florida vacation, a Federal Police Officer from Potsdam, Germany who had encountered Marinelli during a happenstance department visit, took to Facebook to acknowledge

the impact this kind stranger made on him, writing:

"Dear PBCSDPD, I am heartbroken about your loss. I had the honor to meet with several of your officers last year when I stopped by when I was on vacation in Florida.

Officer Marinelli took care of us when we arrived in your parking lot. He was so friendly and brought us into your office. James didn't have a business card on him, so I wasn't sure about his name after all the time, but remembered him well. He escorted us out of your office, back into the parking lot and again took his time to chat with us. He told us about his

work and what happened recently and that it is so important to educate the students. You could hear in every single word that he was into his profession and that he loved what he was doing.

I asked him if it would be okay to take a photo of us together and his reply was: "Why? Look how I look today!" He was kidding.

I am so sad about his death. Even it was only a short time, I remembered him well. He really stood out. We stopped by a lot more PDs that vacation, but nobody was so caring, open-minded and friendly like James."

On March 31, an unexpected heart attack took Marinelli.

The 57-year-old spent his lifelong career in law enforcement serving in agencies in Chatham, Boynton Beach, West Palm Beach and the Palm Beach State College Police Academy. He was the Assistant Director of the Indian River Community College Police Academy and later became the Director of the Palm Beach County Police Academy.

In addition to his law enforcement expertise, Jim was an experienced educator, teaching in South Florida Universities including Keiser University, where he held a teaching position until his passing. ♥

Palm Beach County cops 'order up' for a cause

PBCPBA members had a large presence at Duffy's Sports Grill locations throughout the county on April 20. They weren't there to eat, though. Instead, local law enforcement officers assisted the restaurant servers throughout the evening while participating in the Tip-A-Cop event to raise money for Special Olympics Florida.

More than \$9,000 was raised through patron donations made at the Duffy's Sports Grills located in West Palm Beach, North Palm Beach and Boynton Beach. All of the proceeds generated through this event are donated to Special Olympics Florida. Many Special Olympics athletes attended the event, where they were able to sit down with and be served by local officers within their communities.

The agencies to participate in the Tip-A-Cop event included those from Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Jupiter Police Department, Palm Beach County School District Police Department, Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Boynton Beach Police Department, Atlantis Police Department and Boca Raton Police Services Department.



Property-tax exemption for disabled first responders

First responders with permanent disabilities due to work they've done on the job are now eligible for a total exemption of property taxes. As this crucial piece of legislation moves through the Florida House of Representatives and Senate, eligible police, deputies, firefighters, emergency service technicians and corrections officers are required to apply for this year's exemption by Aug. 1. This piece of legislation applies to local first responders as well as disabled responders who have relocated to Florida from other areas.

"I think there's a lot of folks at the end of the day that are going to be able to qualify," Marty Kiar, Broward County property appraiser, told the *Sun Sentinel*. He also clarified that in order to enact this legislation, first responders will need to provide a physician's certification of total and permanent disability and verification of the line-of-duty injury from the employing agency.

This property-tax exemption bill can give first responders faced with high medical bills some peace of mind that this additional expense is covered. It can be a huge help to disabled responders like Howard Rudolph, a former Broward County deputy who assisted at the World Trade Center in New York after the September 2001 attacks and whose lungs became scarred from exposure to the toxic dust and smoke. The damage to his lungs required him to go on full disability in 2013. He now requires oxygen machines to breathe.

"I didn't save to have this condition," Rudolph, 61, shared with the *Sun Sentinel*. His tax exemption could save him \$3,600 a year.

AmazonSmile gives back to PBA Charity Fund

Online shoppers can now help benefit the PBA Charity Fund while making Amazon purchases. Anyone can help raise money for scholarship funds and assisting members in need by simply shopping on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), a foundation that donates 0.5 percent of the price of eligible purchases to charitable organizations. To help benefit the PBA Charity Fund, shop on AmazonSmile and search "police; charity fund." Then select "Police Benevolent Association Charity Fund Inc." as your charity to benefit.

PBA-endorsed councilwoman sworn in



Thanks to the support from PBA members, Dawn Cox was sworn in as the first-ever PBA-endorsed candidate for council. Cox won the District 1 race in the Village of Palm Springs.



Co-sponsored by the Palm Beach County PBA

Let the Games begin

Once again, the Florida Police and Fire Games (FPFG) is returning to Palm Beach County. The games will be hosted by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Palm Beach County PBA.

This year the games will be held in a different format from past years. Instead of taking place during a seven-day span, the event will be held on weekends from July through December.

The format change should allow athletes more opportunities to participate in numerous events over the six-month period. In addition, holding the events over time will cause less of a strain on the staffing and public-safety end.

Some of the events that will be held this year include...

- Basketball
- Bowling
- Darts
- Corn hole
- Cycling
- Flag football
- Golf
- Indoor rowing
- Paintball
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track and field

To be eligible to participate in any of these events, athletes must be full-time law enforcement officers or firefighters employed by one of the agencies approved by the FPFG. All agencies must be approved by the FPFG to be considered eligible.

Registration is already open for the shooting competition, which will be held on July 15, and the softball tournament, which will take place the weekend of July 14-16.

The Games will commence with the official FPFG kick-off party on July 12 at the Parched Pig in Palm Beach Gardens from 5-8 p.m. ♥

Florida Police and Fire Games Schedule

Date: July 15
Event: Shooting
Location: PBSO Range

Date: July 14-16
Event: Softball
Location: Jupiter Community Park

Date: Aug. 19
Event: Indoor Rowing
Location: Palm Beach Rowing Association

Date: Sept. 23-24
Event: Road Cycling
Location: Palm Beach County

Date: Nov. 4
Event: "Fit to Fight"
A Workout by HEW
Location: Wellington HEW

Date: Dec. 31
Event: Kaitlyn's One Hour Run
Location: Abacoa, Jupiter

For updated event information, log on to
www.floridapoliceandfiregames.org



Kick-Off Party

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

5-8:pm



The Parched Pig

4580 Donald Ross Rd., Suite 100
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418



What is uninsured motorist coverage and why should you have it?



RICHARD K. SLINKMAN, ESQ.



RYAN J. WYNNE, ESQ.

A study from the Insurance Research Council confirms that 23.5 percent of Florida drivers have no insurance at all. That is the second highest rate out of all 50 states. Additionally, Florida is one of only three states that do not require drivers to have bodily injury liability coverage. That means drivers can legally drive around and have zero insurance coverage for reimbursement for injuries they may cause to

you, your family and your friends.

Our firm recently represented a client who was involved in a severe motor vehicle accident. She was driving her car with four occupants when she was T-boned through no fault of her own. Everyone in the vehicle was injured. Our client was immediately taken via fire rescue to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with a broken pelvis and broken arm, both of which required immediate surgery to repair. She then had an approximately one-month stay in a rehabilitation facility. Her medical bills alone exceeded \$100,000, and the driver who crashed into

her car had only \$10,000/\$20,000 in bodily injury coverage. That means there was only \$20,000 in total coverage to compensate our client and her four passengers for the medical bills, pain and suffering, and lost wages, with no one person being able to recover more than \$10,000. Clearly, \$10,000 was not enough insurance coverage to compensate our injured client, as \$10,000 wouldn't even cover a tenth of her medical bills. Unfortunately, she did not have uninsured motorist (UM) coverage, and consequently, there was only \$10,000 available to her to compensate her for her substantial losses.

We see this type of scenario all too often. Another example: Our firm had a client who was a South Florida firefighter and was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident caused by the negligence of another driver. The at-fault driver had no bodily injury coverage, and our firefighter client did not have UM coverage. Her injuries were so severe that she was never able to go back to work as a firefighter. To add insult to injury, because the at-fault driver did not have bodily injury coverage and our client did not have UM coverage, she was unable to collect any insurance proceeds for her medical bills, lost wages or pain and suffering. All of this could have been prevented had she chosen to carry UM coverage as part of her automobile insurance coverage.

The cost of UM coverage might seem high (usually between \$100 and \$500 per year, depending on the amount of coverage purchased). However, this cost is minimal when you consider losing your ability to work and not being able to obtain any automobile insurance proceeds to help offset the lost wages, or worse, leaving your family without any recourse in the event of a tragic accident involving death.

What is uninsured motorist coverage?

Uninsured motorist coverage applies when an at-fault driver has no bodily injury liability insurance or has inadequate bodily injury coverage. It pays for injuries to you, your family members or any other person in your car caused by the fault of an uninsured or underinsured motorist.

Keep in mind that Florida law requires only the minimum of \$10,000 for personal injury protection and \$10,000 for property damage liability. Neither of these coverages provides any type of compensation or reimbursement to you for lost wages, pain and suffering, aggravation or medical bills in excess of \$10,000.

All of you have opted to protect and serve and to keep our communities safe. Please contact your automobile insurance agent and add uninsured motorist coverage to protect yourself and your family! ♥

Richard K. Slinkman and Ryan J. Wynne are partners in The Law Offices of Slinkman, Slinkman & Wynne, which has been representing accident victims throughout Florida for more than four decades. The qualified and experienced Florida trial attorneys at Slinkman, Slinkman & Wynne will fight for your rights and protect your interests. For more information, go to www.sswlawfl.com, contact the firm at info@sswlawfl.com or call and talk to one of our attorneys at 561-686-3400.

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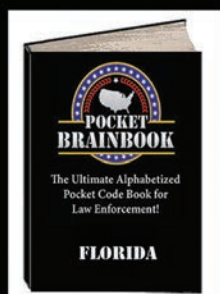
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No news is good news when it comes to workers' compensation law



MARC E.
GOLDEN

ALAN M.
ARONSON

RYAN
REIF

A series of Florida District Court of Appeals decisions in 2016 addressed the constitutionality of Florida's Workers' Compensation Statute. These decisions gave more benefits and enhanced attorney's fees. Many advocates were anticipating drastic reform in the legislative session that

just concluded. In our opinion, these forecasted changes would not have been beneficial for Florida's first responders and all other workers injured as a result of an on-the-job accident.

By way of review, three major cases were recently decided:

Westphal v. City of St. Petersburg, 194 So.3d 311 (Florida 2016) found that the statutory provision regarding time limitations on temporary partial disability indemnity benefits was unconstitutional. This ruling allowed injured workers to receive additional indemnity (disability) benefits than to which they were previously entitled. Previously, wages were limited to 104 weeks while recovering. Now, injured workers can be out recovering for up to five years and still receive indemnity benefits.

Miles v. City of Edgewater, 190 So.3d 171 (1st Fla. Dist. Ct. App.) found it was within the constitutional rights of Florida citizens to enter into a contractual agreement with an attorney for a reasonable fee for the attorney's services. This allows attorneys and their clients to contract for a "reasonable" fee and not be locked into a fixed contract, which limited representation in complex cases.

In *Castellanos v. Next Door Company*, 192 So.3d 431 (Florida 2016), the Florida Supreme Court ruled that the statutory attorney's fee schedule was unconstitutional and that attorneys may be reasonably compensated for their efforts using an hourly fee for securing benefits on behalf of injured workers. This ruling allowed attorneys to represent injured workers with the knowledge that they would receive reasonable compensation for their time and effort.

The potential for changes in the law as a result of these decisions caused great concern among all interested stakeholders. We remain concerned that the Florida Legislature will overhaul and move to drastically reduce workers' compensation benefits. As a result of legislative inaction, the aforementioned rulings remain the law in the state of Florida, and all injured workers should be thankful as a result. These rulings allow attorneys to ensure that the rights of injured workers are fully protected. We all need to be mindful of the anticipated assault that certain members of the legislature will initiate to roll back the positive results of these three decisions. Everyone has a vested interest in seeing injured workers receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled. We need to remain fully informed and prepared to lobby elected representatives during future legislative sessions to protect the rights of injured workers. ♥

Marc Golden, Director, and his colleagues Alan Aronson and Ryan Reif, comprise the workers' compensation practice at Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles. They have more than 35 years of experience in settling claims of workplace-related injuries and illnesses, as well as issues related to disability, pension and retirement. To contact, Rosenthal Levy call 866-640-7117 or log on to www.rosenthallevy.com.

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THANK-YOU NOTES TO THE PBA



Mr. Kazanjian,
I want to thank you for believing in me and endorsing me for the Village of Palm Springs Council. The entire election process was amazing and very humbling. With your support, the support of the PBA and officers I was able to achieve victory. I will forever be grateful. I hope to see you April 13th @ 6:30 pm for my swearing in at Palm Springs Village Hall.
Sincerely,
Dawn Marie Cox

THE AARON VAUGHN MEMORIAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Thank You
for your generosity
and support of
Operation 300

Thank You
Dorothy

John,

Hope this finds you well!

Just wanted to reach out and thank you again for the PBA support of Herman Robinson and Omary Hardy for Lake Worth City Commission this past March; as you know, they both won their elections!

Thanks in large part to you John, and the PBA, over these past few years, the Lake Worth City Commission is now in the best position it's been in a very long time. We now finally have 5 individuals focused on the same goal of creating a positive environment for economic growth, building better neighborhoods and improving the quality life for all its residents.

There are many great things happening in our city and I wanted to invite you to lunch real soon to catch you up a little on what's happening here in Lake Worth and learn more about what we and the city can do to better support and strengthen our relationship with law enforcement community in Palm Beach County.

If you don't mind, I'll have Silvina from my office get with you to find a lunch date that works well for you.

Look forward to seeing you soon. Again, thank you so much for all your support.

Best,

Scott

Scott Maxwell



Vice Mayor



Palm Beach County PBA Justice Pac

2100 N Florida Mango Rd

West Palm Beach FL

33409

Dear Palm Beach County PBA Justice Pac,

Please know how much your support meant to me in the campaign for Lake Worth City Commission, District 4. The future of Lake Worth is bright and promising; I extend my pledge to work hard "For the Love of Lake Worth" and ask you to join me in this exciting endeavor.

My cell phone number is 561-352-4252, and my city cell phone number is 561-707-2759. My Email is hrobinson@lakeworth.org. I am counting on you to provide the community input to reach our goals for all Lake Worth residents.

Thank you again,

Herman



Thank you so much for sponsoring my soccer endeavors last year. Without your support I would not have been able to play and travel with my soccer club. This year our teams accomplishments were amazing and personally I have grown so much. I am off to a great high school start in hopes to play college soccer! I hope you can help me out again!
 Elena Gonzalez #99
 (i am on the bottom second one in with the pink headband)

Timothy Humphrey
 14321 Angelica Court
 Wellington, Florida 33414

President John Kazanjian
 Palm Beach County P.B.A.
 2100 North Florida Mango Road
 West Palm Beach, Florida 33409

June 2, 2017
 Dear Mr. Kazanjian,

I would like to thank you and the Scholarship Committee for the support you have given me during my studies at Florida Atlantic University over the past four years. On May 4th, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems, Summa Cum Laude honors, and an overall GPA of 3.93. The scholarships you had awarded to me were instrumental in my educational achievements.

Thank you again.

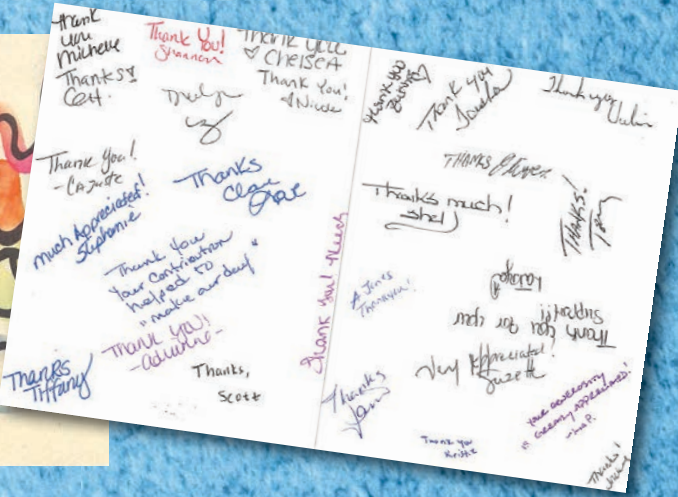
Sincerely,

 Timothy Humphrey

THANK YOU

For your sponsorship to our
 2016 Northstars 11u Baseball Team

Back: A. McGucken, G. Alcalde, I. Wilson, A. Mitchell, P. McGrath, G. Saccavino, E. Kenerson, Front: D. Fatovich, Z. Mastellone, B. Saylor, A. Triggillo, C. Wiggins



Timothy Humphrey
 14321 Angelica Court
 Wellington, Florida 33414

President John Kazanjian
 Palm Beach County P.B.A.
 2100 North Florida Mango Road
 West Palm Beach, Florida 33409

June 2, 2017
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Thank you again.

Sincerely,

 Timothy Humphrey



Your kindness to me in this difficult time is unexpected and appreciated. Thank you for your generosity and helping me cope with losing my daughter - my best friend, my protector and my heart melt.

Sincerely,
 Barbara A. Beaudin

WPB
 WEST PALM BEACH

Thank you so much for helping us support and honor our Telecommunicator's during the week of National Telecommunicator Week. Your donation was greatly appreciated and brought a lot of smiles.

West Palm Beach Police
 Dispatch Division
 561-822-1900



PBC PBA Member Benefits

KNOW AND ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS!

Remember, as a sworn officer, you have the right...

- To be represented by a PBA attorney during any interrogation.
- To be provided any complaint, all witness statements, and all existing evidence (e.g., audio and video recordings, GPS locator information) for review with an attorney before the beginning of any interrogation.
- To be interrogated at a reasonable hour (e.g., at a time when a PBA attorney can be present for the review and interrogation).
- To refuse a polygraph.
- To refuse to respond to questions if an investigator intentionally fails to comply with requested requirements after being advised of his or her violations of those requirements.

As a dues-paying member, a Palm Beach County PBA attorney can be with you every step of the way.

If you are a member in good standing, and you are suspended or fired, Palm Beach County PBA has attorneys to assist you.

Carry the card of confidence...your PBA Membership Card

LEGAL ADVISORY

Police shootings, in-custody deaths, or serious traffic accidents

What to do?

Stay Calm

Have you been ordered to write a statement about an incident that may be investigated?

Don't forget your rights! Call the Palm Beach County PBA at 561-371-7200.

Do not talk to anyone until you have consulted with a PBA ATTORNEY!

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

The following statement should be written as the first sentences on any statement, report, or memorandum an officer is ordered to write when the officer knows or has a reasonable belief that discipline may result:

It is my understanding that this report is made for administrative, internal police department purposes only. This report is made by me after being ordered to do so by lawful supervisory officers. I have not been permitted a reasonable amount of time to confer with a PBA representative or attorney. It is my understanding that by refusing to obey an order to write this immediately, that I can be disciplined for insubordination and that the punishment for insubordination can be up to, and including termination of employment. This report is made only pursuant to such orders and the potential punishment/discipline that can result for failure to obey that order.

Legal Reminder

The legal defense policies of the Florida and Palm Beach County PBA have an important provision regarding representation.

If a member elects to secure representation by anyone other than the PBA (a private attorney, for example) that member is considered to have waived representation by the PBA. Once this happens, it is the PBA's option whether to continue to represent the member in that matter.

Please call the PBA office if you have any questions regarding this policy.

We want our members to be the first to know...

There's a great new way to stay up-to-date with the PBA on up-to-the-minute breaking news, events, money-saving specials and much, much more by receiving PBA texts and emails directly to your mobile device.

Visit www.pbcdba.org to sign up today. Signing up for the service is free. (However, standard text message and data rates may apply).

*Be sure to add mail@pbcpba.com to your approved sender list.

E-PBA is Your Source For...

Timely news about what's up at the Florida PBA, helpful information regarding legislative issues, quick tips, and best practices for members. Knowledge about PBA issues is the strength of our Association.

To sign up...

Visit www.flpba.org or call 1-800-733-3722 today!

(Your email address will not be given to any other group or organization and you will receive no advertising from outside sources. E-PBA is available to PBA members only. Be sure to add "pbamail@flpba.org" to your approved sender list.)

Receive PBA's weekly "Capitol Report" newsletter during the legislative session via E-PBA, PBA's free email service! To sign up, visit www.flpba.org or call 1-800-733-3722 today. The "Capitol Report" is only available via E-PBA.

Emergency Contact Procedure

Please be advised that the emergency number 561-371-7200 is for **CRITICAL INCIDENTS ONLY!**

Our attorney(s) should **ONLY** be contacted after hours for critical incidents; that is, an officer-involved shooting, an in-custody death, an on-duty vehicle accident with injuries or if Internal Affairs investigators are responding right now to an incident.

If you are attempting to contact a PBA Attorney for any matter that is not a critical incident, please contact the PBA Office at 561-689-3745 during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PBCPBA Charity Fund Deductions

The Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund was established in 2004 to assist our members and their children with scholarships to defray the costs of higher education. In addition, the Charity Fund now helps provide charitable assistance to our members and their families who have experienced a life-altering tragedy or a catastrophic event.

The PBA Charity Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to the fund are fully tax deductible.

If you are a PBCPBA employee and wish to contribute to the Charity Fund, please visit www.pbcpba.org for instructions on donating or contact Elizabeth at the PBA 561-689-3745.

Attention: Retirees

Please take notice that pursuant to §95.11(3), Florida Statutes, lawsuits, including "an action founded on negligence," and "for assault, battery, false arrest, false imprisonment or any other intentional tort..." must be filed "WITHIN FOUR YEARS" of the incident date.

To the extent that such lawsuits may be brought against you after you retire, you need to consider continuing your membership for four years beyond your retirement.

If you are retired but have returned to law enforcement and are currently paying a "RETIREE MEMBERSHIP," you should be aware that if you are subject to such actions at a time when you no longer are paying the appropriate dues, the PBA cannot provide legal assistance. See Palm Beach County Policy 12-1.

Enjoy the full peace of mind your retirement should mean.

817.311 Unlawful Use of Badges, Etc.

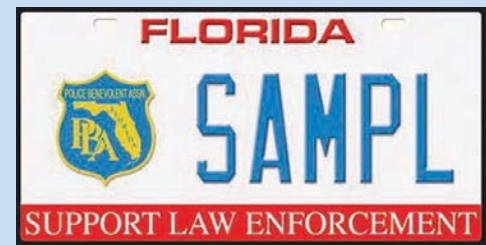
(1) From and after May 9, 1949, any person who shall wear or display a badge, button, insignia or other emblem, or shall use the name of or claim to be a member of any benevolent, fraternal, social, humane or charitable organization, which organization is entitled to the exclusive use of such name and such badge, button, insignia or emblem either in the identical form or in such near resemblance thereto as to be a colorable imitation thereof, unless such person is entitled so to do under the laws, rules and regulations of such organization, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in S. 775.082 or S. 775.083.

(2) This section shall be cumulative to any and all laws now in force in the state.



Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

2100 N. Florida Mango Road,
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
(561) 689-3745 • www.pbcpba.org

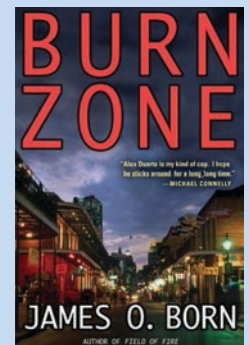


Get your PBA "Support Law Enforcement" Tag

Proceeds for purchases of The Florida PBA "Support Law Enforcement" license tag are deposited into the Florida PBA Heart Fund. Please ask for the PBA "Support Law Enforcement" tag when you visit your tag office and purchase this tag for your vehicles.

Get your PBA-Logo Merchandise

Rechargeable Mag Bulbs	\$5
Tag Emblems/Decals	\$5
Key Chain	\$5
Cufflinks	\$5
Hitch Cover	\$10
Memorial Bands	\$1
Lapel Pins	\$5
Handcuff Key	\$7.50
PBC PBA Navy T-Shirt	\$8
PBC PBA Baseball Cap	\$12
PBC PBA Polo	\$30
MCSO PBA Baseball Cap	\$12
James O. Born Novel(s)	\$20
Blue Line Stickers	\$.35, \$2



STAR & SHIELD

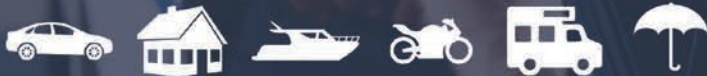
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TO FIND OUT MORE CALL **866.942.9822** MONDAY-FRIDAY | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET) OR VISIT **STARANDSHIELD.COM**

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