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Florida COPS

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA


OCTOBER 2017

Uniform Response

PBCPBA members go above and beyond to respond to Irma



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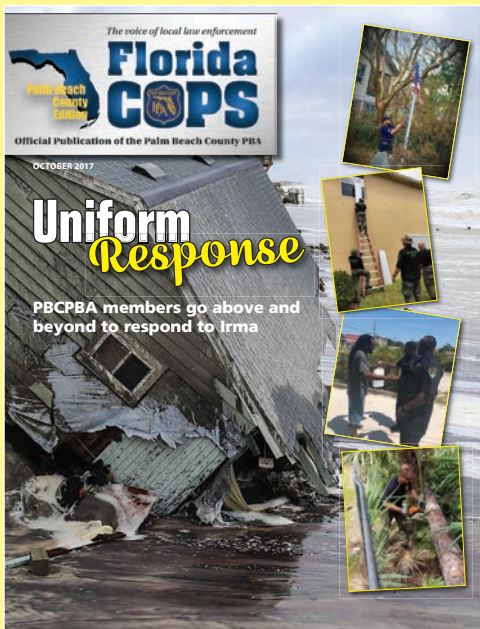
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COVER STORY

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RESPONSE SCENARIOS

When Hurricane Irma blew into Florida, officers from Palm Beach and Martin counties were ready with a relentless response that showed the best of their service and support. From towns throughout the counties to the hardest-hit parts of the state, PBC PBA members worked around the clock and answered every call until long after the winds died down.

Award-winning back-up

Who's got your back? Turns out, it's 12-year-old Jack Fleming, whose support for law enforcement officers has made a profound impact on the PBC PBA.....**Page 22**

Lifesaver

Even though he was off duty and outside his jurisdiction, Boynton Beach Sergeant Brian McDeavitt quickly responded when he saw a jogger down and struggling to breathe. His actions helped saved a life.....**Page 23**

39th Annual NAPO Conference

NAPO in the Big Apple: New York City hosted a conference that accentuated the importance of what law enforcement officers do every day**Page 26**

Responding to terrorism: John Miller, NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counter-terrorism, presented a behind-the-scenes look at battling terrorism and terrorists**Page 26**

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CODE THREE

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks for a much-needed response



JOHN
KAZANJIAN

Every police officer in Palm Beach and Martin counties stepped up with award-worthy efforts this month in response to Hurricane Irma. There were truly heroic efforts in so many ways, and I will tell you why shortly.

But first I want to tell about one of my heroes. His name is Jack Fleming, and he is 12 years old. His father is an officer in Juno and came here to serve after retiring from the New York Police Department. Recently, Jack started

“Jack’s Got Your Back,” an ongoing campaign to thank us for the work we do every day. You can read more about Jack and see a special note he sent us on page 20.

At our Sept. 20 meeting, we gave Jack a “Back The Blue” award of appreciation for the way he has stepped up. Jack, I can imagine how proud your mother and father must be of you, and I can tell you, big guy, that every member of the Palm Beach County PBA is equally proud and grateful for the work you have been doing to support law enforcement.

More work that merits recognition occurred when so many of our members went on 10-100 status in response to the hurricane. Enduring 12-hours shifts with no days off is tough enough, but let’s not forget the sacrifice our people make when they are called for hurricane response: They kiss their families goodbye and put their own houses and lives on the backburner to care for the public.

That’s the sacrifice you all make, and I know how lucky you all feel that your family has your back. They know you have to take care of this first.

Listen, I know this is not about the overtime for you; it’s the job you stand up to do when called. Whether it’s those of you cutting up fallen trees blocking the roads with chainsaws so citizens could get to the doctor or the grocery store, those of you bringing supplies and medication to the elderly or those of you who were deployed to the Keys or Collier County, the list of what you did during this hurricane is long and distinguished. And believe me, the public, the elected officials, the bosses – and your families – are grateful for your whatever-it-takes, that’s-what-we-do pride in responding when they need you most.

We know you’re hurting after all this. The 10-100 really kicks your butt. I know there were some of you who responded outside your agencies who had to sleep in your cars or in



hotel rooms with no power or water. But you did it.

So make sure you have taken some time to tend to matters at home. Clear the trees, recharge your generators and get your family matters back in order. And make sure you have taken time to get some rest. You earned it.

At this point, there is only one thing more we can say to all of you who responded so brilliantly in the wake of this hurricane. And it’s a word I can borrow from Jack Fleming.

Thanks.

As always, be safe. ♥

Kaz

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In the words of Brad Paisley... 'The internet is forever'



**LOU
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TREASURER**

Whether you want to believe it or not, the second you raised your right hand and swore an oath to become a law enforcement officer, you surrendered several rights by accepting a position as a public servant. This is just a reminder to all: Please be careful what you post on social media. Although your thoughts and messages may represent your beliefs, or just your sense of humor, and you feel you have the right to express yourself, you may be offending someone. The article below is an example of how that can cost you your job.

A union leader out of Santa Fe, New Mexico, posted a meme on "All Lives Splatter," showing stick-figure protesters being run over and nobody caring about their protest. (The article written by Edmundo Carrillo and published in the *Albuquerque Journal* on Aug. 23, 2017, is reprinted below for you to read.) After this, the Charlottesville, Virginia, protest took place, and a white supremacist ran his vehicle into protesters. This led to the officer actually having to retire. I see our members every day posting items that are likely offensive to someone. Please be careful. What you find humorous or think of as expressing your own political views, or what you express by en-

gaging in political debates, will likely result in offending someone. You may make some laugh, but you run the risk of making others angry. This could affect you personally. If your personal or political post offends a person who decides on specialized assignment transfers, or who sits on that promotional panel, could that directly impact you? Also, what you post may not be considered extremely offensive today, but an event may occur tomorrow to change how it is seen and you may find yourself looking for a new job.

Just food for thought before you make your next post on social media. Please be safe out there.

Santa Fe police union chief retires amid internal investigation

The head of the Santa Fe Police union, who was recently put on desk duty while under investigation for a series of rancorous social media posts, has retired from the police department, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Sgt. Troy Baker became the subject of an internal investigation in February when the *Santa Fe Reporter* published highly charged Facebook posts Baker had shared targeting transgender people, immigrants and Muslims. One of the posts was a meme featuring a car running over stick figures with the text "All Lives Splatter. Nobody cares about your protest. Moral of the story.. stay off the road!!" Baker told the *Reporter* at the time that the post was a joke.

That post drew renewed criticism recently after a counterprotester was killed during a Charlottesville, Va., white supremacist rally when a man drove a car into a crowd.

Baker's retirement will take effect Thursday, SFPD spokesman Greg Gurule said.

SFPD Chief Patrick Gallagher said last week that he put Baker on restrictive duty Aug. 15. The chief said he inquired about the continuing internal investigation of Baker following the death in Charlottesville. Gallagher said he learned new information that led him to take Baker off the streets, but he didn't share what that information was.

Gurule said it's department policy to not share IA findings. "This is considered a personnel matter by the City and we work under those rules," he said.

Police union Vice President Sgt. Aaron Ortiz couldn't be reached Wednesday.

There was public outcry over Baker's posts in February. Some members of Santa Fe's Muslim and transgender community went to a City Council committee meeting in February to speak out against the posts and raise concerns over the police department's relationship with the community.

Another meme Baker posted called for elimination of the NAACP, while showing Confederate flags.

Former city councilor and mayoral candidate Patti Bushee reposted Baker's "All Lives Splatter" post and wrote that she was "conflicted" about attending an Aug. 14 anti-racism rally that Mayor Javier Gonzales helped organize, in part because Baker was "still employed with our police department after his outrageous post." ❤



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| STEPHEN BAILEY | PBSO |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| BRENDAN BIVIN | PBSO |
| DAVID BOND | PBSO |
| SHARI-ANN BRYSON | PBSO |
| PEDRO CANELO JR. | PBSO |
| EMMANUEL CANO | PBSO |
| JOSHUA CARMENATE | PBSO |
| D'ANDRE COLEMAN | PBSO |
| ERIC COWART | PBSO |
| TAYLOR DEMARIO | PBSO |
| KEVIN DIAS | PBSO |
| WILNOR ETHEYA | PBSO |
| CARLOS GARCIA | PBSO |
| LAURA GARCIA | PBSO |
| JARED GARFIELD | PBSO |
| CANDACE GILYARD | PBSO |
| JOSHUA GONZALEZ | PBSO |
| JEROME GRANT | PBSO |
| EMILIO GRAVERAN | PBSO |
| ARTISHA HARDWICK | PBSO |
| MARTIN HERNANDEZ | PBSO |
| BRIAN HOGG | PBSO |
| CHANTEL ISAAC | PBSO |
| LAQUIETTE JONES | PBSO |
| REQUEL KNIGHTON | PBSO |
| THOMAS KRECKER | PBSO |
| KESHIA LOSEILLE | PBSO |
| DAVID LUVITH | PBSO |
| JEFFREY MALDONADO | PBSO |
| YVENS MONDELUS | PBSO |
| DUEN OGILVIE | PBSO |
| PETER OWERS | PBSO |
| TARA PRICE | PBSO |
| TIFFANIE RIVERS | PBSO |
| DWIGHT ROBINSON | PBSO |
| STEPHANIE RODNEY | PBSO |
| ERIK RUSSELL | PBSO |
| JAIME RUSSO | PBSO |
| MASBELIS SALAN | PBSO |
| AMAZING SALES | PBSO |
| BRIAN SANZ | PBSO |
| KEISEY SHULTS | PBSO |
| ERIC SMITH | PBSO |
| JUNE STEWART | PBSO |
| RYAN TRAINOR | PBSO |
| WILLIAM WAGENMANN | PBSO |
| MATTHEW WELLS | PBSO |
| ROBERT BUCHANAN | RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS |
| JOSEPH CIRAOLLO | SOUTH PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT |

AUGUST 2017

| NAME | AGENCY |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CANDICE KICKINGSTALLIONSIMS | BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| WILLIAM MORALES | DELRAY BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| AUSTIN SCHNADERBECK | JUPITER POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| GUS CAMBA | MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE |
| MYKEL MCMURREN | MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE |
| ERIC SPENCER | MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE |
| LYNN MOORE | MARTIN COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR |
| PATRICIA STUMP | MARTIN COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR |
| JOHN FARIS | PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| VINCENT REDDING | PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| SCOTT GORDON | PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| FRED GORDON | PBSO |
| DEBRA HEWITT | PBSO |
| LEE HINES | PBSO |
| CHERYL MARTINO | PBSO |
| JORGE NEGRON | PBSO |
| JOSHUA RHODEN | PBSO |

Building your progressive discipline defense



LARRY FAGAN

In nearly every collective bargaining agreement (CBA) to which PBA is a party, we have crafted language at the bargaining table (or even entire contract articles) about some form of the doctrine of progressive discipline.

The value of our agreements memorializing progressive discipline within the terms and conditions of employment (in your individual CBAs) is immeasurable. If you've become the target of an internal investigation at your agency, your disciplinary history there becomes relevant to the extent to which you will/can be disciplined.

PBA typically takes the position that your prior "related" discipline (with same or similar facts and circumstances to the current charge at hand) gets the greatest weight in measuring the extent of your current discipline. It is your prior "conduct" that should be "built on" progressively and *not* the title of the charge or policy violation.

For example, let's say "Deputy Smith" was disciplined in 2012 for sleeping on duty, with the violation coming under the agency's neglect of duty policy. In 2017, Deputy Smith now gets a sustained policy violation under the same neglect of duty policy, but this time, the conduct is his failure to write a report.

For progressive discipline purposes, this should not be built upon by the agency and should be treated as a first offense, thereby warranting less severe discipline for Deputy Smith. However, your agency may seek to treat those two charges as the same offense and, as such, warrant discipline increasing in severity even though the two charges are in fact unrelated.

It is the PBA's job to point out to your agency the differences at your pre-disciplinary hearing, to which you are entitled by law, before your agency may take an adverse employment action (like disciplining you, depriving you of wages, etc.) against you.

The doctrine of progressive discipline may not protect you, however, from an egregious or more serious first offense. For example, "Deputy Jones" is a 20-year employee who is now charged with an off-duty domestic battery. Depending on the outcome of that criminal charge, the agency may go directly to termination, despite Deputy Jones' previously perfect internal disciplinary record. Progressive discipline is, therefore, not an exact science, and the facts of the individual's current case are crucial to determining discipline regardless of his or her prior disciplinary record.

Pursuant to *Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill*, 470 U.S. 532, due process allows for "some kind of hearing" prior to discharge (Loudermill, *supra*).

This is what is known as your pre-disciplinary hearing or name-clearing hearing. This is when we discuss the concept of progressive discipline with your command staff. This is our opportunity to respond and mention that progressive discipline has been bargained for by the parties, it is expressly provided for in most contracts and, in the world of fairness, it can/should be "specifically" followed.

Progressive discipline is a doctrine in "your corner" that can go to show that you are not a "habitual offender" and that the current sustained charge is, perhaps, an isolated incident in your work history.

This argument can protect your disciplinary jacket. In the case of any future disciplinary cases, the progressive discipline doctrine is therefore a valuable tool in our arsenal that can be effectively argued highlighting that the current charge does not define you as an officer or as a productive member of your individual agency. Regardless, always keep in mind that you are a police officer 24/7 and that your current conduct can possibly be weighed more heavily based on your prior related offenses at your agencies. ♥

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Wellington Office - The Keyes Company
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SAVE THE DATES



Dec. 31

**DEC.
31**

Third Angel Kaitlin's Angel Run/5K Fitness Challenge

Fundraiser for the PBCPBA scholarship fund in honor of Kaitlin Kazanjian, daughter of President John Kazanjian, who lost her life in a car accident in 2004. The event challenges participants to run/walk laps around 1.1-mile loop at Florida Atlantic University's Abacoa Campus in Jupiter.



January 2018

**JAN.
2018**

8th Annual "Oldies Night" at the Cars of Dreams Museum

Event at the Cars of Dreams Museum in North Palm Beach to benefit the PBCPBA Scholarship Fund.



March 3, 2018

**MARCH
3**

Kaitlin Kazanjian Scholarship Golf Tournament

In 2017, more than 350 golfers, families and friends came out to Sandhill Crane Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens to raise \$50,000 for the scholarship fund.

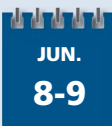


April 15, 2018

**APRIL
15**

PBCPBA Scholarships Application Deadline

The scholarship program consists of the Palm Beach County PBA Scholarship, the Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship, the Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Sean Alex Memorial Scholarship. Scholarships are available to children of PBCPBA members who are enrolled or plan to enroll in at a two -or-four-year college. They are required to provide a transcript with their grade-point average and write a 500-word essay about themselves and their career goals.



June 8-9, 2018

**JUN.
8-9**

11th Annual Police Officers' Ball

The weekend event held at the PGA National Resort & Spa attracts dignitaries from across the U.S. and recognizes the PBCPBA Officers of the Year.



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| Name | Retirement Date |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| FRANK LOGALBO | June 15 |
| LAWRENCE COLAGIOVANN | July 1 |
| SUSAN BORCKY | July 1 |
| KELLY TUCKER | July 24 |
| GEORGE MOLEND | July 31 |
| GENE PICERNO | August 1 |
| JAMES SMIGEL | September 1 |
| THOMAS HALE | September 1 |

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MATT DEJOY
PBSO

We spend much of our time in the never-ending grind of law enforcement, dealing with people from all walks of life. We are expected to put forth our best every day and to be consistent. It does not matter what our personal lives or struggles may be — our job is to deal with every other person's emergency or lack of ability to solve the simplest of personal issues.

Somewhat, we have become the world's protector, social worker, relationship and child custody mediator, advice and guidance provider, assistant to parents unable to deal with their own children.

And sometimes we actually enforce the law.

There is nothing like responding to that robbery that just occurred or that burglary in progress. You know that little excitement of K-9, perimeters, helicopters, and the chase is on. That may just be about 10 percent of our job, though — 90 percent are calls for service. Somehow between all these calls for service, we can play secretary with a gun and knock out the 10 reports we are down in hopes of keeping off the late report list. Oh, I forgot about court tomorrow and the detail I signed up for last week.

All of this stress can sometimes lead us to conflicts and disagreements between people in the workplace. Try not to allow anger to set in. If it does, wait until you are cooled off to discuss the matter to avoid having poor communication. We tend to eat our own. The people working beside us, who make mistakes and

are not with the program, sometimes become outcasts. We are humans and will make mistakes. It is how we grow and learn together from those mistakes which makes us stronger.

See things for what they really are and have all of the information before you cast judgment. Does this coworker require (not deserve) our support and mentorship? There are a few lost causes out there, but everyone should get the same type of support to be successful.

We should all take a moment and remember that little thing called an oath of office that we all read and signed. How about the commitment to the public we agreed to help and uphold the laws of this great state? The reality is, we all took that oath to serve others, which is very important to remember. Many of us forget that we should serve each other as brothers and sisters in law enforcement. Too many times, we don't offer help to the person working beside us, yet we trust them with our lives.

We are surrounded by so much negativity, and it affects us all differently. It takes willpower, raw passion, true grit, clear vision and moral courage to avoid the pitfalls of this job. With all that we face on a daily basis, why can we not have understanding and patience for each other?

If you consider yourself a person who has what it takes to avoid the pitfalls of this job, then I challenge you to take on the responsibility of mentorship and serve those beside you who are struggling or suffering in silence. All of us can have a servant's heart and help those who we work with. ♥

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Breaking Customs

New facility for travelers being built in Martin County

It was a groundbreaking moment for Martin County.

On Aug. 23, elected officials and members of the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) attended the ground breaking for a new U.S. Customs facility at Witham Field. The project was seven years in the making. Willie Weiss represented MCSO at the ceremony, and he was joined by U.S. Congressman Brian Mast, who represents the 18th District that includes Martin County.

Weiss noted that Mast, who served in the U.S. Army for more than 12 years and lost his legs during a deployment to Afghanistan, helped with the final push to get the customs facility underway.

The 3,210-square-foot facility will allow international travelers coming by boat or air to clear customs in Martin County, instead of having to go through Fort Pierce or West Palm Beach. The building is scheduled to be finished in May 2018.

The state will pay 80 percent of the \$1.74 million cost, with Witham Field paying the rest. The airport is a self-sustaining fund, meaning user fees cover airport costs. The project will also provide more jobs and better opportunities for residents, according to Martin County commissioner Doug Smith. ♥



Willie Weiss, left, of the Martin County Sheriff's Office with U.S. Representative Brian Mast at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new U.S. Customs Facility at Witham Field.

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RT199(0617)





First-class Responders

When the call came to respond to Hurricane Irma, officers in Palm Beach and Martin counties answered fearlessly, courageously and relentlessly

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

When West Palm Beach Police Officer Carlos Yermanos assessed this particular damage left in the wake of Hurricane Irma, his military training triggered the needed response. In Goodland, a small community near Marco Island in Collier County where Irma tore roofs off houses like they were tops of tuna cans, Yermanos saw the stars and stripes shredded almost beyond recognition. Nobody would remotely compare his actions with this American flag to what flew on Iwo Jima or at Ground Zero, but Yermanos's response nonetheless offered heartening symbolism and substance.

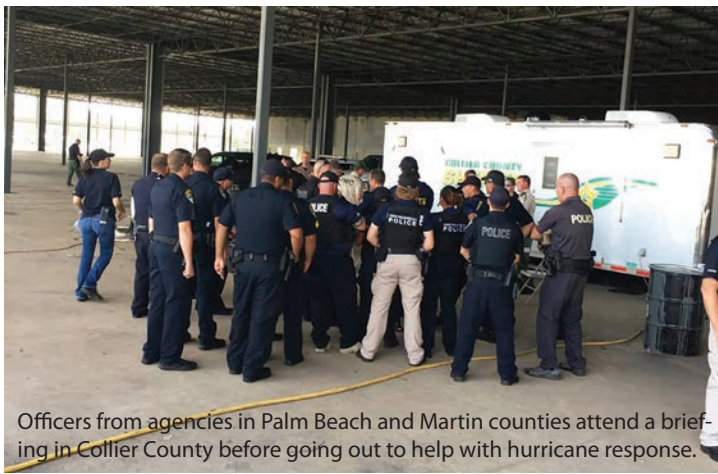
His lowering of Old Glory - the way Yermanos learned during his many years of Army National Guard service that included deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan - to take it to a proper burial ground, certainly seems like a simple response in the grand scheme of Irma. But, then, the entire response from thousands of Palm Beach County PBA members to this witch of a storm was built on layers of seemingly simple or routine execution, supreme humanitarian deeds and tactical reinforcement that enabled law enforcement to come up big when it mattered most.

"We were just doing what we do," Yermanos noted about the efforts providing hurricane support and relief. "It brings you back to the basics and makes you realize why you became a police offi-



West Palm Beach Officer Carlos Yermanos lowers the flag flying above the civic center in Goodland that was torn by Hurricane Irma's winds.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Officers from agencies in Palm Beach and Martin counties attend a briefing in Collier County before going out to help with hurricane response.

FIRST-CLASS RESPONDERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

cer: not to arrest the bad guys but to help the communities.”

Once deputies from the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office and Martin County Sheriff’s Office and officers from every other agency throughout the counties battened down the hatches locally, they volunteered for dispatch to the West Coast, where Irma wreaked her greatest havoc in the state. On Sept. 14, members saddled up in a multiple-vehicle convoy from Boca Raton to Collier County. The next five days consisted of door-to-door searches, supporting medical emergencies, securing five-hour-long gas lines that turned overly contentious and providing a constant and helpful presence that gave ravaged victims, who in some cases suffered catastrophic damage to their homes, a welcome peace of mind.

At the same time, rapid response teams from Palm Beach and Martin also headed to the Florida Keys. They went in waves for more than two weeks to support exhausted Monroe County sheriffs. They towed trucks full of water, snacks and even pet food.

Additionally, PBSO’s vaunted Emergency Field Forces mapped out a five-week plan to respond in the Keys and communicated its availability when the state’s Emergency Operations Center sent out a request for support, even before Irma made landfall in Florida. The force wound up sending two teams for a total of nine days that were deployed on the eye wall, the northeast side of the storm that cut the most damage.

Nobody would compare this to the circumstances related to Hurricanes Harvey, Katrina or even the one-two punch of Charley and Frances that hit Florida in 2004. But in a response like this, no action is small. Every action makes an impact and elicits a reaction that not only reminds officers what they signed up for but also provides some of the positive reinforcement and reward that keeps them going through days and days of 12-hour shifts.

“I’ve never been thanked so much in my 18 years of law enforcement,” related Boynton Beach Sergeant John Kautz, who led a six-officer team from his department to provide backup in Collier. “They would offer water or Gatorade, and when they saw we were dressed in different uniforms, they would tell us, ‘Thanks for coming to help us from wherever you are.’”

And motivation to work 12-hour shifts, sometimes at one static post, in what felt like 120-degree heat, was not hard to muster.

“Nothing like helping a brother or sister officer so they can help their citizens,” submitted Martin County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Willie Weiss, whose department sent teams to respond in Monroe County even two weeks after Irma passed. “It’s more than a sense of duty. It’s bred into you: Take care of each other and hold that thin blue line.”

Local Response

The greatest exhibition of endurance from all those in hurricane response mode in the counties began at least a week before



the storm hit Florida. When Irma swelled up through the Caribbean, residents braced for impact and law enforcement prepared to react. That meant going 10-100, as it is known at PBSO, or Alpha-Bravo as Delray Beach calls the 12-hour tour cycle of 12 on, 12 off even before Irma cast her eye on the state.

Executing the disaster protocols that are planned for hurricane seasons and trained on was never really a worry. Urgency set in with officers canvassing for supplies they might need to get through it, or, more importantly, provide to residents when cops would be the only ones to have the means – and the courage – to respond.

And then came the perhaps the toughest challenge of the entire response.

“We all recognize when we signed up for this, we knew we would have to be away from our families,” Delray Beach Sergeant Gary Ferreri confirmed. “When the 9-1-1 calls come in, that’s the worst part because you wonder if this is happening to your own home and to your family. And with limited cell service (during the storm), our guys were trying to call their families and hoping to get through.”

Like in Delray Beach, Irma’s high winds forced officers throughout the counties inside, into department buildings, command centers and even shelters set up for first responders. The worst of the impact in Palm Beach and Martin counties were incidents like the structure fire set off by the winds in Delray Beach that required 10 officers to head into the storm to support firefighters.

Several incidents of roofs collapsing and other extreme damages to homes came in through social media because 9-1-1 was down. So when the storm finally cleared enough for it to be safe to get out, the 9-1-1 calls flooded in, damage assessment started and officers went out in force to search, service and rescue.

Ferreri noted that Delray sent out its SWAT truck as soon as possible when the calls came in requesting provisions for stranded citizens. And even though the wind was still blowing and overall safety was still in question, his department had to respond to reports of looting.

“They were looting a Dollar Store,” he added. “It absolutely baffles me.”

Of course, the hurricane effect drives some residents into a sense of a panic. Hence some signs showing up on boards in front of homes or businesses where windows were blown out reading, “YOU LOOT, WE SHOOT!” But across the counties, officers reported that for the most part, citizens banded together to make the response as successful as possible.

“It’s amazing what human nature does to some people in times of tragedy,” Delray Beach Sergeant Michael De Vree applauded of the way the citizens came together in the wake of the storm.

Cops would also offer a round of applause for local merchants who provided extreme support for the response, business owners

like Ed Morse Delray Toyota and Spodak Dental Group in Delray Beach, that set up shelters to house first responders to weather the storm and be available to serve as soon as conditions allowed.

Dr. Craig Spodak reported how the Delray Beach PD worked with him prior to hurricane season to prepare his state-of-the-art dental facility to be a shelter. Because he takes care of many of the department's officers, Dr. Spodak didn't hesitate to offer his new building, which is equipped to run on a generator if the power goes out and has a locker room, kitchen and plenty of space to set up sleeping accommodations.

"It was a no-brainer for me to give back to the police because they are always putting their butts on the line," Dr. Spodak asserted. "If I can make these officers a little more comfortable with the way they make such an immense sacrifice and the way they have to be away from their families, it's an honor. The way they do their jobs allows our businesses to thrive."

Going the distance

The enduring images of Irma's pass through Florida will no doubt be houses knocked sideways, houses with roofs blown off to bits and trees blown off their roots toppled onto houses and cars and blocking the roads. The enduring image of the run-in with Irma for Palm Beach County and Martin County officers could very well be the convoy representing more than 40 departments departing from Boca heading to Collier County on Sept. 14.

Teams from agencies mustered in Boca for a briefing indicating that this detail could be a humanitarian mission and/or a law-enforcing mission. But they prepared for the worst.

Boynton's team of Officers Barry Ward, Zachary Halpern, Dennis Castro, Andrew Berben and Daniel Montoute drove in two SUVs and a truck with high clearance that could handle severe flooding. The officers also equipped their rigs with halogen lights

and breaching tools to extract a person in a rescue operation.

Delray Beach sent its problem-oriented police unit packing generators, food, tents, an ATV and even emergency dive gear. They left at 8 a.m. on the 14th heading for Naples, Marco Island and places the eyeball passed directly over knowing that the next five days could present a plethora of dangerous challenges.

"We didn't know what we were getting into," De Vree apprised. "We were advised there was no cellphone service and that the officers were pretty beat down and looking forward to us arriving and assisting."

Upon arrival, another briefing with FDLE and the Collier County Sheriff's Office set the wheels in motion to first beef up police presence, primarily for security, but also to ensure residents that there would be a cop around when they needed one. East Coast met West Coast with officers being doubled up and assigned to one of two districts charter as part of Collier's disaster response.

The presence was so big that it also drew officers from as far away as Missouri, Texas and Chicago. The team from Boynton Beach that Kautz led included Officers Stephanie Holst, Megan Vickery, Ian Sitz, Joseph Jaworsky and Rodner Guillaume and barely had time look around upon arrival.

"As soon as we got there, they put us to work right away," Kautz disclosed.

What they faced in terms of damages had not occurred in Florida since the Charley-Frances double play. Trees crushed houses. Flood waters reached three feet. Power was out across the county because trees knocked down power lines and poles.

Kautz said he was awed by the way trailer parks were completely demolished. Some officers were dispatched to the flooded area of Bonita Springs, where President Trump visited to witness the carnage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



- 1 The laws have recently changed and are now more favorable to the injured worker.
- 2 Because of recent court decisions, you might well have a valid Workers' Compensation case even if past legal counsel suggested otherwise.
- 3 While many firms closed their Workers' Compensation departments because of the increasing difficulties associated with this area of practice, at Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles, we never stopped representing workers injured on the job. Through thick and thin, we've been here and will continue to be here fighting for the rightful benefits of the injured worker.

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As the storm rolls in, Delray Beach officers gather at department headquarters to review response plans.

FIRST-CLASS RESPONDERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

What they faced that needed policing boiled over from up to five-hour lines of residents waiting to gas up their vehicles. Combining the lines with 100-degree heat sparked so many fights – up to 20 per day – that two officers were often posted at each site to try to keep the peace.

“We had to rotate those guys every two hours,” Kautz informed. “And then some of us were assigned to roving patrols because of other disturbances.”

But the lines, the cell service and the patience from citizens improved every day. Businesses began to open by Monday, Sept. 18, and the detail switched from a defensive posture to offensive, serving citizens needing water, ice and food. And PBC PBA members stayed an extra day in Collier so local sheriffs could have some time to go home and check on their families.

Timely Response

An exclamation point on the hurricane response comes from the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office and Martin County Sheriff’s Office deputies who met the guts of the storm in the Florida Keys. If Irma had a mouth, she used it to swallow up the Keys; that was the state of this swath of land in an aftermath that needed teams to make several trips down there to assist.

The PBSO Emergency Field Forces would have endured as long as necessary; the unit was created for this type of disaster relief. “One of our main functions is to support whatever agency requires support,” explained Lieutenant Kevin O’Brien, the unit’s supervisor. “That might come in the form of back-filling some of their zones so deputies affected by the disaster can go home and take care of their families and do what they can to get their agency back on track.”

The force left Palm Beach County in a convoy that included approximately 35 members aboard vehicles specially outfitted for debris removal and search-and-rescue operations. The department had sent its aerial reconnaissance resources ahead and learned that the most concentrated response would be in a 25-mile area south of Seven Mile Bridge to Stock Island where overturned RVs, houses completely ripped off their foundations and a concrete power pole snapped at the base were among the shrapnel.

Under such conditions, the PBSO forces “were responsible for



Boynton Beach officers bring ice to residents as part of the humanitarian service that was a big part of the hurricane response.

all of the calls we could handle,” O’Brien added. “That included humanitarian relief – passing out food, water and ice at shelters and roadside areas.”

Part of the detail also included providing security when Florida Governor Rick Scott, Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Brian Mast visited the Keys, as well as escorting celebrities like former University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, who came on.

Amidst the widespread response, however, one call seemed to define what PBSO’s Field Force, and all other PBC PBA members

responding, found most fulfilling about their mission. A woman in Big Pine Key had lost everything, and she stood on the side of the road trying to call for help. Alas, her cellphone had no power.

"One of our deputies took her phone and drove around for an hour charging it," O'Brien disclosed. "That was the feeling of accomplishment, knowing they did something good, that kept our officers going."

Martin County sent its Rapid Response Team for the first wave of response, which consisted of relentless effort helping Monroe County sheriffs keep up with the calls related to protecting life and property. Given the geography of the Keys, some residents were stranded more than an hour away from even the necessities. So the MCSO sent a second wave down with the roomful of non-perishables it collected.

"All the things you and I can run to the 7-11 for, they couldn't get," Weiss described. "And our guys would be happy to go back down as many times as they need to so the Monroe County sheriffs can get back on their feet and tend to the people."

Bringing the flag down on the hurricane response might be best left to following the flag. Yermanos explained how he was walking around Goodland, taking it all in and being "thankful that it didn't happen in our hometown." When he saw the flag, perhaps he knew bringing it down would be the best way to wave goodbye to Irma, to start anew after the storm.

"I folded it as much as I could the way a flag is supposed to be folded," Yermanos articulated. "I'm going to take it to the American Legion so we can dispose of it properly. And then I'm going to send a new flag to the town leaders."

And when they run it up the flagpole, Goodland will become "Greatland." Just like all of Collier County, Monroe County and the other areas where Irma tried to wreak havoc will become great lands again because of the officers who would accept no less of a response. ❤️



Palm Beach Sheriff's Office deputies check out a house that was damaged by the storm.

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Jack's got your back

Palm Beach County PBA officers show their gratitude for 12-year-old Jack Fleming, whose life has changed because he 'Backs the Blue'

■ BY AMBER RAMUNDO

Law enforcement officers have changed Jack Fleming's life. Caryn Wasserman-Fleming can say this with certainty, remembering the time when her son Jack struggled with schoolwork and social interactions. This was before Jack began a campaign to thank his heroes.

Jack's perspective on life changed completely when he began stopping every officer he passed to share handwritten notes and genuine appreciation, reminding, "Be safe, hero."

"He never was into Batman or other superheroes. He wasn't into those characters," Caryn explained about her son, whose autism spectrum disorder affects the way he interacts with the world around him. "But then he sees these heroes in the community, and he clings to them."

Jack's reverence for law enforcement may have stemmed from his father, John Fleming, who was a NYPD officer for 20 years before he and his family moved to Florida, where he now works as an officer for the Juno Police Department. In December 2014, when news of the killings of NYPD Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu and the rise of protests following the events in Ferguson, Missouri, became the substance of more and more dinner-table conversation at the Flemings, 9-year-old Jack fixated on the tragedies. He couldn't understand why someone would target his idols.

"He decided that Christmas that he wanted to do some things to thank the police," Caryn recalled. "He started making cards and on Christmas, we spent the entire day delivering cookies and brownies (to police departments). It kind of took on a life of its own from there."

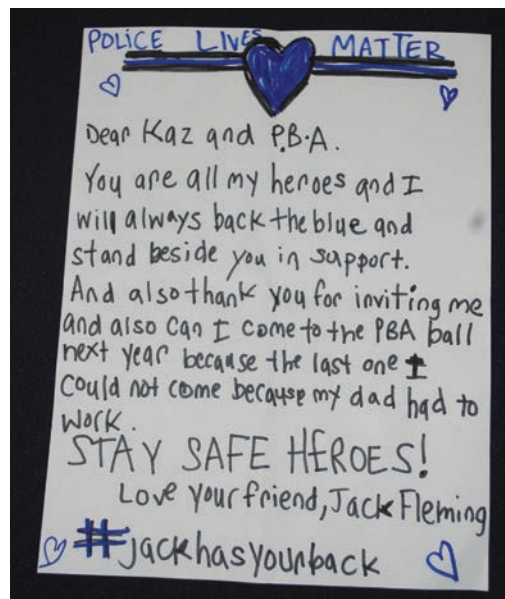
It took on a life of its own – as in Jack's life began to change. Interacting with Florida cops became the portal for Jack to begin feeling more comfortable in social situations. His grades also improved greatly, as the promise of seeking out officers to thank became an incentive for Jack to finish his homework.

His confidence only grew when Palm Beach County cops began to recognize the now 12-year-old sensation who boosts officer morale wherever he goes. Before she knew it, Caryn's son's calendar began to fill with invitations from law enforcement agencies requesting that Jack to attend various promotional ceremonies, fundraising events, weddings and even the Palm Beach County PBA Ball this past June.

"His social calendar started booking up," Caryn stressed with satisfaction, though she's become his round-the-clock chauffeur because of it. "He never was social and able to talk to anybody, and then, all of a sudden, these men and women are inviting him places. And he's so busy."

In three years, Jack has circulated hundreds of thank-yous and gifts to law enforcement, each one signed with the catchphrase, "Jack has your back" that has become a popular hashtag to share his interactions with officers on social media. With each encounter posted on Jack's Facebook page, it becomes clear that the support really flows both ways. In other words, it's not just that Jack's got their back, but that PBC officers have Jack's

Jack Fleming is honored with the Back the Blue award for his continuous effort to thank law enforcement wherever he goes.



Jack Fleming presents PBCPBA President John Kazanjian with one of his famous handwritten thank-you notes.

and will do anything they can to include him in the blue family.

Scrolling through Jacks' Facebook albums will find posts like, "I love law enforcement. Everybody be safe!" Some others that illustrate his reputation amongst PBCPBA officers include:



On Sept. 20, Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian invited Jack to the quarterly meeting, where he was recognized with a special note of appreciation. What Caryn expected would be a simple plaque pick-up from the office turn, out to be a moment of admiration for Jack at when Kaz presented him with a "Back the Blue" award.

"We have a special young man in the room," Kaz announced to the rows of seats filled with PBA members. "He follows what the police does and he gives 100 percent support to the officers in the community."

The surprise of the announcement spread across Jack's face, who immediately sat up straight when he realized the PBA president was speaking about him. Despite the fact that he was not expecting the recognition, Jack, of course, appeared to be prepared, proudly wearing a Palm Beach Police T-shirt and hat. When he was called to the podium to accept the plaque, Kaz read the words engraved on it:

In appreciation and recognition of your respect and support of all police officers. You are a true champion and inspiration.

Years before the "Jack has your back" effort began, his anxiety would have forced him to shy away from the spotlight in a room full of people. But this wasn't a room full of strangers. This was a room full of his best friends and biggest supporters. So, Jack held his head high, smiling proudly for the flashing camera with his award in hand before handing a gift of his own to Kaz: a handwritten thank-you note and a T-shirt with his words of reminder in bold type, "Jack has your back."



The entire room erupted in applause for the young boy who had become a hero to law enforcement by constantly helping them feel appreciated. Meanwhile, Caryn cheered in emotional gratitude for the officers and the difference they continue to make in her son's life.

"I don't think they realized what they've done for him and our family," she expressed. "They're continuously thanking him and we're like, 'No, thank you. Not only for your job and keeping us safe, but you changed my kid's life.' He's a different person. No amount of school, no amount of medication, no amount of therapy could have trained him to become the kid he is right now."



Post It

Boynton Beach Sergeant 'tagged' for heroic lifesaving effort

If not for a post on the Boynton Beach Police Department's Facebook page stating, "I hope the male subject on the sidewalk that was receiving CPR pulled through," it's unlikely anybody would be aware of this job well done. That includes the BBPD itself, even though humble hero Sergeant Brian McDeavitt is one of its own. After all, McDeavitt was off duty and out of his jurisdiction, dropping off his daughter at school on Aug. 25 when he spotted the victim and stepped in to save his life.

"I was on my way into work when I noticed people standing over a guy on the ground," McDeavitt recalled. "I made a quick U-turn and ran up to see what was going on. There were people on the phone talking to dispatchers, and the victim was on the ground wearing earbuds and jogging shorts, had blood coming out of the back of his head and seemed to have trouble breathing. My rudimentary assessment said he fell."

The 12-year veteran began chest compressions for several minutes before an off-duty paramedic tapped him on the shoulder to take over. The two first responders then traded places every few minutes until the fire department arrived and was able to hook up the victim to an AED.

"I believe they delivered one shock and then scooped him up and went to the hospital. Then I went back to work," reported McDeavitt. On the way back, he called only his wife and his watch commander merely to report the out-of-jurisdiction incident.

"I didn't tell anyone else," he continued, "but my wife saw the Facebook post and she's friends with our PIO, and then it turned into a big thing."

Big, especially to the victim and his wife, who reached out to the department in order to contact McDeavitt to offer their gratitude.

"They both sent me text messages," McDeavitt noted, adding that the victim was in the hospital for a couple of days and will make a full recovery. "Unfortunately, as police we deal with lots of negativity. I joke that you drive around and wait for something bad to happen. It's nice to have something positive with a positive outcome. We rarely know if these things work out, so having this feedback was excellent."

Little did the victim know at the time, but he couldn't have been in better hands. McDeavitt is not only on SWAT with tactical medical training, he is also one of the department's lead instructors.

"Brian has a lot to do with the top-notch training of our officers with first responder skills who go to those types of medical incidents," Boynton Beach PBA Unit President Dan Dugger explained. "In this case, he saw someone in need and acted and saved the man's life. He's a standup guy and a pillar of the police department."

So it's a good thing word of this job well done is finally spreading offline. After all, McDeavitt doesn't have a Facebook account. ❤️





Let the Games return

Law enforcement officers and firefighters compete in Florida Police and Fire Games

■ BY AMBER RAMUNDO

Fun and games may be just what the doctor ordered for a healthy state of mind. At least that's the mindset of two Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officers, whose passion for competition and strengthening the network of first responders in the community has motivated them to bring back the Florida Police and Fire Games (FPFG). Robert Drake and Kevin O'Brien are the minds and muscles behind the Games' makeover. A new and improved structure brings back the same healthy dose of recreation they've missed since the events came to a halt in 2013.

"We've missed it," stated Drake, who has participated in the Games since 1985 and is now the FPFG chairman. "The morale is low amongst cops. Even within my own agency there are too many sad cops. I want to help make them healthy."

Drake and FPFG President O'Brien know how important it is for law enforcement officers to have ample opportunities to decompress from the stresses of the job. So about a year ago, the officers decided to bring back the Florida Police and Fire Games. But this time, they'd make them their own.

"We started dreaming about this about a year ago. And then the dream started turning into more of a reality," O'Brien explained. "We wanted to kind of do better than what had been done. We wanted to create a different approach to the Games."

In August, the new FPFG kicked off with softball and shooting events that once again brought together first responders, family members and support staff to compete on common ground. Law enforcement officers and firefighters benefit from the chance to network across agencies, while allowing civilians to interact with first responders on a different level.

"It's another way to build relationships with the community," Drake stressed. "Our goal is to get as many people involved as possible."

One of the main objectives of the revamped Police and Fire Games is to make it easy for everyone to participate all year long. Drake, O'Brien and their team of event directors have already loaded the calendar with a diverse selection of 25 events to fit everyone's playing style. From basketball, soccer and cycling to cornhole, darts, kayaking, fishing and even poker, there's a little something for everyone, including PBCPBA civilian employees like Lindsey Griffith, who participated in an indoor rowing event on Aug. 19.

"I received an email from them and decided to look at the website to see what kind of competitions they had," explained Griffith, 23, an investigative analyst for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. "I just started going to Orangetheory Fitness recently, and one thing I do there is row, so I decided to join the competition."



Lindsey Griffith takes home two winning medals after participating in the indoor rowing tournament alongside other civilians and first responders.

Griffith grew up attending PBA events because her father, Ray Griffith, is a retired PBSO sergeant. He attended the rowing event to support his daughter, and as he proudly watched her receive first-place medals for both the 500- and 2,000-meter row within her division, he noticed just how special the moment was to see family and first responders coming together.

"I was there for my daughter, but it was really cool to see everybody interact with each other and compete against each other," shared Ray Griffith, who is still very much involved with the PBA. "I've always believed in the community policing aspect of law enforcement, because you're right next to the people. You're not in uniform. Everybody is out there in shorts and T-shirts and gym clothes. There are no barriers between them."

The FPFG executive board plans to have the schedule packed with events through December so that law enforcement officers never run out of activities to sustain an active lifestyle, as well as high morale on and off the job.

"It's a labor of love," O'Brien expressed. "It's been really good to see the Games and schedule come to fruition. It shows people that we're really human beings as cops and firefighters, and we're also athletes who like to get out here and compete."

To view the FPFG schedule and find out more information, visit the official website at www.floridapoliceandfiregames.org. ♥

A national boost for law enforcement

New York shines a bright light on NAPO Conference

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY AMBER RAMUNDO

Cellphone cameras flashed almost in rhythm, creating a light show along Fifth Avenue in New York on this Sunday morning in late July. Bystanders – fans if you will – stretched to get a glimpse of the impromptu parade shuttling law enforcement officers from across the country attending the 39th annual National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Conference to a special Mass offered for them at the famed Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

NAPO coming to New York City for its annual conference proffered an opportunity to showcase law enforcement's presence in the national arena. President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence were invited and strongly considered attending until scheduling wouldn't allow. Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian, Executive Director Ernie George, Vice-President Rick McAfee and Treasurer Lou Penque were among more than 150 delegates to a conference that served to advance the rights and interests of America's law enforcement officers.

The event that came to the Westin New York at Times Square Hotel from July 23-25 followed the Sunday morning parade by opening its first session welcoming Jessica Parque, whose husband, Detective Chad William Parque of the North Las Vegas Police Department, was the first officer to be lost in the line of duty in the U.S. in 2017. An equally rousing standing ovation occurred when all of NAPO congratulated George on the occasion of his 50th wedding anniversary, and his wife, Dianna, was there to celebrate.

Rousing applause thundered then and often as the agenda advocated for NAPO's 240,000-plus members nationwide, including: a presentation from John Miller, the man who interviewed Osama bin Laden, on the current state of terrorism; a review of the substantive legislative accomplishments that have made life better for law enforcement officers the past nine months; and the re-election of Mick McHale, Vice President of Chapters for the Florida State PBA, as NAPO President.

The conference culminated with a trip to the Freedom Tower and exclusive access to the 9/11 Museum, where McHale showed a beam from one of the towers that his brother, a retired Port Authority of New York-New Jersey officer, helped retrieve from Ground Zero.

"As we have announced at prior meetings, we have received a message of getting back into the fold, doing what we're meant to do when we established this organization: advocating on Capitol Hill," McHale commented in his opening remarks to the conference. "We are getting more involved in local issues and moving along in the right direction."



The 39th Annual NAPO Convention in New York City began with the NYPD Honor Guard presenting the colors. President Mick McHale welcoming nearly 150 delegates starting three days of national advocacy for law enforcement officers.

From Washington, D.C., where NAPO makes its headquarters, to New York City, there is more and more evidence of the resurgence in support and advocacy for law enforcement. In welcoming delegates to town, Pat Lynch, president of the New York City Patrolman's Benevolent Association which was a sponsor of the conference along with the Palm Beach County PBA, presented an exhilarating perspective about how the reception on Fifth Avenue could resonate through the conference and across the country.

"The way people were lifting their cameras, that's the news that should be going out," Lynch roused in a manner that can only be defined as presidential. "The story we need to tell is about how the heroes who went protected our rights to march on Fifth Avenue, to worship as we choose and to stand at the podium as union labor leaders and say what we believe. Our job is to always tell our story, to keep the spirit alive and continue to raise our profession."

McHale, who is also president of the Southwest Florida PBA, followed Lynch by saying, "That concludes our programming." It is always hard to follow Lynch, but the 2017 NAPO Conference only built off the momentum his words inspired.

Apparently, NAPO delegates are more than pleased at the way the organization is progressing under McHale's leadership. Florida State PBA President John Rivera nominated McHale for reelection, noting, "He has been the face and the voice of this organization. For America's finest, he is the finest right now." Not surprisingly, no other nominations for president were made, and McHale won reelection unanimously.

Numbers documenting NAPO's winning effort on Capitol Hill came from Director of Government Affairs Andy Edmiston, who reported that during the past year the organization has had more than 100 meetings with members of Congress. She also noted that NAPO's lobbying helped further the "Thin Blue



Line" and "Officer's Rights" legislation. She also noted NAPO's involvement in passing the National Mental Health and Wellness Act, that is an important first step in making sure all officers have access to the best mental health services.

"You will see more legislation like that being adopted," U.S. Representative Peter King said when he addressed the delegates on the second day of the conference. King offered some behind-the-scenes observations about how legislators in Washington, D.C., are advocating for law enforcement.

"The chairman of House Judiciary Committee is very pro-police," King continued. "And in talking to the President, I can assure you he is extremely pro-police. He's very much on your side. Believe me."

At the last business session of the conference, NAPO Executive Director William Johnson added a final statement on the presence the organization has achieved.

"NAPO continues to be recognized by the administration, by the Department of Justice and both parties of Congress," Johnson confirmed. "We continue to be the go-to organization on law enforcement issues and policy decisions, and we continue to be a well-respected, objective and factual source of information for major media outlets." ♥



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Defeating the network

Terrorism expert John Miller addresses NAPO about the rise of ISIS and law enforcement's role in managing the unpredictable

■ BY AMBER RAMUNDO

Orlando police couldn't have predicted the deadliest mass shooting in recent American history, despite the name of the perpetrator that was once placed on a terrorist watch list, and despite the 2 a.m. Facebook post that alerted: "Everyone get out of Pulse and keep running."

Still, law enforcement and intelligence agencies can't help but scrutinize the tragedy at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, not just for what happened, but how it could happen on their watch.

Known for interviewing al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 1998 on ABC News, current Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counter-terrorism of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) John Miller doesn't only know about terrorism. It's like he knows it personally.

On June 24, Miller took the stand at the 39th Annual NAPO Convention to discuss the current state of terrorism both internationally and nationally while dissecting the role of police to stop the events before they happen. He drew from his career experiences and resources from the media to analyze where the ideals of ISIS have come from and how this radical group has risen to become the biggest threat of terror in the modern age.

"The greatest weapon they have is not the rifle, it's not the bullet, it's not the bomb..." Miller clarified. "The greatest weapon they have is the communication tools that they use to transcend their numbers, their power, even what they are as an organization."

Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian and Executive Director Ernie George, as well as members of law enforcement agencies across the U.S., listened as Miller shared the ISIS marketing pitch through videos made to spread their story and reach those who feel lost or misunderstood. Miller's presentation showed a Canadian citizen explaining how and why he decided to join ISIS and pledge allegiance to its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a propaganda tactic that the terrorist group uses to captivate an audience with one very powerful incentive: the opportunity to have purpose and be a hero.

"There you are isolated, and in the glow of that computer, at 1:30 in the morning, as you are searching for meaning, here's this thing saying you can have it. You can be a hero. Your life can matter," Miller explained about how ISIS targets with videos.

Miller emphasized another ISIS recruiting tactic. Unlike the al-Qaeda's mission to rid the Islamic state of Western influence by recruiting soldiers to fight on their home soil, ISIS encourages members to attack wherever they live: Boston, Paris, London, New York...and Orlando. The location doesn't matter. It's



John Miller, deputy commissioner of intelligence and counter-terrorism for the New York Police Department (NYPD), leads a presentation on terrorism at the 39th Annual NAPO Convention.

the impact of the attack that spreads a message that strengthens the movement.

"Don't come here and fight for us, stay where you are. Because the smallest thing you do there is more valuable," Miller reiterated. "These people read the instructions and follow the instructions. They make sure that in their dying-lives scenario they put ISIS' stamp on the attack."

Omar Mateen remembered these instructions on the night he decided to unleash terror in a gay nightclub in Orlando. On June 12, 2016, Mateen carried out the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. After killing 49 innocent civilians and injuring 58 others, Mateen called Orlando police to make a statement about the attack that was supposed to explain it all, but still left the world vexed with questions that would never be answered: Why there? And, why them?

Miller cited attacks like the one in Orlando to show how unpredictable the places and people of destruction have proved to be.

"This is what we train for," Miller addressed to the room of law enforcement. "And then our largest loss of lives comes at 2:30 a.m. at a gay club, in Orlando. That would have never been

on our list. It shows the level of unpredictability and randomness. You can't protect everything."

In September 2016, the unpredictability of terror played out on the streets of Manhattan, when a pressure-cooker device with a Samsung phone attached detonated on 23rd street in Chelsea. When NYPD investigators arrived at the scene, they noticed that this was an explosive device that America had seen before, just a few years earlier at the Boston Marathon where three lives were lost, including an 8-year-old boy.

Luckily, when the same type of bomb went off in the most populated city in the nation, no lives were lost. But 31 people were injured from the impact of the explosion. Shrapnel was found as far as 650 feet in all directions, and every piece was valuable evidence in the investigation. Even the smallest pieces, like a string of nylon from the backpack that carried the device, and a burned-up quarter of a barcode that identified a pack of six cellphones purchased at a Dollar General Store used to detonate the device, indicated that there were likely more explosive devices to be found.

"We had a million pieces of evidence on 23rd Street," Miller stated. "It was off the top of the Samsung phone that we got the thumbprint of Ahmad Khan Rahami."

The thumbprint was lifted, and the NYPD had every high-intelligence resource necessary working to find the suspect and the other devices planted in Manhattan and Seaside Heights, New Jersey. But it was a run-in between an officer in a doorway in Linden, New Jersey, and a sleeping bum who turned out to be Rahami that brought the bomber into custody. Who would have seen that coming?

"In real life, with all of those spies working overtime in so many countries, it's always a routine encounter with police that brings something like this to a close," Miller explains. "In the end, it's still the cop on the street that makes the difference."

Miller concluded his presentation with the image of a handwritten entry from a journal found on Rahami after he was taken into custody in Linden. The notebook paper is torn and tattered with a blaring hole in the center from a bullet. Red blood seeps off the edges of the page, but the message of his handwritten words clearly marked ISIS' stamp of ownership on the terror.

"We have to attack at home," the entry read. "Not to go there and fight, but to attack here."

The journal entry reminded Miller of the words Osama bin Laden shared with him in 1998 when Miller interviewed the al-Qaeda leader in Afghanistan for ABC News.

"It doesn't matter what America does," Miller reminded. "This is not about me, one man. It's not about an organization. It's about a network, and soon the network will transcend to a movement that lives on a message and the movement will overtake you."

Bin Laden's words seemed crazy to Miller then, but when the largest act of terror to hit American soil shook the nation on Sept. 11, 2001, and as terror has continued to rattle communities across the world with violent acts carried out by ISIS ever since, Miller has been reminded of bin Laden's message too many times. But no matter how strongly ISIS' message binds those who find meaning by carrying out acts of terror on their own streets, Miller knows that there is no stronger network than the work of law enforcement.

"This is the key message for NAPO: Our network has to be tighter than theirs, better woven, stronger at the seams, bringing together not just the NYPD, but all the departments that are far more typical," he stated. "What you all do is key to strengthening our network. Our network has to stay stronger than theirs is, and that is the way we will prevail." ♥



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Making each day a good old day

Langevin ensures Palm Beach Shores maintains its small-town vibe

When dialing the Palm Beach Shores police department, callers won't reach a receptionist or a dial-by-department prompt. In fact, the first voice offering a friendly "How may I help you?" might be none other than Chief Steven Langevin.

Of course, if it was Langevin whom you were trying to reach, there's a strong chance you would simply have called his cell-phone directly. Ask anybody within Palm Beach Shore's one-square-mile jurisdiction and they'll most likely have it.

"It's like being a cop in the old days," Langevin describes. "Locals stop into the station for coffee, and around the holidays they drop off food for the officers. And if there's a crime they come up and say, 'Hey Harry, my bike got stolen.' My outlook is that the best way to deter crime is to let people know the cops are there for you, but also that they're there. And me, as the chief, I always want to be visible. I don't have an assistant; just myself and two sergeants."

A typical day on the job in Palm Beach Shores includes shifts of two officers plus a supervisor doing "highly visible" bicycle and foot patrols up and down the city's 10-by-3-block spread. The area includes approximately 500 houses, large condominiums and a handful of hotels. Only about half of Palm Beach Shores' 1,400 community-oriented residents live in town year-round, but during peak season, the area's population can skyrocket into the thousands.

"That's the beauty. You need to have the policing knowledge even though you might not use it all that often," Langevin states. "You need the ability to investigate armed robberies that may only occur one or two times a year; to talk to Mrs. Jones if her house gets burgled and know how to do fingerprints. We don't have all the special agencies; we're only a 15-person department, so you have to be a seasoned cop to handle this."

For this very reason, Langevin focused on hiring when he became chief in June, insisting on two years' minimum experience for new officers. He is also focused on increasing part-time positions, likewise recruiting people who are able to further Langevin's self-described small-town aura.

"The trick is finding the right type of officers who know what they're doing and who know how to handle a small town – even the proverbial cat in the tree," he continues. "Everybody has my cellphone number. That's why I do the hiring. I want the right type of people who can interact with these residents who are a little older, but also the timeshares that have people from all over the world."

Langevin was born at U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. because his father was in the Air Force, and because he "had and still has a large head and it was the only hospital with the right gear," he jokes, adding a punch line about how he would have attended school there if not for his grades. At age 16 living in Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Langevin became the youngest EMT in town and began his life in public service. His diverse career has featured gigs running hotels, working on his parents'



Meet Palm Beach Shores Chief *Steven Langevin*

- Grew up in Saddle Brook, New Jersey where he served as an EMT with the town's Volunteer EMS squad.
- Upon coming to Florida, joined the Riviera Beach Police Department.
- Accepted into the United Nations Security and Safety service in Manhattan, where he served for a few years.
- Has worked for Palm Beach Shores for 17 years.
- Became chief on May 25.
- Card-carrying, dues-paying member of Palm Beach County PBA and served as a rep until being named chief.

interior design business, and even becoming a security guard at the United Nations under the Reagan Administration.

Knowing he would either land in EMS or law enforcement (his uncle was an officer in Washington, D.C. who was killed in the line of duty by a drunk driver), Langevin took a part-time job at the Palm Beach Shores PD. He enjoyed becoming involved in the community, and when he became a full-time officer, he was instrumental in creating the department's bicycle unit.

One of Langevin's first leadership challenges spawned from a turf war between the city's older population and its skateboarding youth.

"Both felt slighted," Langevin notes. "The former mayor created a youth council and put me in charge, so we made area



Steve Langevin was sworn in as the new chief of Palm Beach Shores on May 25.

barbecues to help everyone meet each other. That's how I became involved in community policing."

Not only did that parley succeed in mending the generational rift, it also set into motion one of Palm Beach Shores' most popular annual events that today features hundreds of hamburgers and hotdogs donated and grilled each year. Many seasonal visitors plan their Florida vacations around these events, such as Palm Beach Shores' other staples, including family Halloween events, a massive annual Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas celebrations, for which Langevin has transformed into a marina trolley-riding Santa Claus singing carols in the streets.



Each year at Christmas, Chief Langevin dresses up as Santa Claus.

"Community policing is getting together with the community and telling them we want to be a part of their lives," Langevin elaborates. "And the people give back as well. When we started this, we had a group of kids; now they've graduated college and they come back to volunteer. It's a tradition and I'd like to keep it like that to make sure we don't lose that hometown feel."

As for his approach to leading his department, Langevin keeps that simple, too.

"Make sure you do what you expect your officers to do," he explains. "Don't just shoot an email and bark policies and procedures. Do the right thing, and nine times out of 10 you'll be OK. People like stability. They want to know you're doing a good job but also that you're there for them." ♥

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"I love being everyone's assistant"

If you've ever called or visited the Palm Beach County PBA office, you already know her. She's the one with the warm greeting and the answer to almost any question there is. For those who may not know her by name, meet Elizabeth Moya of PBC PBA Membership Services.

On any given day, Moya is juggling the acts of the office, adjusting membership information, providing a connection to legal resources, running the merchandise store and possibly a connection to acting as a translator for Spanish-speaking visitors. Her job description is complex, simply because she is a resource for so many different people at all times, but it's her capacity to help everyone that fosters her love of the job in the office.

"My highlight is the daily interaction with everybody," Moya shares. "I love being able to work together with anybody who comes through the door to help resolve the situation that they came for."

Moya's passion for working with law enforcement began years before she joined the staff of the PBCPBA. Prior to taking the job at membership services, Moya worked as an assistant at the Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health. It was there that she got to know PBA Treasurer Lou Penque while coordinating the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), a program that trains law enforcement on how to interact with mentally ill citizens. Working with CIT and local officers gave her a look at the role of law enforcement and how critical their job is in community. That's where she decided that she wanted to find a way to further give back to the group of men and woman who serve.

"I was always fascinated by law enforcement and the job that they do," Moya explains. "When I was doing the CIT training, I could provide information that would be of impact for them to help them do their jobs."

The opportunity to fulfill her passion for serving law enforcement came when the PBCPBA membership services position opened up. Aware of her interest and ability, Penque asked Moya if she would be interested in filling the spot at the PBCPBA office. Moya took the offer without hesitation. From her very first day in the office, it was clear that she was a familiar face to law enforcement.

"When I came here everybody was wondering, 'Where do I know you from? You have such a familiar face!'" she remembers. "When I mentioned the CIT, it would all click for them. It was really nice to know some people remembered me from the program."

Today, Moya handles all of the PBCPBA membership. Anyone who has been a new hire, transferred departments or retired from the job within the past three years has most likely come in contact with her to update membership information in the system.

With more than 5,000 PBCPBA members, it's no wonder Moya's job can get hectic — especially given the time she needs to spend answering questions from the general public,

Meet Elizabeth Moya

Since February 2015,
PBCPBA Membership Services



What I love about my job: I love being an assistant to everyone. I help the PBCPBA president at times, I help the lawyers...I'm always helping someone and I like being able to do that.

What I love about working for the PBA: I like that I never know what to expect. It's always something different.

How I approach my job: I try to approach every day with the best version of myself. I use the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated. I try to give everybody the same respect and courtesy every time. It makes my life a lot easier. When they're not upset, then I'm not upset.

who often misinterpret PBCPBA headquarters for an actual police station. But it's that very element of variety and not knowing who could walk through the door next that makes Moya love her job. And when the going gets tough, there's always the entertainment from the other staff in the office that keeps everyone going.

"My goodness, it's always fun here at the PBA," she muses. "That's not to say that we don't have our share of work. But I definitely treasure the friendships that I've been able to make here at the office and the people I'm able to help every day." ♥



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Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

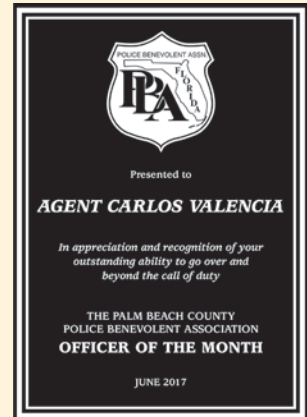
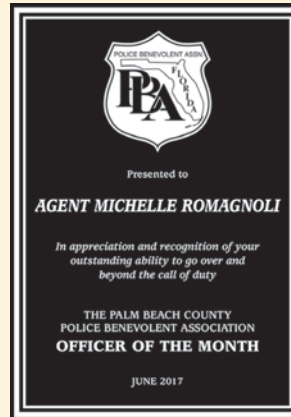
June 2017

PBSO Agents Michelle Romagnoli and Carlos Valencia

Nominated by Sergeant Anthony Torella

Both agents are assigned to the PBSO's Narcotics Unit. Jupiter had an increased number of drug overdoses, and confidential informants revealed the drugs were being sold in Jupiter.

During June and July 2017, the undercover agents worked with Jupiter Police to perform surveillance and obtain intelligence about the drug dealers. Thanks to Agents Romagnoli and Valencia, the operation was a success. Search warrants were executed, leading to the felony arrest of multiple individuals and the seizure of more than 180 grams of heroin. Other illegal drugs were also recovered, as well as stolen firearms and nearly \$10,000 in cash.

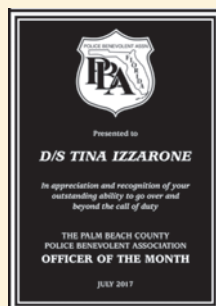
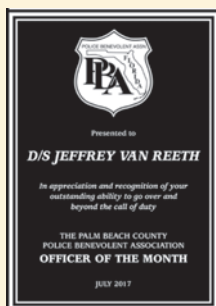
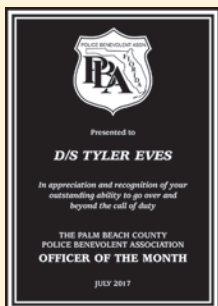


July 2017

On July 1, Deputies Van Reeth, Izzarone and Eves were dispatched to John Prince Park to investigate a 9-1-1 call from a female who stated that she was going to commit suicide by shooting herself and then driving her car into a lake. The officers learned that the woman was suffering from Bipolar Disorder and was off her medication.

The deputies located the subject's car and quickly approached on foot. They attempted to convince the woman to get out of the car, but she refused to unlock the doors and revved the engine. Deputy Sheriff Van Reeth used his baton to break the passenger-side window. As he did so, she accelerated the car and drove into the lake. The car filled with water and began to sink with the woman inside.

All three deputies ran into the lake to rescue the woman. Van Reeth reached the smashed out window and pulled the woman out of the car. The woman did not attempt to swim or stay afloat. The deputies ensured that the woman stayed above the water and made it to the shore safely and without injury. Fire Rescue arrived and the woman was taken to the hospital under the Baker Act. These three deputies put their own lives at risk to rescue a mentally ill woman. Their bravery and quick thinking saved this woman's life.



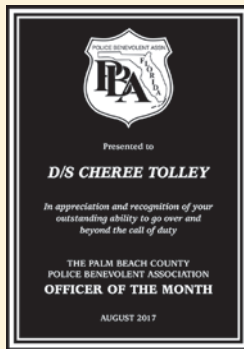
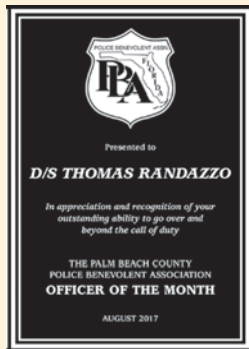
**PBSO Deputy Sheriffs Jeffrey Van Reeth,
Tina Izzarone and Tyler Eves**
Nominated by PBSO Deputy Sheriff Daniel Dudek

August 2017

Deputy Sheriffs Randazzo and Tolley were conducting an inmate transport. While in en route, the inmate began to have a seizure. Deputy Tolley quickly rendered aid and monitored the inmate's health while Deputy Randazzo drove safely and quickly to the MCSO.

Despite the heightened stress levels, both deputies maintained their composure and made all the required notifications to the jail and dispatch. When they arrived at the jail, medical staff and booking personnel were waiting to provide assistance to the inmate.

Thanks to their fast response, the inmate received prompt medical attention. The deputies acted professionally and attentively in ensuring that an inmate in their custody was properly cared for.



**Martin County Sheriffs Officer Deputy Sheriffs
Thomas Randazzo and Cheree Tolley**
Nominated by Sergeant Robert Ray

September 2017

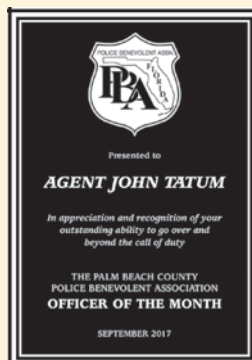
While on surveillance, PBSO tactical agents identified a subject with an outstanding felony arrest warrant for robbery with a firearm and aggravated battery with a firearm. The subject and another person got into a car, and the officers immediately blocked that car.

The driver rammed his car into Agent Tatum's patrol car. A pursuit ensued which ended with the subject's car being launched into a catchment pond. Both subjects continued to flee from apprehension by swimming away from deputies.

During their attempts to flee, the subjects began to struggle in the water which was approximately 12-15 feet deep. Agent Tatum—who is a certified Waterborne/Maritime Tactical Operator—made contact with the driver who was struggling and asking for help.

Even though the driver had rammed into his car minutes earlier, Agent Tatum recognized the need to transition to rescue mode and was able to bring the driver safely back to shore. Agent Tatum went back out into the pond and tried to locate the other subject, who was no longer visible. He treaded water and submerged himself numerous times in an effort to locate the subject, but to no avail. Fire Rescue divers ultimately found the subject, who had apparently drowned.

Agent Tatum used his experience and dedication to save the life of someone who, moments earlier had tried to cause him harm.



PBSO Agent John Tatum
Nominated by Lieutenant Dan Glisson

On the hook for Second Annual Blue Lines Fishing Tournament

Sometimes there's no better way to recover from a tragedy than by getting together with the community. In Lake Park, that means grabbing some fishing poles and a few charter boats and casting a line for a good cause. On Oct. 21, law enforcement, local businesses, family and friends will do just that as they participate in the Second Annual Officer Sean J. Alex Blue Lines Fishing Tournament.

"There are certain things you can't control, and Mother Nature is one of them," event coordinator Amy Alex acknowledged, referring to Hurricane Irma, which destroyed many areas across Florida. "But I want to just keep raising money and awareness and just being able to help the school police officers' kids have some sort of financial assistance."

Last year, Alex recruited dozens of volunteers and sponsors to take part in the fishing tournament that was created to benefit the Officer Sean J. Alex Scholarship Fund to help aid the higher education of sons and daughters of law enforcement. Hosting a charitable event in her husband's name is Alex's way of keeping alive his memory as well as his commitment to helping kids as an officer with the School District of Palm Beach County Police.

"With Sean's name involved, it's another awareness factor," explained Alex. "He was taken from us due to cancer, but at the same time, it really makes you think to truly accept and make time for that family nature and the people you really care about. This is kind of another way of having that celebration by spending time together and having fun."

The Blue Lines Fishing Tournament will once again be held at the Lake Park Harbor Marina, where the community will celebrate

Second Annual Officer Sean Alex Blue Lines Fishing Tournament Schedule:

Fri. Oct. 20

6 p.m. Captains Meeting

Sat. Oct 21

7 a.m. Lines In!

1 p.m. Weigh In

3 p.m. Awards Luncheon

To register, visit www.bluelinesfishingtournament.net.



the legacy of Officer Sean Alex while participating in an event that will bring everyone together. It's a much-needed excuse to return to normalcy in Palm Beach County, while gaining lasting memories and even a few cash prizes at sea.

"It's the point of people getting together," Alex stressed. "It's a family event and a celebration of legacy, as well as an opportunity to raise money for a really good cause." ♥

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In Memoriam

Swan Song

Scott Thomas cadenced a career defined by inspiration



K9 Deputy Scott Thomas
Palm Beach County
Sheriff's Office
EOW: July 17, 2017

Some he made sing. Others he made laugh. Everyone he made safe.

Scott Robert Thomas, who passed away on July 17, joined the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office when he was 20 years old. In his 34-year career, he was a sheriff deputy, road patrol deputy, field training officer and detective, and he retired as a K9 deputy — a position he held for 14 years alongside partners Dante and Dusty. Thomas, who was described by a coworker on his obituary website as being “easy to smile, slow to burn and without a doubt, a damn good cop,” retired on Feb. 28.

Thomas cherished being “the Sheepdog,” but his off-duty world revolved around music. Born on Dec. 14, 1962, in New York, Thomas played violin throughout high school and college, and sang in the choir. As a young adult, he found his musical center sitting in front of the piano, where he wrote many praise and worship songs, culminating in a 2009 recorded album. Thomas also brought his music to life, serving as a music pastor for many years, as well as playing in praise bands and singing. In his retirement, Thomas was looking forward to stepping back into ministry full-time.

On top of being musical, Thomas was also known for his quick-witted yet corny and punny “dad jokes” that made his three sons — along with anyone in his comedic crosshairs in the department or in church — groan lovingly.

Along with football season, traveling made Thomas happy. Weather permitting, he could be seen driving around in his beloved El Camino or enjoying a “BC” (beach cruise) and coffee with Janelle, his wife of 23 years. The two were looking forward to retirement in the Tennessee mountains. ♥

“Thanks for the laughs, Larry”

Fond words for PBSO's Larry Wolf



Lawrence Wolf
Palm Beach County
Sheriff's Office
EOW: June 5, 2017

After the passing of retired Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officer Lawrence Wolf, PBSO Chief Deputy Mike Gauger left the following on the 17-year veteran's obituary wall:

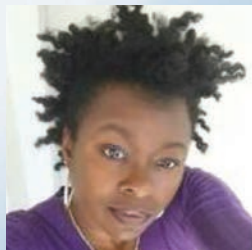
Larry Wolf of Boca Raton was legendary in the Community Services Division of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. In his mid-80s, it was not unusual for Larry to work 10- to-12-hour days, never failing to attend meetings with our volunteer units, comprised of 2,000 members.

His smile (and) his “corny” jokes always brought smiles to the many retirees who dedicated a large portion of their time to improving the quality of life for their communities. He loved giving gifts — many purchased by himself — to all he met.

A very successful businessman, he brought his business acumen and his customer service expertise to the Sheriff's Office and shared that and his enthusiasm with all who served with him. Larry was a dear friend and I will miss him deeply. ♥

Farewell, Carla

PBSO loses Corrections Officer Carla Washington



Deputy
Carla Washington
Palm Beach County
Sheriff's Office
EOW: June 30, 2017

Born on Sept. 28, 1971, in West Palm Beach, Carla Washington spent her elementary and high school years in Martin County, graduating from the latter in 1990. Following her studies at Indian River State College, Washington returned to Martin County to become a corrections officer at the Martin Correctional Institute, before transitioning to a Corrections Deputy at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Washington passed away on June 30 at the age of 45, at Hay Madeira Treasure Coast Hospice House in Stuart. She leaves behind a host of family members, coworkers and friends who will dearly miss her meek and quiet spirit and her love for hearts and the color purple.

A service was held for her on July 7 at the Port Salerno Church of God, and Washington was interred the next day at the Florida Memorial Cemetery in Hobe Sound. ♥

Pulse officer with PTSD highlights failings of Florida law



**GEOFFREY
BICHLER**

On June 12, 2016, Officer Gerry Realin, a 13-year veteran of the Orlando Police Department (OPD), was called to respond to the Pulse nightclub in the aftermath of the worst terrorist shooting incident in the history of the nation.

Officer Realin was on vacation with his family when the call came, but he quickly prepared himself and reported to the scene, where 49 people were either dead or dying and 53 more had been seriously injured. As he left his family and drove to the nightclub, Officer Realin was not warned about or prepared for the incomprehensible carnage he would face. The Pulse nightclub massacre would alter his life forever.

Officer Realin reported to the Pulse shooting as a part of the seven-member OPD hazmat team. The group was tasked with the responsibility of entering the nightclub in to assist in gathering evidence and removing bodies. Due to the terrorist connections and motivation for the massacre, the hazmat team could not begin their work for nearly 14 hours after the shooter was killed by OPD officers. In that time, without air conditioning or electricity, the macabre scene waiting inside the club became horrible beyond imagining: bodies blown apart at close range; faces disfigured, grotesque, and unrecognizable; sticky congealed blood several inches thick in some places; and an overwhelming stench from bodies already in a state of decomposition inside a hot, confined space. For nearly four hours, the small hazmat team labored in this horrific scene without relief, as emergency lights blinked on and off and victims' cell phones continued to ring, casting an eerie glow. Each unanswered call provided a disturbing reminder of the frantic people left behind.

Officer Realin returned to his family on June 13 at 1:36 a.m. dazed, overheated, exhausted and in an obvious state of shock. His wife, Jessica, recognized immediately that something was wrong. The man who returned home was not the husband she once knew. Officer Realin tried to return to work, desperately seeking a semblance of normalcy. Plagued with nightmares and the inability to sleep, Officer Realin became irritable, angry and depressed. Shortly thereafter, he began to suffer from severe anxiety and panic attacks related to flashbacks of the Pulse shooting, and a psychiatrist diagnosed him with acute post-traumatic stress disorder.

His wife Jessica assisted Officer Realin with his treatment and began inquiries to the City of Orlando and the Orlando Police Department (OPD) about his medical care and lost wages. The agency responded by advising that psychiatric injuries of this kind were not covered by workers' compensation law and that the family would have to seek care on their own and utilize sick time for the disability resulting from the condition. Subsequently, the Realins contacted our firm, and we confirmed that existing workers' compensation laws do not adequately protect first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Since then, Jessica has been on a crusade to change Florida law.

Florida workers' compensation law specifically excludes coverage for any psychiatric injury where there is not an accompanying physical injury. Florida Statutes Section 112.1815 provides a limited exception for first responders, but only to the extent that it may allow for medical care if the right claim is processed and acknowledged by the employer. There is no provision for lost wage

SEE BICHLER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

Ride smart, Florida

Why you should have motorcycle accident prevention



**RICHARD K.
SLINKMAN,
ESQ.**



**RYAN J.
WYNNE,
ESQ.**

We are constantly looking to help people who have been victims in all types of accidents, including motorcycle accidents. We believe in helping accident victims get all that they deserve financially for their pain and suffering. At the same time, we strongly believe in helping to promote motorcycle safety here in Jupiter and Palm Beach Gardens, as well as throughout the state of Florida.

We know that the statistics are grim. Motorcycle accident injuries have more than doubled and motorcycle accident deaths have more than tripled in the past 20 years, according to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

With that in mind, here is information about a very helpful website created by the FDOT called "Ride Smart Florida," which can be found at www.ridesmartflorida.com:

Ride Smart was created nearly 20 years ago as "the place to go for information on rider education and training, rider conspicuity, motorist awareness, personal protective equipment, operator

licensing and the deadly consequences associated with rider impairment and speeding."

In addition, this FDOT-sponsored website "provides help and support to local communities and motorcycle clubs with access to public service announcements, motorcycle-related statistics, rider education information and links to other websites related to motorcycle safety." The FDOT's Motorcycle Safety Program, along with its program partners, developed the site to make it easier for anyone interested in promoting motorcycle safety to find the information and resources they need quickly and easily.

We are impressed that the FDOT has continued to allocate resources to this project. Ride Smart Florida is easy to use, contains useful and up-to-date information and provides links to a few other pertinent websites pertaining to motorcycle safety. We recommend this site to everyone who drives in Florida – motorcycle safety should be very important to us all, as we all share the roads of Florida together.

If you, or anyone you know, has been injured or killed in a motorcycle accident, our Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter Injury attorneys are here to help. If you're a motorcycle enthusiast liv-

SEE SLINKMAN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

benefits where a PTSD claim is not accompanied by a physical injury. Consequently, even the most horrible and obvious case of work-related PTSD will never obligate the employer to provide wages and job protection while an officer is seeking needed medical care during recovery and beyond.

It has been determined that Officer Realin will never return to law enforcement work due to permanent restrictions placed on him by his treating psychiatrists. The City Pension Board recently granted a line of duty disability retirement for Officer Realin, but this only replaces a portion of his lost wages. Florida law must be changed to fully recognize PTSD as a work-related condition for first responders who become disabled as a result of traumatic events in the workplace. The Pulse tragedy and the Realin case provide the most compelling possible example of why the change is needed.

Senator Victor Torres, Jr. of Florida's 15th District has sponsored legislation that would fix the existing problem in the law and provide full PTSD protection for first responders. Last year, his bill failed to get out of committee, but there is hope this year that his efforts, combined with others in the House and Senate, will result in needed legislative change. Jessica Realin will be joined in this fight by other wives and widows who have seen firsthand what PTSD can do to a first responder and his or her family.

As we continue our work with the Realin family, our firm will assist any first responder suffering from PTSD who has questions about rights under Florida law. All consultations are confidential and free of charge. ♥

Geoffrey Bichler is the founder and managing partner of Bichler, Oliver, Longo & Fox, PLLC. Please call us toll-free at 866-245-8977 and visit our website at www.bichlerlaw.com.

ing in the Palm Beaches, it's not a matter of if you'll be involved in an accident, but more likely when you will be in an accident. Knowing the right – and wrong – things to do at the scene, and right after, can be critical to ensuring your immediate legal and financial protection, as well as your physical and emotional well-being down the road.

If you do have an accident, you will need an experienced motorcycle accident attorney to give you the best legal advice available. And you will also need a law firm that cares about you and your situation as a person, not just a number.

If a person you care about gets hurt or killed in a motorcycle accident, or you simply have a question about a potential personal injury situation that you have not yet had answered, please call us. We offer a free initial consultation. We understand that motorcycle accidents happen every day, even with knowledgeable motorcycle accident prevention information available. You should have protections or means to cover hospital and other medical expenses, pain and suffering and more if the situation warrants it.

If you want to learn more about how to go about hiring the right attorneys for you in a situation where someone you love has been in an accident, then go to www.palmbeachgardensmotorcycleaccident.com/palm-beach-gardens-motorcycle-injury-attorneys.html. ♥

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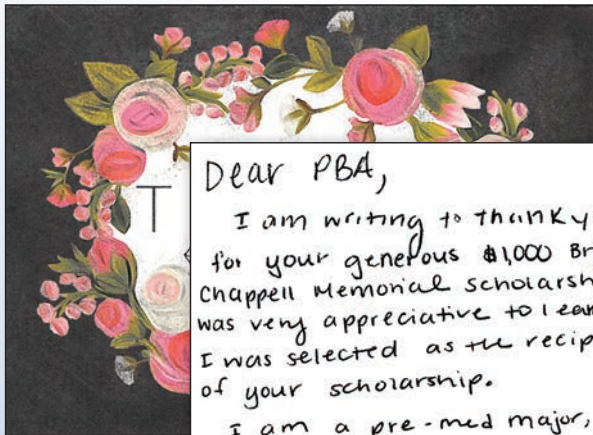
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 County Codes
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THANK-YOU NOTES TO THE PBA

PBA Scholarships



Dear PBA,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$1,000 Brian Chappell Memorial scholarship. I was very appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a pre-med major, and I plan to pursue a career in neonatology after graduating from the University of Florida.

By awarding me the Brian Chappell Memorial scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which will allow me to focus on my studies.

Sincerely,

Abigail Kalil

Thank you PBA scholarship committee for your continued support of my academic career over the years. The money you have given me through this scholarship has helped me attain an AA Degree, and will help me in my pursuit of getting a Bachelor's Degree. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Tared Schooley

To whom it may concern:

It was an honor to be selected as a 2017 PBA Scholarship recipient. Thank you for your generosity in helping me to further my education.

Sincerely,

Allyson Pau

July 14, 2017

Mr. John Kazanjian
President
Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association
2100 N. Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Mr. Kazanjian:

I just wanted to take a moment to once again thank you and the staff at the PBA for the generous scholarship I was recently awarded.

This scholarship will help me continue to pursue my education at The University of Tampa.

I am very fortunate to be one of many students that the PBA continues to help achieve their educational and professional goals.

Thank you again...

Sincerely,

Connor Naus
Connor Naus

21 July 2017

Police Benevolent Association
2100 N. Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Police Benevolent Association,

I would like to extend to you my deepest gratitude and appreciation for being awarded your scholarship. Your generosity is inspirational and has allowed me to be one step closer to achieving my goal of impacting generations to come. It is an honor to have been selected to receive such a generous scholarship on behalf of one of our nation's finest organizations supporting our police officers. This scholarship will be utilized for books and laboratory fees for the upcoming semesters; having this financial support at my disposal eases my financial burden greatly. I am looking forward to beginning my fall and spring semesters, and I intend on making the Dean's List yet again. This fall, I will be a first-year biochemistry major and intend on attending medical school four years thereafter. I hope to one day be able to help students steadfast in their pursuit for higher education just as you have helped me. On behalf of my family and I, thank you.

Sincerely,

Justin Nieves
Justin Nieves

Thank You

I would like to say how grateful I am for the PBA scholarship. It is good to know that the PBA supports aspiring college students. School supplies can be costly, but the scholarship has always helped with that concern.

Sincerely,
Justin Schaefer

thank you thank you Thank you th

Dear PBA Scholarship Committee,
I want to thank you for the money I received for the scholarship. The money will go to great use as I finish up my Bachelor's degree. I also want to
very, very much!
Thank you for allowing me to participate the last couple of years. The money has really helped me out throughout my College years.

Thanks again!
Lauren Bruckner

Dear PBA,
Thank you for awarding me another scholarship this year. I am very grateful and your money will go to good use at UCF.

Thank you,
Rachel Neild

Dear PBA Scholarship committee,

On behalf of my family and I, I would like to express my immense appreciation for being a chosen recipient. The efforts of your contribution have impacted me so much and for that I am forever grateful. Your continuous contribution to so many members children is commendable. May God bless all of you for assisting the community and many families. Thank you for your impactful donation, I will be forever grateful.

Sincerely, @
Shianne Duplantier

Thank you so much for awarding me with this scholarship. I am truly excited to put this money towards my college education at UCF.


Capt. Thomas Neild IV

Dear Palm Beach County PBA,

I would like to thank you for awarding me a scholarship this year. With this scholarship, it will make it easier for my family to pay for housing for me while I am attending a school so far away from home. Again, I thank you guys for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Tristen Wise

PBA Scholarships



Angela Twomey <angela@pbcdba.org>

Thank you!
1 message

Alexis Feder [REDACTED] Sun, Jul 9, 2017 at 2:07 PM
To: Angela Twomey <angela@pbcdba.org>

Thank you so much for selecting me to be the recipient of the Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship for 2017. I deeply appreciate your organization's support.

Presently, I am a Mechanical Engineering major at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, I plan to pursue a career as a mechanical engineer in one of the large airline companies, ideally working on engine systems. Thanks to you I am now closer to my goal.

Thanks again for your organization's support and generosity!

Sincerely,
Alexis Feder

Thank you thank you Thank you th
you Thank you thank you thank vo
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thank
you


Dear Palm Beach County PBA,

very, very much!

I really appreciate your support
of my college career. The funds
will help out tremendously.

Sincerely, Zachary Bruckner

Thank-You Notes from across the U.S.



CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

August 21, 2017

John Kazanjian
Palm Beach County PBA, Inc.
2100 N Florida Mango RD
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear President Kazanjian:


Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) truly appreciates your contribution of \$1,000 in support of our Capital Campaign. We are so honored that you have chosen to leave your everlasting impact for law enforcement survivors through this opportunity.

Since 1984, C.O.P.S. has provided healing, love and life renewed for America's surviving law enforcement families. Each donation you make is a commitment to helping families and co-workers of fallen officers rebuild their shattered lives. Your donation helps make it possible for C.O.P.S. to not only meet the current demand for services but also allows for future growth.

Construction is well underway for the building addition and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017. In order to keep the consistency of the tiles, there will not be any periods between EOW, and all tiles will be engraved in capital letters. The wording you have chosen for your donated tile will read:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Line 1: PALM BEACH COUNTY | Line 4: PRESIDENT |
| Line 2: PBA | Line 5: JOHN KAZANJIAN |
| Line 3: ~~~~ | Line 6: |

Again, on behalf of over 42,000 surviving family members and co-workers affected by line of duty deaths nationwide, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Bernhard
Executive Director

Dallas Police Association's



Assist the Officer
FOUNDATION

Frederick E. Frazier
Chairman

Police Benevolent Association Charity Fund
2100 N. Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Dallas Police Association's Assist the Office Foundation, we want to thank you for your generous donation of \$2000 on behalf of the Dallas Police and Dallas Area Rapid Transit Officers killed and injured on July 7, 2016. The Assist the Officer Foundation provides financial assistance to officers who are facing loss of income due to a serious injury, life-threatening illness, or other catastrophic event and immediate assistance to the families of officers in the case of a death. In 2004, the Foundation launched a first of its kind, confidential counseling service exclusively for Dallas Police Officers.

In the days, weeks, and months following the tragic events of last year, the Dallas Police Association and the Assist the Officer Foundation were overwhelmed by the vast support from members of our community and from all over the world. Our thank you to you might be belated, but please know that your support and donation meant a great deal to the Assist the Officer Foundation, which is run by active duty police officers, and did much to help officers and their families affected by the events of that day.

Thank you for your support and donation.

Gratefully,

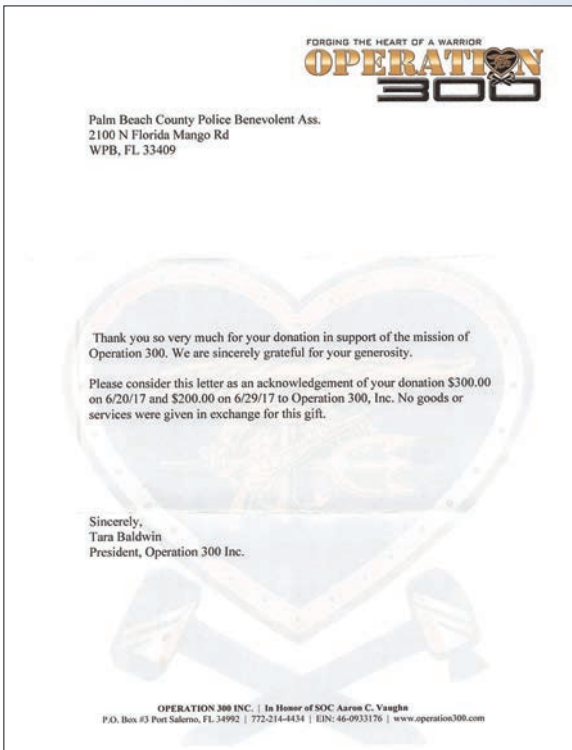
Frederick Frazier
Chairman
Assist the Officer Foundation

FEF:jb

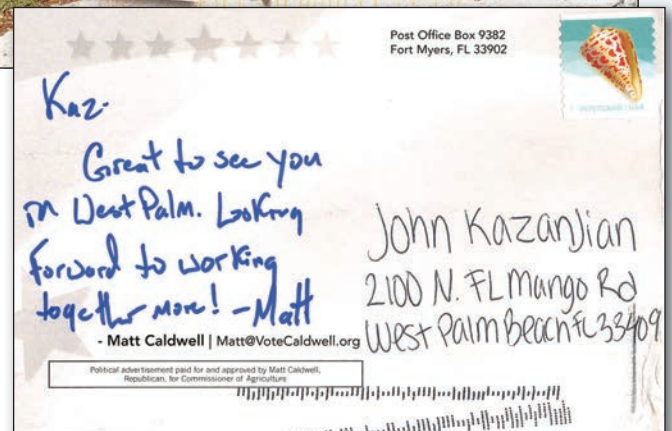
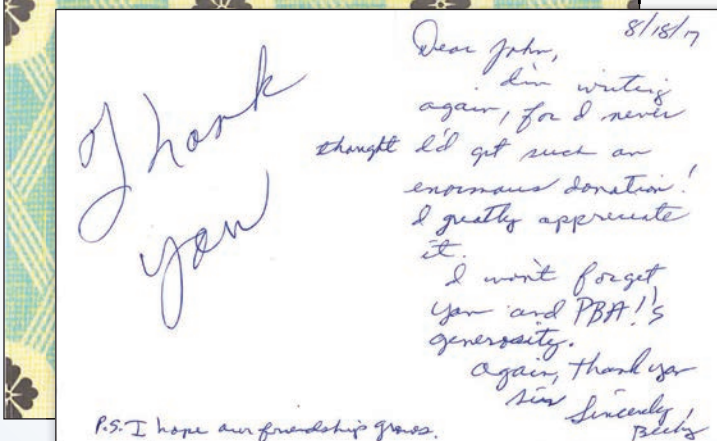
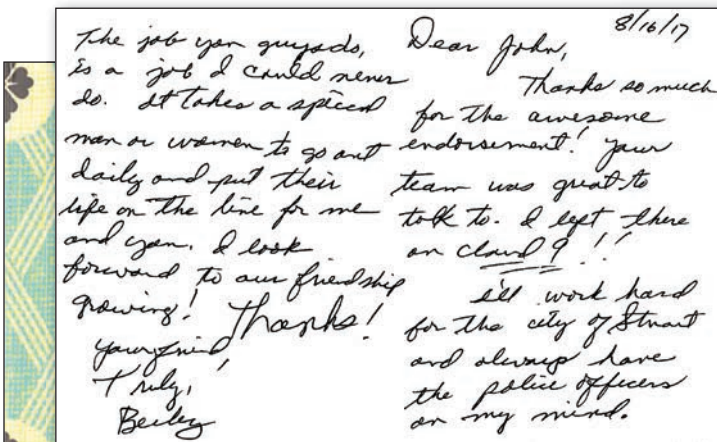
The DPAs Assist the Officer Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.
Federal EIN #75-2823567

1412 Griffin Street East - Dallas, Texas 75216 - (214) 747-6839 - (214) 747-8194 Fax
www.atodallas.org

Thank-You Note from Palm Beach



Thank-You Notes from Elected Officials



Thank-You Notes to the Johnny Bench Scholarship Fund



THE GREATER
CINCINNATI
FOUNDATION

July 25, 2017

Police Benevolent Association Charity Fund, Inc.
2100 N. Florida Mango Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift of \$2,000.00 to the Johnny Bench Scholarship Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF). Your contribution, received on July 14, 2017, reflects your generous community spirit.

At GCF, we believe in the power of philanthropy to change the lives of people and communities. Simply put, we help people like you make an impact. We are grateful to you for sharing your good fortune to enrich and enhance the community.

GCF is among the largest, most effective community foundations in the United States. Together with donors like you, we have awarded more than \$1 billion in grants since 1963 – a remarkable legacy of investment in the people and organizations that improve quality of life, now and for generations to come. On behalf of GCF's Governing Board and staff, thank you for being a part of those efforts.

With gratitude,




Ellen Katz
President/CEO

cc: Mr. Johnny Bench

EK:ee

PS: Under IRS requirements, we inform you that the entire amount of your gift represents a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. We have provided no goods or services to you in exchange for your gift. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has exclusive legal control over the assets contributed.

200 West Fourth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2775
tel: 513-241-2880
fax: 513-622-4886
www.gcf.org



CSF
Cincinnati
Scholarship
Foundation

Dream • Achieve • Succeed
602 Main Street, Suite 1000 • Cincinnati, OH 45202 • (513)345-8701 fax: (513)345-8705
Ned Hertzberg, President

July 13, 2017


Police Benevolent Association Charity Fund, Inc.
2100 N. Florida Mango Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

To Whom It May Concern;

I would like to thank you for your recent donation and/or tax-deductible contribution to the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation (CSF) in the amount of \$2,000.00, for the Johnny Bench Scholarship Fund. Please be advised that if you received any goods or services as a result of this contribution, the value of those goods and/or services must be deducted from the amount of this contribution.

The CSF has been providing financial assistance to needy students for over 95 years. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue to assist students coming from the Greater Cincinnati area to pursue their dream of a college education.

Respectfully,



Ned Hertzberg, President
Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation

cincinnati-scholarship-foundation.org



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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.

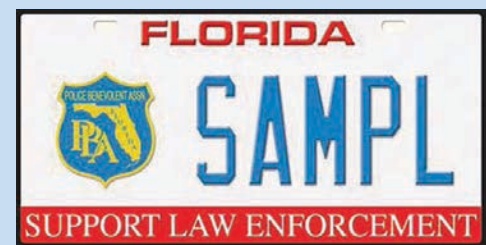
(1) From and after May 9, 1949, any person who shall wear or display a badge, button, insignia or other emblem, or shall use the name of or claim to be a member of any benevolent, fraternal, social, humane or charitable organization, which organization is entitled to the exclusive use of such name and 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

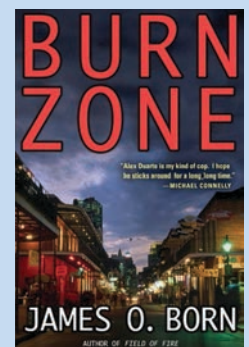


Get your PBA "Support Law Enforcement" Tag

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

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
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| 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

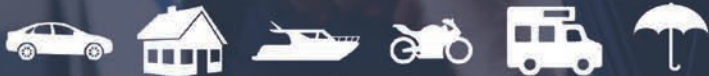
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