

The voice of local law enforcement



Florida COPS

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA


APRIL/MAY 2018

Hall of Famer

**Ernie George honored for a lifetime
of trailblazing service**



For the price of a cup of coffee a week, don't leave yourself unprotected.



WE PAY **CASH**
DIRECTLY TO
YOU

That's right, we pay **cash** directly to you when you need it the **most!**

Whether you are sick or injured and can't work, or you want additional protection for your loved ones in case of serious illness or death, **Patty Nolda**, one of Combined Insurance's helpful agents, will work closely with you to help get you the right coverage at the right price.



**Patty
Nolda**

Your Local Combined
Insurance Agent

I have a plan for **you.**

847-476-5998

SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE Health | Accident | Disability | Life

Florida PBA Home Loan Program



Ways to save

No application fee
No commitment fee
No processing fee
No underwriting fee
No document prep fee

Available for active and retired members

Wide array of products with competitive rates

Purchase and refinance loans • Fixed- and adjustable-rates
Conventional, VA and FHA loans • Jumbo and USDA mortgages
Second home and investment properties • Out-of-state loans

RICH TSCHERNIA

Senior Vice President, National Affinity Lending • NMLS# 46504

800-462-8178

Rich.Tschernia@freedommortgage.com

freedommortgage.com/union@freedommortgage.com

To be eligible for this program please mention PROMO CODE: 8024



WE'RE THE PROUD PROVIDER OF MORTGAGES FOR OVER 85 AFFINITY GROUPS NATIONALLY.

10508 SW 88th Street, Suite A, Miami, FL 33176 • Branch NMLS# 1405941

Information is subject to change without notice. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend. Freedom Mortgage is not affiliated with the U.S. government, HUD, FHA, VA, or any other government agencies. Freedom Mortgage Corporation, 907 Pleasant Valley Avenue, Suite 3, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, (800) 220-3333. Lender NMLS# 2767. Florida License #MLD436 and #MLD185. For additional information about Freedom Mortgage Corporation, please visit nmlsconsumeraccess.org. Equal Housing Opportunity

© 2018 Freedom Mortgage Corporation. All rights reserved.

RT556(1217)



COVER STORY



14

Hall Star

Ernie George has spent the past 40-plus years creating trailblazing legislation to improve wages, fighting for law enforcement officers' rights and building the Palm Beach County PBA and the Florida State PBA into unions that provide unprecedented benefits and protection for members. He has touched the life of just about every law enforcement officer in the state and then some, and his achievements have led Ernie to be inducted into the Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame.

Reinstatement statement

The PBC PBA legal team made the case for Riviera Beach Sergeant Garry Wilson to be reinstated after a wrongful termination. And after more than two years, Wilson is back on the job.....**Page 18**

Way above par for the course

The 15th annual Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing emphasized why members keep coming back to remember their angel and raise money to fund PBA scholarships.....**Page 21**

New series: *Women* in Law Enforcement

Revving up

Chantale Jones had to endure some heavy lifting to become the first female motor officer for the Florida Highway Patrol.....**Page 26**

Dog Day

The Boynton Beach Police Department once again hosted the South Florida K9 competition that showed the thousands who attended what K9 officers and their partners go through to serve their communities.....**Page 28**

Also in this issue

President's Message	Page 5
Message from the Executive Board	Page 7
Ten Thirty-Three	Page 8
Legislative Report.....	Page 10
Welcome new members.....	Page 11
Honoring retired members.....	Page 12
Legislative Report.....	Page 13

In Memoriam.....	Page 32
Meet the Staff	Page 33
Meet The Chief	Page 34
Members Section	Page 36
Finance.....	Page 41
Thank-you notes to the PBA.....	Page 43
Member Benefits	Page 44

Main Number: 561-757-0464
Advertising: 201-410-1721
Editorial: 201-370-4082
Distribution: 561-757-0464

Subscriptions: subs@floridacopsmagazine.com
Email: cops@floridacopsmagazine.com
Website: www.floridacopsmagazine.com

MITCHELL KRUGEL
Publisher/Editor
mitch@floridacopsmagazine.com

DAN RAPPOPORT
Sales Director
dan@floridacopsmagazine.com

GINA CROTCHFELT
Art Director
gina@floridacopsmagazine.com

AMBER RAMUNDO
Staff Writer
amber@floridacopsmagazine.com

KIMBERLY FLYNN
Copy Editor

ALYSON PARKER
Account Executive
alyson@floridacopsmagazine.com

ANGELA TWOMEY
PBA Editor
angela@pbcpcbpa.org

DEANNA HUNTER
Director of Operations
dee@floridacopsmagazine.com

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

Florida COPS, known also as Florida Cops Magazine Palm Beach County Edition, is a bi-monthly publication dedicated to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals operating in Palm Beach County. ©2018 KRURAPP COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Reproduction of any part of this magazine without express written permission is prohibited. Subscription rate: \$48 per year. Send address subscription inquiries to subs@FloridaCopsMagazine.com. Reader comments and editorial submissions are welcome, but neither the Publisher (Krurapp Communications, Inc.) nor the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association (PBCPBA) assume any responsibility for the return of unsolicited material. The acceptance of advertisements by Florida COPS does not constitute an endorsement of the product or services advertised. Neither the Publisher, the PBCPBA, or any of their officers and/or employees, make any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness, for a particular purpose, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, service provider or process included in any advertisement or editorial content. The views and opinions of any advertiser or third-party content contributor do not necessarily state or reflect those of either the Publisher or the PBCPBA, and may not be used for advertising or endorsement purposes. Florida COPS, its Publishers and/or the PBCPBA assume no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements.



CODE THREE

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks, Ernie



JOHN
KAZANJIAN

When I'm asked about his greatest attribute – the quality that exemplifies why Ernie George is being inducted in the Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame class of 2018 – it's his passion. He has that passion for the little guy. Sometimes, the passion gets intense. But always in a good way.

As Ernie becomes the first Palm Beach County PBA member to be inducted, we have so much to thank him for. On behalf of the Palm Beach County PBA, the Florida State PBA, all the other state labor organizations and every active and retired law enforcement officer in the state, I want to express our unconditional gratitude to Ernie for the way he has touched every one of our lives.

Personally, I have learned so much from that man. Not just with PBA issues and labor issues. But with life in general. Thank you, Ernie, for being so wise.

I have been involved in the PBA probably 25 years now, starting as a PBSO rep. That's as far as I thought I would go. I planned to concentrate on my career, become a lieutenant, then a captain, and that was in my future. Then our tragedy happened. The PBA was there for me. The PBA helped me through it, helped my wife and family through it and helped set up the charity for Kaitlin. Ernie was very instrumental in all of that. Thank you, Ernie, for being there for me.

Looking back, when Ernie said he was looking to retire from West Palm Beach and step down as president, he created the position of executive vice president and asked me to run. If elected to that position, I would get to do two years of training with Ernie. I shared an office with him in the old building, and we would go over drafting bills, political stuff, issues with candidates and so much that went into running the PBA. I learned so much. He brought me to another level. The way Ernie explained things was great. Thank you, Ernie, for being such a great teacher and mentor to all of us.

So many members have seen the way Ernie has been there to protect the individuals when somebody gets terminated or disciplined. If they deserve it, he knows that and it's, "Let's move on." But if he sees somebody getting railroaded simply because a supervisor doesn't like that individual, Ernie will go after the supervisor. That is the core of Ernie: the passion is there to help the little guy. Thank you, Ernie, for always fighting for all of us little guys.

I've been fortunate to sit with Ernie in many of those meetings, and I can tell you the guy is a wealth of knowledge. The information he has on labor and political issues is unfathomable. Elected officials and attorneys come to Ernie to ask his advice. That's something I hope to achieve one day. People always ask



Ernie, "What do you think of this?" And Ernie has the answers, or he knows where to find them. Thank you, Ernie, for having the answers.

What Ernie has brought to this organization – to every police organization – is immense. The bills that he worked on with David Murrell, Dick Brickman and John Rivera during the past 40 years still impact our future. They were very smart. They didn't reinvent the wheel. They got involved nationally, going to seminars and picked up little things from what union leaders were doing in Texas, California and other states. They created the DROP that has affected every member of FRS, not just law enforcement. The pay, the benefits, the rights we have; we can attribute that to Ernie's legacy. Thank you, Ernie, for all you have done for so many people.

Through his 30-year law enforcement career, Ernie helped so many people because that's what he wanted to do. A lot of his time was spent on the road, and he never hesitated. And he never wanted the rewards or accolades. So when he is inducted into the Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame on May 19, for Ernie it will be icing on the cake. And we all couldn't be prouder of you, Ernie. There's really only one thing more we can say:

Thank you, Ernie. ♥

Kaz

JOHN KAZANJIAN, PRESIDENT

PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Effective Jan. 1, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2018

John Kazanjian, President

**Ernest W. George,
Executive Director**

Rick McAfee, Vice President

Lou Penque, Treasurer

Kevin Igo, Secretary

Greg Allen, Sergeant-At-Arms

Vinnie Gray, Labor Coordinator

**Pete Tartaglione,
Corrections Coordinator**

Larry Fagan, Legal Counsel

Rick King, Legal Counsel

Angela Barbosa, Legal Counsel

Brennan Keeler, Legal Counsel

PBA OFFICE STAFF

Angela, Office Manager

Courtney, Legal Assistant

Elizabeth, Membership Secretary

Joanne, Office Assistant

Kathy, Office Assistant

Shannon, Office Assistant

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

Angela@pbcpsba.org
to update your information.



**Visit our
website at
www.pbcpsba.org**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOYNTON BEACH

Henry Diehl
Daniel Dugger
Doug Gilbert, Appt.
Vincent Mastro, Appt.
Rayner De Los Rios, Appt. Alt.
Brian McDevitt, Appt. Alt.

DELRAY BEACH

Gary Ferreri
Edward McCabe
Brian Cambell
Vinnie Gray
Meer Deen, Alt.
Paul Weber, Alt.
Scott Privitera, Appt.

FAU

Miguel Cardona
Bill Hernandez, Alt.

HIGHLAND BEACH

Rick Wentz
Gary Lee, Alt.

JUNO BEACH

Michael Graham

JUPITER

Jason Alexandre
Sal Mattino
Paul Gundlach, Alt.
Jonathan Gentile, Appt.
Michael Lillendorf, Appt.

JUPITER ISLAND

Nick Dicicco, Appt.
Brian Berlingo, Appt.

LAKE CLARKE SHORES

William Howell

LANTANA

Troy Schaaf
Janice Brinkman, Alt. Appt.
Shawn Johnson, Appt.

MANALAPAN

Palm Beach County PBA

MCSO - LAW ENFORCEMENT

Karl Nelson
Brian Tison
Wayne Trocan
Jon Hanton
Andrew Porcelli
William Weiss, Alt.
James Holloran, Alt.
Jake Sirmans, Appt.
Kenneth Youndblood, Appt.

MCSO - CORRECTIONS

Samuel Haidy
Dean Mihalko
Tommy Randazzo
Lawrence Lutrin, Alt.
Rui Dutra, Alt.
Michael Trimble, Appt.
Edward Burke, Appt.

MARTIN COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

Melissa "Joy" Warren

NORTH PALM BEACH

Joe Yungk, Appt.

OCEAN RIDGE

Mario Galluscio

SCHOOL POLICE (PALM BEACH COUNTY)

Kevin O'Sullivan
Ronnie Williams
Alex Lopez
Brian Qualters, Appt.

PBSO - LAW ENFORCEMENT

Paul "Roy" Vrchota
Daniel Glisson
Mike Kletzky
John McGuire
Chris Caris
Carlos Ugalde, Alt.
Butch Altonen, Alt., Appt.
Dan Burrows, Appt.
Bill Gale, Appt.
Grant Henderson, Appt.
John Kazanjian, II, Appt.
Alex Nunes, Appt.
Brandon West, Appt.
Jay Gallagher, Appt.
Jason Johnson, Appt.
Billy Gray, Appt.
Josh Leheny, Appt.
Matt DeJoy, Appt.
John Pedone, Appt.
Brandon Aultman, Appt.
Cory Gray, Appt.
David Schneider, Appt.
Ruben Cruz, Appt.

PBSO - CORRECTIONS

Vivian Lawrence
Will Pinto
Brian Ronk
Brenda Smith
Thomas Jordan
Daniel Russell, Appt. Alt.

PBSO - CIVILIANS

John Costello

Kim Wilson
Mark Gish
Kristen Kazanjian
Tequesta McKinney-James
Kara Bannon, Alt.
Omar Felix, Alt.
Eddie Aviles, Appt.
Kayai Graham, Appt.

PALM BEACH GARDENS

Greg Allen
Randy Buntin
Dorian Hawkins
Randall Anderson
Brian Nauss, Appt.
Michael Means, Appt.

PALM BEACH SHORES

Blasé Pfefferkorn
Darrell Russian, Alt., Appt.

PALM SPRINGS

Darrell Diez
Sean Grant, Alt.
Lou Collura, Appt.

RIVIERA BEACH

Nir Mordechay
Cornelius McGriff
Jeremy Summers
Michael Brown, Alt. Appt.

SOUTH PALM BEACH

Jason LaForte, Alt.

STUART

David Duran, Appt.

TEQUESTA

Raymond Korkowski
Aaron Johnson, Alt. Appt.

WEST PALM BEACH

Dennis Hardiman
Chuck Branch
Jay Donde
John Rebholz
Michael Ferrera
Eric Evrley, Alt.
Joseph Herb (Lt.), Appt.



VEBA update



**LOU
PENQUE
TREASURER**

For those who were not aware, I became the administrator of our Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA) on Jan. 1. Here is an update on the current status of our West Palm Beach PBA VEBA fund:

The VEBA is an additional pension benefit that is paid by the city through your pre-tax pension contribution. When you retire and receive the benefit, it will be tax free.

Currently, the annual benefit is \$6,348. Assuming that you are in the 20-percent tax bracket, the tax-free benefit is equal to receiving \$7,871.52 annually. There is also a 2-percent COLA increase added to the benefit, as long as it performs at its 8-percent assumption rate. Assuming these factors, by 2028 the benefit will be \$6,982. Assuming the tax-free benefit for a 20-percent tax bracket, the benefit will be equal to receiving \$9,091 annually. I encourage any person to consult with an independent financial advisor to determine if this is a good investment for you and your spouse.

This benefit was created in 2005 mainly due to the dramatic increases we were seeing in medical premiums. This tax-free money is a fantastic addition to your pension and will help you

enjoy your retirement. There is also a survivor spouse benefit. Your spouse will receive 50 percent of the benefit after your death. We currently have two spouses receiving this benefit who are extremely appreciative that it is there for them.

When this benefit was created, it was done to benefit the majority of PBA members. We do understand that not everyone believes this is a benefit they will need, and some people would like to create some changes to benefit the individual. Unfortunately, that is not possible. This is why the membership voted to approve this benefit.

Currently, we have \$11.2 million in the VEBA fund, and we have 118 members receiving this benefit. We hold quarterly meetings at the PBA Hall that are open for members to attend.

Meeting notices are posted on Lotus Notes. Your chairperson is Dennis Hardiman. I encourage any members who are interested to attend and get informed. I'm always available to take your calls if you have any questions pertaining to this benefit. You can reach me at 561-889-4577.

Thank you, and be safe out there. ♥

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO MONETARY BENEFITS FOR HYPERTENSION AND/OR HEART DISEASE

**Bichler, Oliver, Longo & Fox, PLLC is the preeminent firm in the State of Florida
representing First Responders with Heart Bill claims.**



**BICHLER, OLIVER
LONGO & FOX, PLLC**

PROTECTING THOSE WHO PROTECT AND SERVE

866-245-8977 • WWW.BICHLERLAW.COM

OFFICES LOCATED IN JACKSONVILLE, ORLANDO, TAMPA, NORTH PALM BEACH AND MIAMI

The high cost of non-membership



ANGELA
BARBOSA

On Valentine's Day 2018, a gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Deputy Sheriff Scot Peterson was reportedly on duty and armed, but he allegedly failed to enter the building as 17 students and teachers were slaughtered. In the aftermath of the shooting, before a thorough investigation into his alleged inaction was even completed, Deputy Peterson resigned.

Florida is a "right-to-work" state, which sounds like it would empower workers, but the term is a misnomer. "Right-to-work" laws are a union-busting tactic implemented in pro-employer states. What many officers do not realize is that an assault on unions is an assault on the men and women of law enforcement who depend on unions to collectively bargain for better working conditions, pay and benefits. In "right-to-work" states, employers cannot require union membership as a condition of employment, even though the union has exclusive bargaining rights. This means that non-union employees can free-ride on the union's hard work and enjoy the benefits of higher wages and better benefits without having to pay even a penny in union dues.

Even though free riders receive the benefit of collective bargaining and "just cause" provisions, which guarantee some level of job security, they are missing out on an important benefit: legal representation.

Policing is a high-risk occupation. I once heard a speaker at a critical incidents conference say that police work can get ugly because "it's not folding sweaters at the Gap." That phrase really stuck with me. Police are not like average employees. These are employees who carry guns, deal with dangerous criminals and often have to go "hands-on" with members of the public. Police departments have hundreds of policies which they expect their employees to follow perfectly every single day, on-duty and off-duty, and even in the most high-stress situations. On any given day, there can be any number of interactions which could result in policy violations, civil liability or criminal prosecution. This is when it pays to be a union member. The dues that officers pay may pay them back tenfold.

The police union declined to represent Officer Peterson after the Parkland shooting on the basis that he was not a dues-paying member. During his 32 years of employment with the agency in Broward County, he enjoyed all the benefits of higher wages bargained for by the union without ever paying to be a union member. Before he resigned, the agency was preparing to open an internal affairs investigation, after which they would decide on discipline, which likely would have resulted in his termination. Without the union to represent him,

Peterson would have needed to hire his own counsel to represent him during the administrative investigation into his conduct and the aftermath of any discipline that followed — likely including trying to win back his job.

In South Florida, a lower-range rate for a lawyer is \$350 per hour. Hiring private counsel after having been placed on unpaid administrative leave for a serious policy violation or criminal charge is cost-prohibitive for most officers. With no income, it can be a true hardship to pay mounting legal bills. Being a dues-paying member is like having police officer insurance. The PBA regularly defends our members in administrative and disciplinary matters with the agencies. We fight for our members if they are suspended, demoted or terminated. We also defend our members in civil and criminal matters when the agency cuts ties and refuses to provide representation. We give our members the best lawyer that money can buy — in fact, Tiger Woods was represented in his DUI case by one of the lawyers who represents our members.

Peterson will undoubtedly face civil lawsuits from the families of deceased victims and from survivors of the Parkland shooting. The Constitution does not provide the right to a lawyer in civil matters. If the Broward County Sheriff's Office refuses to represent him on the basis that he acted outside of the agency's policies, Peterson will have to find a way to pay for a lawyer himself. He is risking his pension, his house and his good name. This would have been the time to have the union in his corner. Instead, he saved himself a couple of dollars per month on dues.

If the sheriff's office declines to give Peterson his retirement benefits, health insurance or any other payouts, he will be on his own in trying to file a grievance, pay for arbitration and pay for an attorney to represent him in the proceedings. Public safety employee labor law is a niche practice area, and Peterson would be hard-pressed to find a private attorney who could competently represent him at an affordable rate.

Paying dues provides protection and security; but like insurance, membership in the union does not provide retroactive coverage. Police officers wear bulletproof vests to protect them from physical injury; union membership protects them from loss of liberty, loss of livelihood or pecuniary loss. In a job with so much risk, in which any call can turn into a fatal shooting resulting in personal civil liability and/or criminal prosecution, it does not make sense not to be a member. Membership may "bulletproof" your wallet. ♥



(561) 273-8400
MazdaofPalmBeach.com

TREAT YOURSELF TO A MAZDA CRAFTED JUST FOR YOU.



MAZDA CX-5



MAZDA6



MAZDA CX-3



MAZDA3

PROUD SUPPORTER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Show
Your
Badge
and
SAVE!



UNBEATABLE
IN SALES & SERVICE!



HIGHER STANDARD OF PRE OWNED™

- ✓ 10year / 125,000 Mile Powertrain Warranty
- ✓ Master Certified Technicians
- ✓ 10year 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- ✓ 10year Towing Reimbursement
- ✓ 10year Rental Car Reimbursement
- ✓ 10year Trip Interruption Reimbursement
- ✓ No Charge Loaner Car
- ✓ No Charge Carfax Report
- ✓ \$100 Referrals
- ✓ No Appointment Express Lube



Mazda of Palm Beach
2677 Northlake Blvd. North Palm Beach FL, 33403

EXIT 77 (east) NORTHLAKE BLVD & ALT. A1A

Board of Directors Meeting Attendance - Thursday, March 22, 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Kazanjian.....X
 Ernest W. George.....X
 Rick McAfee.....X
 Lou PenqueX
 Kevin Igo.....X
 Greg Allen Excused
 Larry Fagan Excused
 Rick KingX
 Angela BarbosaX
 Brennan KeelerX

Boynton Beach

Henry Diehl..... Excused
 Daniel Dugger Excused
 Doug Gilbert, Appt.X
 Vincent Mastro, Appt. Excused
 Rayner De Los Rios, Appt. Alt. Excused
 Brian McDeavitt, Appt. Alt.X

Delray Beach

Gary Ferreri Excused
 Edward McCabe..... Excused
 Brian CambellX
 Vinnie GrayX
 Meer Deen, Alt.X
 Paul Weber, Alt. Excused
 Scott Privitera, Appt.....X

FAU

Miguel CardonaX
 Bill Hernandez, Alt. Excused

Highland Beach

Rick Wentz..... Unexcused
 Gary Lee, Alt. Unexcused

Juno Beach

Michael GrahamX

Jupiter

Jason Alexandre Unexcused
 Sal Mattino Unexcused
 Paul Gundlach, Alt.X
 Jonathan Gentile, Appt.....X
 Michael Lillendorf, Appt. Excused

Jupiter Island

Nick Diccico, Appt. Unexcused
 Brian Berlingo, Appt. Unexcused

Lake Clarke Shores

William Howell..... Excused

Lantana

Troy Schaaf.....X
 Janice Brinkman, Alt. Appt. Excused
 Shawn Johnson, Appt.X

MCSO - Law Enforcement

Karl Nelson.....X
 Brian Tison Excused
 Wayne Trocan.....X
 Jon Hanton Excused
 Andrew Porcelli.....X
 William Weiss, Alt.X
 James Holloran, Alt. Excused
 Jake Sirmans, Appt.X
 Kenneth Youngblood, Appt.X

MCSO - Corrections

Samuel HaidyX
 Dean MihalkoX
 Tommy RandazzoX
 Lawrence Lutrin, Alt. Excused
 Rui Dutra, Alt.X
 Michael Trimble, Appt.X
 Edward Burke, Appt.X

Martin County Tax Collector

Melissa "Joy" Warren.....X

North Palm Beach

Joseph Yungk, Appt.X

Ocean Ridge

Mario Galluscio..... Excused

School Police (Palm Beach County)

Kevin O'Sullivan Unexcused
 Ronnie Williams.....X
 Alex Lopez Excused
 Brian Qualters, Appt. Unexcused

PBSO - Law Enforcement

Paul "Roy" Vrchota..... Excused
 Daniel Glisson..... Excused
 Mike Kletzky.....X
 John McGuire Excused
 Chris CarisX
 Carlos Ugalde, Alt.X
 Butch Altonen, Alt. Appt.X
 Dan Burrows, Alt. Appt. Excused
 Bill Gale, Appt.X
 Grant Henderson, Appt. Unexcused
 John Kazanjian, II, Appt. Excused
 Alex Nunes, Appt. Unexcused
 Brandon West, Appt.X
 Jay Gallagher, Appt. Unexcused
 Jason Johnson, Appt. Excused
 Billy Gray, Appt. Unexcused
 Josh Leheny, Appt. Unexcused
 Matt DeJoy, Appt.X
 John Pedone, Appt. Unexcused
 Brandon Aultman, Appt.X
 Cory Gray, Appt.X
 David Schneider, Appt. Unexcused

PBSO - Corrections

Will Pinto.....X
 Brian Ronk..... Excused
 Brenda Smith Unexcused
 Thomas JordanX
 Daniel Russell, Appt.X

PBSO - Civilians

John CostelloX
 Kim WilsonX
 Mark GishX
 Kristen KazanjianX
 Tequesta McKinney-James ... Unexcused
 Kara Bannon, Alt. Unexcused
 Omar Felix, Alt. Unexcused
 Eddie Aviles, Appt. Excused
 Kayai Graham, Appt. Excused

Palm Beach Gardens

Greg Allen Excused
 Randy Buntin Unexcused
 Dorian Hawkins.....X
 Randall Anderson Unexcused
 Brian Nauss, Appt.X
 Michael Means, Appt.X

Palm Beach Shores

Blasé Pfefferkorn..... Excused
 Darrell Russian, Alt. Appt. Unexcused

Palm Springs

Darrell Diez Excused
 Sean Grant, Alt. Unexcused
 Louis Collura, Appt. Excused

Riviera Beach

Nir MordechayX
 Cornelius McGriff.....X
 Jeremy Summers..... Unexcused
 Michael Brown, Alt. Appt.X

South Palm Beach

Jason LaForte, Alt.....X

Stuart

David Duran, Appt.X

Tequesta

Raymond Korkowski..... Unexcused
 Aaron Johnson, Alt. Appt. Vacation

West Palm Beach

Dennis HardimanX
 Chuck Branch Excused
 Jay DondeX
 John Rebholz.....X
 Michael Ferrera..... Excused
 Eric Evrley, Alt. Unexcused
 Joe Herb (Lt.), Appt. Excused

Welcome new Palm Beach County PBA members

FEBRUARY 2018

NAME	AGENCY	MEMBERSHIP DATE
COURTNEY JENKINS	PBSO	02/21/2018
JOEY SANDERS	LANTANA	02/23/2018
JESSICA VASCO	PBSO	02/23/2018
JUSTIN CASTINEIRA	PALM BEACH GARDENS	02/26/2018
NOLAN DEMER	PALM BEACH GARDENS	02/26/2018
RYAN TRUDEAU	PALM BEACH GARDENS	02/26/2018
FRANK DIEKMANN	PBSO	02/28/2018
ARMANDO HERNANDEZ	PBSO	02/28/2018
TYLER WITT	PALM BEACH GARDENS	02/28/2018

MARCH 2018

NAME	AGENCY	MEMBERSHIP DATE
JORGE CARVAJAL	JUNO BEACH	03/02/2018
ANTHONY DEJESSE	PALM BEACH	03/02/2018
JEFFREY FITCH	JUNO BEACH	03/02/2018
ANGELA HENDRIX	PBSO	03/02/2018
CHRISTOPHER SHORTELL	JUNO BEACH	03/02/2018
BRADLEY LABRYS	PBSO	03/05/2018
ROBERT SMITH	PBSO	03/05/2018
TREVOR DAVIS	NORTH PALM BEACH	03/06/2018
ERIC FAGAN	PBSO	03/08/2018
ANDREW LUSCAVICH	JUNO BEACH	03/12/2018
STEVEN SMITH	JUNO BEACH	03/12/2018
KIRSTEN ERIKSSON	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/14/2018
DANIEL MACHADO	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/14/2018
FELIX MOROS	MCSO	03/14/2018
GEORGE REID	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/14/2018
KRISTIN SLAUGHTER	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/14/2018
RYAN SMITH	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/14/2018
KELLEN STAIRS	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/14/2018

LOWANNA POITIER	PBSO	03/15/2018
DAVID COSLAY JR	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/16/2018
JEFFREY RUBENSTEIN	HIGHLAND BEACH	03/16/2018
CHRISTINE WEISS	MCSO	03/16/2018
SCOTT YAMAMURA	MCSO	03/16/2018
TANA DONADIO	TEQUESTA	03/23/2018
COLLEEN MACHADO	PALM BEACH GARDENS	03/23/2018
WILLIAM EVANS	MCSO	03/24/2018
MICHELLE GEIGER	DELRAY BEACH	03/26/2018
KARRIE MANAK	PBSO	03/26/2018

APRIL 2018

NAME	AGENCY	MEMBERSHIP DATE
CHRISTINE JOHN FLEMING	JUNO BEACH	04/01/2018
JUSTIN DORFMAN	LANTANA	04/03/2018
JEAN-BAPTISTE BERTRAND	PBSO	04/10/2018
TARYN DAVIS	PBSO	04/10/2018
KATRENA FRANCOIS	PBSO	04/10/2018
HAYDEN RICKETT	PBSO	04/10/2018
RACHAEL ROLLE	PBSO	04/10/2018
MARIAM WOODY	PBSO	04/10/2018
JENNIFER JONES	RIVIERA BEACH	04/11/2018
JOHNNY BROWN	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE	04/12/2018
TONRICA JOHNSON	RIVIERA BEACH	04/12/2018
STEVEN CRANMER	MCSO	04/15/2018
JAKE LAMPIASI	PALM BEACH	04/15/2018
RAMIRO PENA	RIVIERA BEACH	04/17/2018
BETH WONG	PBSO	04/20/2018
HEATHER BROWN	BOYNTON BEACH	04/27/2018
TYLER POSEY	BOYNTON BEACH	04/27/2018
LATONYA ROYAL	PBSO	04/29/2018
ALJHADY ACEVEDO	PBSO	04/30/2018



PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NOW HIRING



A career with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office offers challenge, excitement, variety, teamwork, job satisfaction, special assignments, career development, opportunities for promotion/advancement, and excellent salary and benefits.

DEPUTY SHERIFF LAW ENFORCEMENT \$53,196

REQUIRED MINIMUM CRITERIA

- ★ Must meet all Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements.
- ★ Must meet all PBSO requirements specified in the online assessment.
- ★ 21 years of age
- ★ High School Graduate or GED
- ★ Able to perform the essential functions of the job for which applying with or without reasonable accommodation.
- ★ Possess a valid Driver's License
- ★ Must present proof of automobile insurance upon offer of employment, free from "at fault" accidents or convictions for violation(s) of traffic law to include adjudication withheld for the past twelve (12) months. A good driving record will include no Driver's License suspensions in the past three (3) years.

BENEFITS

- ★ State of Florida Retirement System
- ★ Health Care (HMO, POS or PPO), Dental and Vision
- ★ Life Insurance
- ★ Flexible Spending Accounts and Deferred Compensation
- ★ Competitive Sick, Vacation and Holiday Pay
- ★ Tuition Reimbursement program
- ★ Annual Merit Increase
- ★ Longevity Pay/Longevity Leave
- ★ Gym/Weight Room; on-site 24-hour access
- ★ Health and Wellness Center

A REWARDING CAREER

To be a part of the PBSO team apply online at www.pbsso.org or call (561) 688-3540.

The PBSO is an EOE, Veterans Preference. Applicants with a disability who require accommodation within the application/interview process should direct a request in advance to Human Resources.

PBSO #0457 Rev. 02/18

Ready to Serve Florida's First Responders



- Roxie Guerrero, Realtor Associate
- Licensed Realtor for 22 years
- PBA member since 1988
- 26 years On the Job
- Retired from Palm Beach Sheriff's Office February 2014 as a Sergeant-Law Enforcement. ID#3575.

**I specialize in Buying, Listing, Selling,
Relocation across South Florida,
Nationally and Internationally.**

**Please contact me with your
Real Estate needs!**

Roxie Guerrero • Realtor Associate
Wellington Office - The Keyes Company
Phone: 561-762-2369
Email: foxy213@bellsouth.net

Honoring Retired Members

Name	Retirement Date
HAROLD CAMP	2/16/2018
LEONARDO BAILUM	2/23/2018
LESTER LOCKETT	2/23/2018
ANGENORA JONES	2/28/2018
DANNY WILLE	3/1/2018
THOMAS VALLEE	3/2/2018
BRIAN CAHIR	3/4/2018
DAVID HUMPHREY	3/9/2018
YVONNE CACIOLI	3/12/2018
CEDRICK EDWARDS	3/31/2018
YOLANDA McNEECE	3/31/2018
GUILLERMO MORENO	3/31/2018
DAVID KALMUS	4/1/2018
BRIAN ADAMS	4/30/2018
NARDA JONES WILLIAMS	5/1/2018
JESUS MORENO	6/1/2018



*"Gary Sullivan and Trustmark have my
full endorsement."*
-John Kazanjian

You have a picture of the way you want your life to go. Now imagine if something happens that not only changes your picture, it changes your life story.

It's your story. Protect it with Trustmark insurance.

For information, please contact:
Gary Sullivan, gsullivan@choicebenefitsamerica.com

Accident Insurance • Universal Life Insurance
Critical Illness Insurance • Term Life Insurance

Trustmark
Voluntary Benefit Solutions
PERSONAL. FLEXIBLE. TRUSTED.

trustmarkinsurance.com

© Trustmark Insurance Company, Lake Forest, Illinois. Policy Forms A-607, IUL205/UL205, CAC160001.

P485-1145_PBU

SAVE THE DATE



June 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 PBC PBA Officers of the Year.



A session reeling from a series of tragedies comes to a close



**MATT
PUCKETT**

**FLORIDA
PBA
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Any single tragic event can send a legislature off the rails. In 2018, Florida's legislature experienced multiple tragedies yet finished the job, albeit a few days late. My attempts to sum up the session will not communicate the depth of suffering that the many survivors bravely displayed in public hearing after public hearing, so I will spare you. Three issues of importance to you are now law after the completion of this year's session.

The negotiated changes to the West Palm Beach Police Special Act Pension is now approved by the legislature. Please be sure to thank State Representative Matt Wilhite for sponsoring HB 889. He was an all-star this session, not only because of his support for the pension, but also for his work on the changes to the state's workers' compensation coverage of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

Representative Wilhite and State Senator Lauren Book were the driving forces behind the change to workers' compensation indemnity coverage for first responders suffering from PTSD. Prior to their legislation (HB 227 and SB 376), a first responder must have suffered from an accompanying physical injury to receive indemnity coverage. With this change, a first responder must be diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist after acting within the scope of his or her duties to an event such as a death, a child death, a homicide, suicide, or seeing someone with a grievous bodily injury. The event must be grievous enough in nature to shock the conscience and cause the onset of PTSD. Claims can be made beginning 30 days after the event, or after the manifestation of the PTSD, but no later than one year after the event.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shootings forced the legislature to respond to several issues about gun violence and mental health. The survivors swiftly organized for a massive rally at the capitol, while advocates lobbied for changes. SB 7026 creates the following:

- Increases the age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21. Exemptions for rifles and shotguns will exist for law enforcement officers and correctional officers, as well as members of the Armed Forces or National Guard who are 18 years of age or older. A violation of the new prohibition is a third-degree felony.
- Law enforcement officers may seize a firearm or ammunition from a person who has been taken for an involuntary examination. The agency must hold the seized firearms for at least 72 hours.
- A person who has been adjudicated mentally defective, or who has been committed to a mental institution, may not own or possess a firearm until relief from the firearm possession and firearm ownership disability is obtained.
- A purchase of a firearm will have a mandatory three-day waiting period, or the time that it takes to complete a background check, whichever is longer. The waiting period for all firearms does not apply to valid concealed weapons permit holders, or when trading in another firearm. The waiting period for a rifle or shotgun will not apply to law enforcement officers or correctional officers; active members of the Armed Forces or National Guard; or a person who has successfully completed a 16-hour hunter safety course or is exempt from the course

and has continuously held a valid hunter's license without a lapse as of March 1, 2018.

- A person may not import into this state or, within this state, transfer, distribute, transport, sell, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale or give bump-fire stock to another person. A violation is punishable as a third-degree felony.
- A law enforcement officer or agency may petition for a "risk protection order" to prevent a person who poses a serious threat to himself or herself or others from having or purchasing a firearm.
- A mobile application will be created to allow a person to report suspicious or dangerous activities to law enforcement.
- A Marshal program for school personnel will be created to allow volunteers in participating school districts to be specially trained, then deputized to carry a concealed weapon. The special deputy can only use the weapon during an "active emergency situation."
- A commission will review "school hardening" protocol.
- Mental health teams will help train school personnel to identify potentially at-risk students.

The session is over, for better or worse. I suppose the answer is in the eye of the beholder. Personally, I think the legislature did its job.

As always, please be safe out there. We are forever grateful to have officers like you protecting us on a daily basis. ♥



Ask me about Accident Forgiveness.

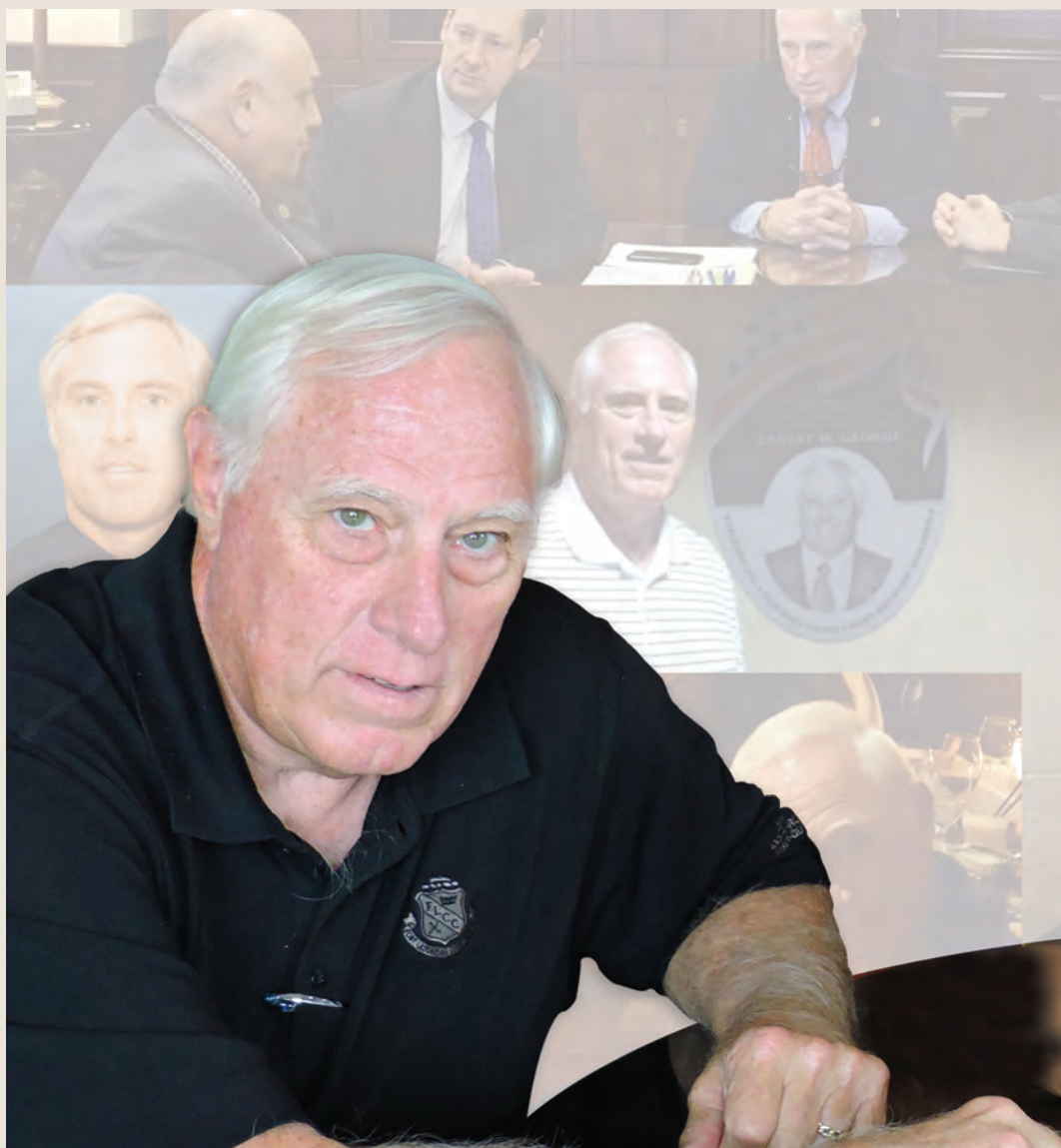
With other insurance companies, having an accident can mean your rates rise as much as 40%. But with Allstate's Accident Forgiveness, your rates won't go up at all just because of an accident. Don't wait! Call me today.

AARON SHELBY, CLU
561-200-3501
aaronshelby@allstate.com



Feature is optional and subject to terms and conditions. Safe Driving Bonus® won't apply after an accident. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co. Northbrook, IL. © 2010 Allstate Insurance Co.

241400



By George

For everything he has created to improve the lives of Florida law enforcement officers, Ernie George has truly achieved a hall-of-fame career

By Mitchell Krugel

Jeb Bush apparently had trouble understanding. The Florida governor just didn't get the point Ernie George had been making about the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights. Ernie tried explaining and reasoning, drawing from the data stored in his warehouse of a memory and applying his educational demeanor, his fighting-for-the-little-guy fervor and his toughness from his days playing in the NFL.

But Jeb didn't get it. So Ernie added some emphasis – a couple hundred pounds of emphasis, actually – by pounding his sledgehammer of a fist on the table. Suddenly, cups flew straight up into the air, and, after three or four rotations, landed back upright on the table. Suddenly, the lights went on for Jeb.

“He made his point,” recalls Florida PBA President John Rivera, who joined Ernie at that “negotiating” session.

By leading statewide implementation of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), by reforming the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (FCJST), by combining with Rivera, Broward County PBA President Dick Brickman and former State PBA Executive Director David Murrell to generate reams of life-improving legislation for law enforcement and by relentlessly representing the career patrol officer every day of his 43-years-and-still-counting career, Ernie's cup surely runneth over. Beneath that iron fist wields one of the smartest, most compassionate, most dedicated, most revered

and most respected gentlemen Florida law enforcement has ever known.

That lifetime of accomplishment has been honored through recognition created with public servants like Ernie in mind. On May 19, Ernie George will be inducted into the Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame in Tallahassee. And at that moment, all law enforcement officers in Florida should stand and raise a cup to toast Ernie.

"I could call Ernie at four in the morning to tell him I needed him at such-and-such location, and Ernie would say, 'I'll be there.' He wouldn't ask why. He is the guy you want in the fox-hole with you," praises Brickman, who spent years on the road with Ernie campaigning for DROP and many other PBA endeavors. "If you look back on people you know like that, you can count them with five fingers. Ernie gets two fingers."

Hall of fame celebrity in the sports world and elsewhere includes everlasting icons, usually starting with a plaque hanging in the hall. In this case, there will be one in the Florida State Capital rotunda bearing a likeness of Ernie from early in his career. If this were Cooperstown or Canton, the plaque or the bust would include words like these:

"Ernie has forgotten more about law enforcement and pensions and the bill of rights than most of us will ever know," describes Matt Puckett, the executive director of the Florida State PBA and a member of the Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame selection committee. "Ernie doesn't beat around the bush. He doesn't mask his intentions. He tells you very directly what he's trying to accomplish. And he's never been afraid to stand up. He has a tremendous amount of courage."

Legends of the Hall

PBA lobbying efforts inspired by the growing negativity toward law enforcement contributed to the Florida statutes that inaugurated the hall of fame in October 2014. The hall is a division of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and its mission statement could have been taken from Ernie's bio:

"To honor contributions made to our state by these exceptional individuals as a tribute to their unselfish dedication as daily heroes in the lives of many throughout the state, and to offer appreciation to these individuals who contribute to the advancement of the law enforcement field."

Ernie – perhaps the greatest testament to his fame is that he only needs to be identified by his first name – will be in good company when he's inducted and his picture goes up in the state capital. The Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame is directly across from the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

Ernie will be the first PBA inductee alongside former state board member Fred Maas, who became chief of the Sunny Isles Police Department in 1998 after serving the Miami-Dade PD for 23 years. At the 2017 State PBA meeting, Rivera and Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian motioned to nominate Ernie for the hall.

As part of his application, the PBA wanted to research his 28 years with the West Palm Beach Police Department. So they turned the case over to a 20-year veteran detective. That happened to be Ernie's daughter, Andrea Branch, who found that his jacket contained no disciplinary actions but several commendations and letters of recognition from teachers at local schools where he worked as a DARE officer.

Ernie tends to duck recognition. In fact, the only situation Ernie shies away from comes with talking about himself. The attention at the induction ceremony might be a source of discomfort, but he already knows how he will deflect the attention.

"There are so many people I worked with in the PBA who are just as worthy as I am," Ernie proclaims. "So I will be accepting the award for all those who were out there with me fighting for everything."

Hall in the family

The George family could be a real-life version of the Reagans from the CBS show "Blue Bloods," except that even the imposing Tom Selleck would have to increase his stature to rival Ernie. In addition to Andrea, who is 20 years into her career as a homicide detective with West Palm, her husband, Charles Branch, is also a West Palm detective. Ernie and wife Dianna's oldest daughter Denise is married to Jupiter Sergeant Mike Lilienfeld.

And then there is Robert George, Ernie's father. To say that Ernie is cut from the same mold as his father is to imagine that another tower of power preceded him. Robert George was an Akron, Ohio police officer who headed the local union under the Fraternal Order of Police flag.

"His upbringing is what brought him to be the rock for so many," Andrea shares about her father.

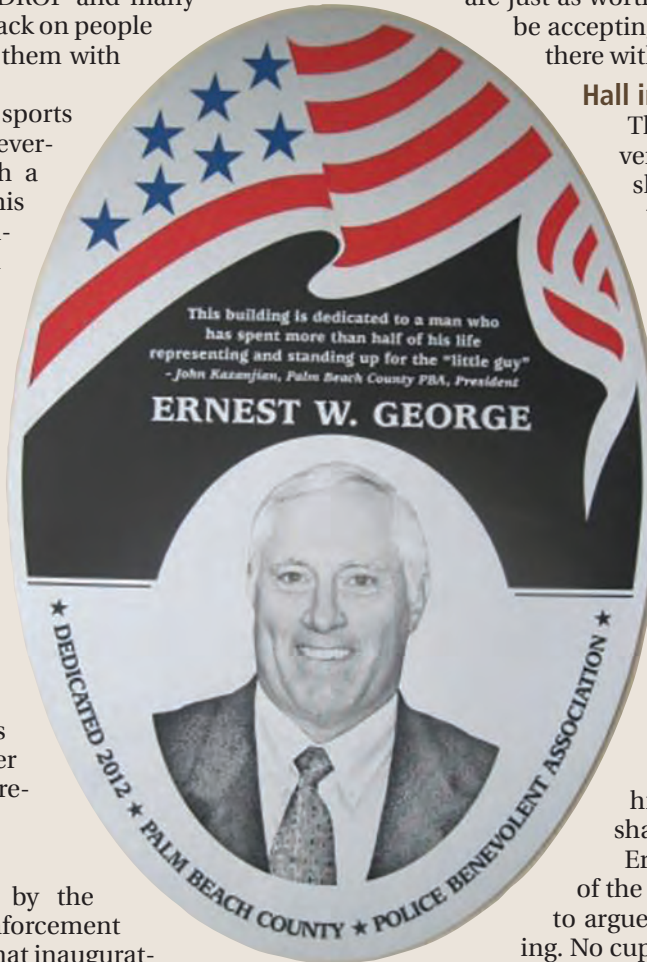
Ernie recalls Robert appearing in front of the Akron mayor and the city commission to argue for decent pay raises. No fist-pounding. No cups flying. But the same emphasis in the message.

"I consider myself a battler, and he certainly was, too," Ernie shares about his father. "He tried to impress on the commissioners that they had to come up with better pay for the officers or they would keep losing officers. That's sort of a theme that went through his career and mine."

The only group Ernie is more dedicated to than law enforcement is his family. His weakness used to be his children, including youngest son Robert, who works in the construction industry. Now, it's his grandchildren.

Andrea's fondest memories are of her father teaching all the kids in school how to say no to drugs when serving as a DARE officer and coaching her softball teams. Ernie might have spent more time pitching softballs to kids at the field near his house than he did educating legislators. And that made a lasting impression on his daughter.

Ernie actually first pursued a career in coaching. After playing football at Bowling Green University in Ohio, he went to training camp with the Browns. As an offensive tackle, he hoped to



CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Ernie (center) had a way of educating elected officials like Florida Senate President Joe Negron, (second from left) and he always leaned on his colleagues, including (from left) State PBA President John Rivera, State PBA Executive Director Matt Puckett and Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian.

BY GEORGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

block for a future Hall-of-Fame running back. That was the year after Jim Brown left the NFL to go to Hollywood, but Ernie never got the chance to open holes for the great Leroy Kelly. He was cut before the last exhibition game.

So he became the defensive line coach at Kent State University for a couple of years, where he learned that “being a football coached paid even worse than being a law enforcement officer.” When visiting an uncle who lived in Florida, Ernie and Dianna realized how much they hated the snow and flew south. After a brief stint as a store manager for Goodyear, he saw that the West Palm Beach PD was hiring. And at 28 years old, nearly 44 years ago, Ernie took off in following in Robert’s footsteps.

He’s Hall that

Andrea didn’t hear much about Ernie from other officers in the department. Some of the older guys would talk about how Ernie could have been chief some day if he had pursued that path. He was that good of a leader.

But she did hear a comment about Ernie often that still reverberates today through West Palm and the entire state.

“I hear from people all the time that ‘we wouldn’t have anything if it wasn’t for your dad,’” Andrea explains. “That’s the big thing. If he wouldn’t have done what he did, so many people wouldn’t have any of the pay and benefits they have.”

An up-and-coming officer from the West Palm Police Department used to come to the Palm Beach County PBA meetings in the late 1980s and question President Ernie George. That lasted maybe a couple of meetings before Lou Penque, now the PBCPBA treasurer, realized the best course of action with Ernie was to listen and learn.

“What always impressed me the most is that Ernie always

negotiated the best benefits for the career patrol-level officer,” Penque relates. “He only considered their best interests. He was never self-serving. He always looked out for the career patrol officer. That was his big push.”

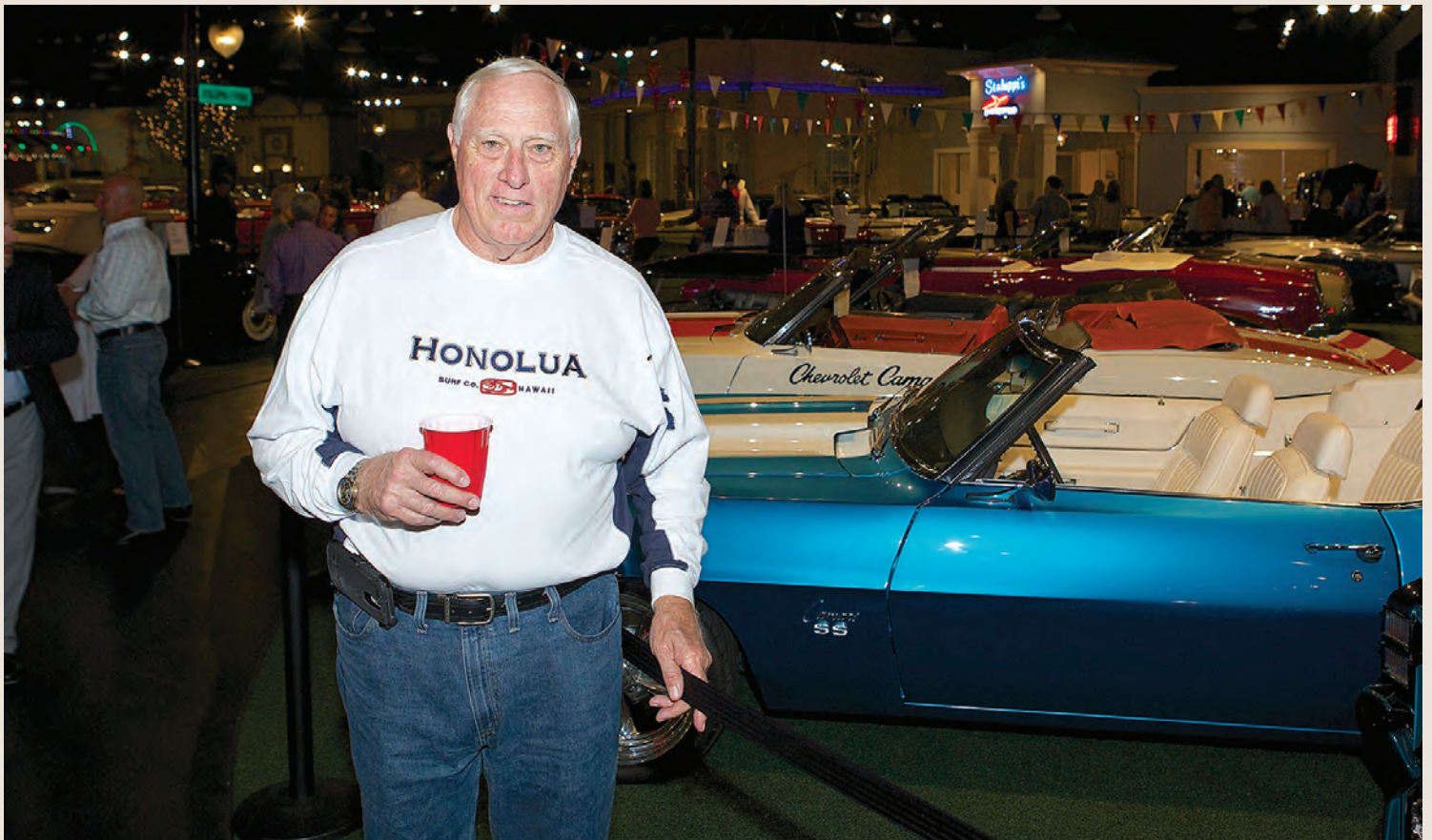
According to Penque, Ernie’s biggest push was getting the DROP. It was actually a group effort working with Brickman and Rivera. Brickman brought DROP to his agency in Broward a month or so ahead of when Ernie brought it to West Palm. Then, the three amigos from South Florida worked with Murrell to get legislators and PBA reps throughout the state on board.

In 2011, the new DROP program enabled all members of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) to begin accruing interest on their pensions up to five years before retiring. So all FRS members – firefighters, teachers and government employees, in addition to law enforcement officers – became eligible to earn thousands of dollars in additional benefits that could be paid in a lump sum upon retirement through the DROP.

“I think I’m most proud of getting the DROP through in the state of Florida,” Ernie confides. “It gave all the people – not just law enforcement – a chance to retire and still have a little money to live a little good life.”

Penque admires how much Ernie put into the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights. One of the rights he fought for most was ensuring that police officers would have legal defense in a job that was becoming increasingly more at risk for legal entanglements.

To guarantee legal defense, Ernie had to convince the state PBA to take on sound financial planning, rather than running out of a checkbook. Along with Brickman, they went from chapter to charter throughout the state, explaining to PBA presidents the need to build up a financial reserve. Part of that would be charging members an extra \$2 to be earmarked for legal de-



On May 19, law enforcement officers throughout the state will raise their cups and toast Ernie on his induction into the Florida Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame.

fense. A year later, they increased that number to \$3.

"Ernie impacted officers' lives in so many different ways," Rivera emphasizes. "He saved careers. He enriched their lives. And he gave them protections that they wouldn't have otherwise had."

Ernie always brought a one-man-can-change-the-world positive attitude to every task, every objective, every day of work. Such conviction changed the CJSTC to save careers, enrich lives and give officers protections they wouldn't have otherwise had.

When Ernie gained appointment to the CJSTC in the '90s, he quickly observed that the commission included only management personnel. When evaluating a case, one management person would speak up to decertify that officer. The others would follow with a vote to do so, and one by one Ernie watched careers being destroyed by "chiefs who didn't seem to care."

Ernie was an outcast at the meetings until Rivera joined him as a second rank-and-file representative. They worked to hold the commission accountable for making fair decisions.

Eventually, the commission evolved to include six rank-and-file members. Ernie ascended to vice chair, then chair for a term. Then, he did an unprecedented second term, and then another term as a civilian after he retired from West Palm.

"Ernie changed their minds about how to look at employee misconduct," Rivera confirms. "He got the voice back for the rank-and-file. I think when you start to see injustices and you're that only voice, it really becomes infectious if you're one that does it for the right reason. And Ernie does it for the right reasons. That's why he was so successful."

Hall the way

Ernie advances that the motivation to build up the PBCPBA came from guarding against the injustices. Ron Sowers took the

lead as the first president, and Jim Spatara followed him until being promoted to lieutenant. Ernie was Spatara's vice president and took the helm in 1983.

"I went to school to learn what made the county go round," he recalls. "A lot of it was political, so I created PAC funds and worked to make us a power politically."

Prior to retiring from West Palm in 2003, Kaz came on to work as Ernie's vice president. For two years, Kaz shared an office with Ernie and realized what would be the greatest influence on him and all those who ever came in contact with Ernie.

"He was a great mentor to all of us," Kaz declares.

Up until becoming a hall of famer, Ernie's greatest tribute might have been the plaque with his likeness on the front of the PBA's current headquarters in West Palm Beach that dedicated the building to him. If that wall could talk, it might echo some of the lessons he has taught so many people all these years.

"Always be true to yourself. And your integrity is everything," Andrea relates.

"Not to worry about what people think," Penque adds. "Keep moving forward in the best interests of the people you represent."

"Believe in loyalty," Brickman submits.

"Look at a problem, figure out a way to solve it and don't rest until it is solved," Puckett tenders.

"I have learned so much from that man," Kaz reiterates. "Not just with PBA issues and labor issues, but life in general."

And so as they raise a cup to toast Ernie George on May 19, law enforcement officers throughout Florida can stand and cheer and celebrate that one man has truly changed their world. ♥



The right call

Arbitrator rules Riviera Beach member Garry Wilson responded properly to a man waving a cell phone at him and reverses his termination

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The citizen had invaded Sergeant Garry Wilson's reactionary gap outside a Walgreen's in Riviera Beach, waving a cell phone and cursing a blue streak that violated the blue line. The citizen had parked in a handicapped space but didn't appear to show any signs of a physical disability, so Sergeant Wilson questioned whether he really should be in that parking spot. The citizen howled that he was a wounded veteran, lashed into a tirade that evoked the F-word maybe a dozen times and grumbled, "You're not the arbitrator of my damn – my handicap." And the citizen kept waving his cell phone.

Sergeant Garry Wilson, a rough-around-the-edges bloodhound of a detective, was terminated for his actions on Aug. 9, 2015, including knocking the cell phone out of the citizen's hand. But after two and a half years, being acquitted on a charge of battery for the incident and enduring a politicized chief and city moved by reaction to the sergeant's actions posted on social media, a relentless Palm Beach County PBA legal team effort facilitated a favorable arbitration ruling that reinstated Wilson with length of service intact and full restitution for loss of earnings and benefits.

"If you follow the law, follow the policies of your agency and recognize that the PBA has your back if things go south, your good lawful conduct will prevail in the end," declares PBCPBA attorney Larry Fagan, who made Wilson's case for the arbitration. "If somebody is coming at you and in your space, despite the political climate, the law has not changed. You are still allowed to defend yourself if you are in fear."

Whether Wilson should have been charged, let alone terminated, proved to be a political football passed between a city claiming his actions brought public shame, a department administration that didn't appreciate his outspokenness – "his refusal to kiss ass," Fagan notes – and a citizen perhaps looking to sue the town seeking a fat financial settlement.

Fagan describes Wilson as the type of person who should be a police officer, a lifelong resident of Riviera Beach who still coaches youth sports teams in town. The arbitration ruling report describes him as a dedicated detective whose file has

"numerous written negative entries along with abundant entries praising his service to the public."

The negative entries include such grave offenses as missed court dates and unprofessional dress. On the other hand, the report cites that Wilson "was great on the burglary task force and was a 'pit bull' in going after suspects."

However belligerent the citizen might have become, nobody is arguing that Wilson felt threatened when the cell phone was thrust into his reactionary gap. Nevertheless, a district attorney whose motives PBA President John Kazanjian questioned in his "President's Message" printed in the November 2015 issue of *Florida Cops Magazine* charged Wilson with battery for knocking the phone out of the citizen's hand. "They said the phone is an extension of the arm in this case," Fagan explains. The criminal mischief charge resulted from the phone being damaged.

Wilson, of course, had to go to trial rather than take a plea, because a conviction results in automatic termination. He was acquitted easily on the battery charge, and Judge Sheree Davis Cunningham of the 15th Circuit withheld adjudication on the criminal mischief. Wilson paid restitution for the damage to the phone, did some community service and earned early termination on probation. The withhold in lieu of the conviction should have enabled him to go back to work.

Despite the court rulings, Wilson receive a letter of termination on March 1, 2017, charging:

"You failed to conduct yourself with professionalism and to set a good example for other officers."

"Your conduct was also criminal in nature given the jury's verdict of guilty as to the criminal mischief count – notwithstanding the court's decision to withhold adjudication of guilt."

"Your conduct and poor judgment eroded the public's confidence in law enforcement in this community and contributed to worldwide condemnation of this department."

Fagan comments that it's a bit curious that the termination letter didn't specifically reference the crux of the incident related to the citizen parking in the handicapped spot. He points out that the agency offers no training about how to spot a



handicapped person in such situations. And Fagan asserts that the only one in the situation who didn't use any profanity was Wilson.

So the charges of violating the department's code of conduct toward the public, commission of moral character offenses and failure to maintain job knowledge and skills became the focus of the PBA legal team's case in the arbitration. The PBA argued that the investigation was flawed and that other Riviera Beach officers charged with moral offenses such as public urination were not disciplined as harshly as Wilson.

In the end, Arbitrator Donald J. Spero ruled that the PBA satisfactorily established that Sergeant Wilson was not unjustified in striking at the citizen's cell phone. He also ruled that the city did not satisfactorily prove its charges and that "discharging Sergeant Wilson was an excessive penalty for his exchange with (the citizen)."

Fagan relates that he felt good about the arbitration, especially after bringing in an assistant chief who testified that a cell phone can be construed as a weapon when waved in an officer's face. He also emphasizes how Wilson's experience made a difference.

"Remember, Garry could have used reasonable force and/or arrested that guy, but he maintained his composure and did neither," adds Fagan, who also reminds all officers to maintain their PBA status in case they ever need this type of legal defense.

"It sounds silly, but you don't ever want to hire your own attorney for something like this," he continues. "This case shows how the PBA has your back and with good representation, all's well that ends well."



Perfect Day.

This day began almost 30 years ago. He wasn't yet a grandpa.
And, he was a long way from retirement. Even then, he was planning.

Today's the perfect day to start planning.



ATLANTIC WEALTH
PARTNERS

It's not you. It's we.
561.632.0566 | atlanticwealthpartners.com

Atlantic Wealth Partners, LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser. This is solely for informational purposes. No advice may be rendered by Atlantic Wealth Partners, LLC unless a client service agreement is in place.



Sometimes The Helpers Need Help

Has drugs, alcohol, or gambling
become the solution to
your problems?

Since 2001, the Florida House
Experience has provided the highest
quality of care to our First Responders,
medically and clinically, so they have
the opportunity for a healthier lifestyle.

CALL 24/7
100% CONFIDENTIAL
800.989.0022



ftherehab.com



14th Annual Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing



Participants, including Southwest Florida PBA President Mick McHale (top left), came from throughout the county and the state to play in the 15th annual Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing.

One-of-a-kindness

There is no event like the PBA golf outing that brings out the best in members year after year

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY TOM BRODIGAN

The wait list to play in the 20th annual Palm Beach County PBA Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing has been started. Sign up now, and a spot might become available.

The 15th annual Kaitlin Kazanjian outing on March 3 at Sandhill Crane Golf Course in Palm Beach Gardens attracted nearly everyone who played in the first one in 2004, less than a year after the daughter of PBCPBA President John Kazanjian was tragically killed in an auto accident. And it has grown immensely through the participation of members, family members, friends and sponsors who have been fortunate enough to secure a spot in the years since 2004.

By 2024, the 20th annual event might offer an opening or two. So sign up now, because this has become a one-of-a-kind event that not only raises nearly \$50,000 each year for the PBA Scholarship Fund but also generates 10 times as much in the benevolence that makes the Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing so soothing for all those who play and attend.

"Golf can be considered stuffy at times. You're supposed to dress in a certain way and walk in a certain way. But this outing has more of a family atmosphere that makes it fun," explains Jupiter Officer Jay Levinstein, who played the first year and in 13 of the 14 outings since.

"Even that first year, it was a tremendous success, and every year you had to be grandfathered in to play because you couldn't get a spot," Levinstein adds. "Everybody keeps coming back because you get to come out and play some golf. But it's a party, too. That's made it so successful."

The one-of-a-kindness, of course, begins with the dedication to the memory of Kaitlin, who was taken at 16 years old in that



For Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian and his wife, Joanne, the golf outing is a celebration of their beloved daughter, Kaitlin.

car crash on Nov. 5, 2003. Honoring her and raising money to provide scholarships that further the education of members' kids gave the event the headline it needed to draw people from throughout Palm Beach and Martin counties, throughout the state of Florida and even as far north as Kaz's native Massachusetts.

"We just put it out there, and people just walk in to contribute and to help out," Kaz confides. "Everybody knows it's a tribute to Kaitlin. It's all her."

Beyond the benevolence, so many folks join Kaz and his wife, Joanne, in celebrating Kaitlin because of the feeling remembering her brings.

"This is our therapy," Kaz adds. "We all smile in her memory."

That the event has become such a celebration is a testament to its power. Every year, Kaz would step up to the microphone to conduct the raffle that offers incredible prizes. Before get-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

ting started, he would thank everybody for their support, and he would get pretty choked up in those early years.

"But as the years have progressed, Kaz has become less emotional and more joyful," Levinstein notes. "It's become a happy event, even though it's a sad occasion. A happy sad event."

The 350-plus golfers, the hundred more who attend for the dinner and raffle, the sponsors and the numerous volunteers are drawn to the event because of a personal connection. One of the sponsors participating for the first time in 2018 was the First Responders Protection Agency, a local insurance business recently created to indemnify police officers against personal judgments.

Todd Weicholz, a founding partner of First Responders Protection Agency, is a reserve commander with Riviera Beach, a former prosecutor for Palm Beach County and the state of Florida, and a former Marine. He is also a PBA member, so the opportunity to be a sponsor was a natural tie-in.

But the personal connection runs deeper. Weicholz was the traffic homicide prosecutor with Palm Beach County who investigated Kaitlin's crash. He was on the scene where he met Kaz.

"It was very rewarding, and we were honored to sponsor the event," Weicholz shares. "The reason we founded the company was for local law enforcement, so everything seemed to fit perfectly for their needs and our goals to support them."

The bottom line of the support is the fundraising. What can be really celebrated, what is truly inspiring is the way all those who attend open their pockets. Businesses open their pockets to donate raffle prizes such as golf foursome giveaways, apparel and getaways.

Levinstein says that looking at the table where the prizes are displayed makes you feel like "Christmas is coming." Weicholz



The raffle offered televisions, trips, golf clubs and many other prizes.

adds that items like the raffle grand prize of a trip to Atlantis in the Bahamas not only entices donations but accentuates how everybody goes all-in for the cause, even though raffle tickets for this giveaway ran \$100 apiece.

"I think simply above all else, we all realize that law enforcement is a close-knit community and we are getting together to give back to our own," Weicholz says. "They are supporting people less fortunate within their own community, and that



Tyler Lilienfeld, son of Jupiter Sergeant Mike Lilienfeld, participated in this year's outing and exemplified how the event provides so much support for the children of PBA members.

KL

LAW OFFICES OF
KLEINMAN & LESSMANN
PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL ATTORNEYS

KLEINMAN & LESSMANN

Where Knowledge Meets Experience

Ian Kleinman, Esq. and Bennett Lessmann, Jr., Esq. have the experience you need after being injured by another's negligence.

Practice Areas Include:

- Car Crashes
- Pedestrian Accidents
- Trip and Fall
- Wrongful Death



Kleinman and Lessmann is proud to serve the law enforcement community, and their families, in their time of need.

Call today for a free case evaluation any time day or night!

561-708-4038

Our home office is conveniently located off the Florida Turnpike and Glades Road at 7777 Glades Road, Suite 205, Boca Raton, FL 33434

www.KLFloridaLaw.com

Sights and scenes from the Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing



brings so many people together.”

All of the kindness – and the one-of-a-kindness – creates an aura surrounding the Kaitlin Kazanjian Golf Outing that can’t exactly be cast into words. For this year’s outing, the sensation might have been personified by Tyler Lilienfeld joining his father, Jupiter Sergeant Mike Lilienfeld, as part of one of the four-somes hitting the course.

Clad in spectacular orange – the chosen color for this year’s

event – right down to his shoes, Tyler’s presence seemed to capture how the PBA always comes together on behalf of the kids. And it promoted one of the reasons to celebrate on this day that throws a collective hug around the kids, the members, the family and Kaitlin.

“When we kicked off a golf event, we had no idea it would mushroom like this,” Kaz relates. “Now, we look at it as a one-of-a-kind day every year. It doesn’t get any better than this. ♥

The force is strong here

PBCPBA endorsements score 90 percent success in March elections

Before looking here at the Palm Beach County PBA endorsements of candidates running in the Aug. 28 primary election, pause for a moment to look back.

For the March 13 municipal elections, the PBA endorsed 18 candidates. Of those, 16 won their races. PBCPBA President John Kazanjian conjectures that approximately 90 percent of PBA-endorsed candidates have been winning during the past few years. In this most recent foray, that success rate hit 89 percent.

"I think it shows how we do a very extensive vetting process," explains Greg Allen, the PBA sergeant-at-arms who is part of the executive board team that regularly screens candidates. "When we get ready to give our support to a candidate, our members know we have given careful consideration. They usually take note and do research themselves. And that helps support the candidates."

In other words, much of the election-day success can be attributed to PBA members getting out the vote for the endorsed candidates. Such was the case in Riviera Beach, where members got behind city council candidate Dr. Julie Botel and helped her to garner more than 78 percent of the vote.

Botel was one of four PBA-endorsed candidates who took more than 70 percent of the vote. Tanya Siskind won 74.5 percent in being elected to the Wellington council, Pam Triolo earned 73 percent in being elected Lake Worth Mayor and Kelly Shoaf took 70 percent in being elected to the West Palm Beach Commission District 1 seat.

The latest round of candidate screenings took place on April 25, and the PBA



Marybel Coleman, Circuit Judge 15th Judicial Circuit Group 18.



Scott Kerner, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 13.

introduced its next 10 endorsements in circuit court judicial races, commission district races and one state senate race. Allen notes that the PBA has come to look for key indicators during these screenings.

"It's a job interview," he describes. "So we want to know, 'If you're going to get the job, do you have a clear understanding of what is expected?' We want to make sure they are not only pro-law enforcement but that we endorse candidates who will



Greg Weiss, Palm Beach County Commission District 2.



Robert Meadows, Circuit Judge 19th Judicial Circuit Group 19.

do what's necessary to support families of law enforcement and the community as a whole."

The screening team also makes sure that endorsed candidates know what they are getting.

"We know that the public looks at the police endorsements," adds PBCPBA Treasurer Lou Penque. "We do have 5,000 members, and the public is voting along with us." ❤️

Palm Beach County PBA Endorsements

Aug. 28, 2018 Primary Election

Name	Office	Location
Melissa McKinlay	Commission District 6	Palm Beach County
Stacey Hetherington	Commission District 2	Martin County
Niki Norton	Commission District 4	Martin County
Scott Kerner	15th Judicial Circuit Group 13	Lake Worth
Robert Weinroth	Commission District 4	Palm Beach County
Gregg Weiss	Commission District 2	Palm Beach County
Bobby Powell, Jr.	State Senate	West Palm Beach
Marybel Coleman	Circuit Judge 15th Judicial Circuit Group 18	West Palm Beach
Robert Meadows	Circuit Judge 19th Judicial Circuit Group 19	Vero Beach
Michael McAuliffe	Circuit Judge 15th Judicial Circuit Group 25	West Palm Beach

VA Loan Program

For Qualified Veterans



S E R V I N G T H O S E W H O H A V E S E R V E D U S

VA Loan Benefits:

- 100% Home Financing - No Down Payment
- Minimum Credit Score 550
- No Monthly Private Mortgage Insurance
- Low Interest Rates
- Allows the Seller to Pay All Closing Costs
- Finance up to \$6,000 Towards Energy Efficient Improvements

The VA Loan Program is designed to make homeownership more affordable for qualified U.S. veterans.



FREEDOM MORTGAGE®

RICH TSCHERNIA

Senior Vice President, National Affinity Lending • NMLS# 46504

800-462-8178

Rich.Tschernia@freedommortgage.com • freedommortgage.com/union@freedommortgage.com

Information is subject to change without notice. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend. Freedom Mortgage is not affiliated with the U.S. government, HUD, FHA, VA, or any other government agencies. Freedom Mortgage Corporation, 907 Pleasant Valley Avenue, Suite 3, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, (800) 220-3333. Lender NMLS# 2767. Licensed Mortgage Banker - NYS Department of Financial Services, New York License# 108327. Equal Housing Opportunity. For additional information about Freedom Mortgage Corporation, please visit nmlsconsumeraccess.org.

© 2018 Freedom Mortgage Corporation. All rights reserved.
RT199(1217)



Spotlighting female officers shining on the job

Heavy Lifter

By Amber Ramundo

All that stood between Chantale Jones and the open road was the weight of the motorcycle. She already knew the roads of Broward County like the back of her hand from working with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) since 2004. But if she wanted to transition into becoming a motor officer, she'd have to prove that she could not only ride the motorcycle but lift all 900 pounds of it off the ground.

At the end of an intensive, two-week training at the Palm Beach International Raceway in 2015, Jones prepared to take the motor test in front of a group of instructors and officers applying to become a motor. Jones maneuvered the bike through the driving test without a problem, but when it came time for the big lift, all eyes focused on the 5-foot-1-inch female to see if she could hoist the motorcycle upright.

"My main concern was that I had to prove to them that I could pick up the bike," states Jones, reflecting on the one requirement of becoming a motor officer that keeps most women from applying for certification in the first place. "Everyone had to watch me pick up this bike and I had to prove that I belonged there."

One of the officers in the crowd of spectators was Greg Allen, a motor with Palm Beach Gardens who endured the two-week class alongside Jones. He knew firsthand the intense training that led to this point, not to mention the literal sweat that went into the long days on the asphalt with the hot sun beaming down on them.

Weeks of squats and deadlifts had prepared her for this very moment. Allen watched Jones apply every ounce of her strength into overcoming the weight of the obstacle. With one swift push from her legs, the bike went up and everyone watching exhaled.

"Any time you see a young lady put on the fight of going



Chantale Jones
Motor Officer
Florida Highway Patrol

through a motors class with a Harley (Davidson) and then pick up the bike with no problem, it's impressive," Allen notes. "For her to fight through that and achieve what she has achieved – she deserves to be praised."

The ultimate praise for her accomplishment didn't officially come until two years later, when the FHP confirmed that Jones was the agency's first female motor officer. Little did Jones know when she took the motors test years before that she was doing more than proving she could handle the weight of the job. She was making history.

"It's a second thought. You go out there and you do your job and you do it as normal as possible without any labels," Jones confides. "The only time I (acknowledge) the distinction is for my girls, to let them know, when they grow up they can do anything."

Jones knows the impact that having parents in law enforcement might have on her two daughters, ages 11 and 9, and even her 5-year-old son. Growing up traveling the country with a father who was in the Army shaped her aspiration to become a first responder. Meanwhile, as she and her siblings moved from North Carolina to Alaska, Texas and finally to South Florida, where she completed high school and college, Jones established a strong sense of self that has given her the confidence necessary on the job.

"It allowed me to get to know people and not be afraid to speak to people," she attests. "I became who I am today."

Members of the FHP like Kenneth Walker noticed Jones' outgoing personality almost immediately when she was hired. It became even more apparent when Jones started playing basketball with Walker and other FHP officers on their days off.

When Walker became motor certified in 2013, he would



Chantale Jones stands as the only female on the Florida Highway Patrol Motors Unit.



Chantale Jones is joined by her daughters, Markeli and Samone, father and mother, Keith and Linda Jones, son, Mark Tynes III, and husband Mark Tynes at the ceremony where she was named the first female officer in the Florida Highway Patrol Motors Unit.

flaunt the proficiency of the bike while passing Jones on the road in hopes of striking her interest in getting certified.

"It's not too late to join," Walker would suggest, knowing that if any female could rise to the challenge and join the motor squad, it would be Jones.

"Being a motor officer is like being in a special club within a club," Walker notes. "I knew she could do it."

Ever since Jones joined the motor unit, she has enjoyed the freedom of being in the "club" where she can respond without the restrictions of an automobile. The ability to weave in and out of traffic has especially elevated Jones' ability to carry out the road duty she is most passionate about: ensuring the safety of passengers by issuing seatbelt tickets.

"Kids' safety comes first," Jones urges. "I feel that writing seat-

belt tickets is education for parents that will hopefully trickle down to their kids."

No matter what form of transportation Jones uses on the roadway, she carries with her a unique ability to turn an incident of punishment into an opportunity for education. Drivers often merge back into traffic with smiles on their faces following an encounter with Jones, even after she's issued them a ticket.

Her ability to lead by example continues each time she secures her helmet, picks up her motorcycle and sets off to make the road a safer place, paving the way for women to reach their goals along the way.

"I'm not a quitter. I've learned that I don't give up on the things I love to do," Jones declares. "If you know you can do it, believe that you can do it. Don't ever doubt yourself." ❤️



Yvette Trelles, Esq.
Of Counsel



Personal Injury Representation for the First Responder



Margaret Bichler, Esq.
Of Counsel

Practice Areas:

Automobile Accidents • Drunk Driving Accidents • Motorcycle Accidents • Trucking Accidents
Slip/Trip and Fall • Wrongful Death • Medical Malpractice • Nursing Home Negligence

"As a cop who has given his heart and soul to helping others, it was a relief to have Margaret Bichler and Yvette Trelles represent me in my personal injury case because they genuinely cared. They treated me like family and worked hard to recover the maximum."

Jim Derner, Retired Pasco County Sheriff's Deputy

One Case. One Choice. Choose Us. No Recovery, No Fee. Our Promise!

Bichler, Oliver, Longo & Fox, PLLC

Offices in Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, North Pam Beach and Miami • www.BichlerLaw.com • 866-245-8977

Battle of the big dogs

The Boynton Beach Police Department puts all paws on deck for another successful South Florida K9 Competition



■ BY AMBER RAMUNDO

■ PHOTOS BY TOM BRODIGAN

By the time the seventh annual South Florida K9 Competition commenced on the Boynton Beach High School football field, dogs like Rex from the Miami Police Department already had a comfortable four-footing on the hoops and hurdles of the O-course. Rex and his partner John Marin made sure of this by getting in a few practice runs on the competition's renowned O-course, the featured attraction that has drawn thousands of spectators to watch since the event's 2011 debut.

K9 officers could be seen taking a run through the O-course up to a week prior to the March 24 event. That was after organizing forces from Boynton Beach and Delray Beach police departments lugged truckloads of supplies, hurdles, platforms and tubing to the field to set up the course design.

"The serious competitors are the guys who are coming from out of town and going out (on the field) a night or two prior," explains Adam Margolis, a Delray Beach K9 officer who has been involved in the O-course design since the event began. "We design the obstacle course to keep the competitors guessing."

Officers from Boynton Beach and Delray Beach work tirelessly each year to stage the only K9 competition in the state drawing participants from Marion County to Miami. When the event started, Boynton Beach Police Department Public Information Officer Stephanie Slater took on the project to raise money to purchase a K9 for Officer Joe Crowder, a 14-year veteran officer of Boynton Beach PD who passed away suddenly in 2016. Since then, the K9 competition has continued to support the Boynton Beach PD K9 Unit by providing funding for ongoing medical costs, supplies, food and training.

"This started out as a way to raise money for our K9 unit," Slater explains. "But what it has turned into and grown into is so much more. It is truly a community event."

The start of the O-course run was almost a matter of muscle memory for the K9s, who were given extra play time and belly rubs during training and were part of more than 30 teams that registered to compete. The swift movements of the K9s and their handlers as they led each other over hurdles and through car doors caused the grandstand full of onlookers to cheer and swoon over the fluidity of the teams as they got a rare look at the demands of K9 work.

"The public gets to see just how in sync these teams are," states Slater. "It's great for the public to gain an understanding of the amount of training and work that goes into being a K9 team and keeping the community safe."

The momentum of navigating the course was broken, though, when a K9 and handler reached the midway point, where a sudden mystery obstacle stood two tiers high. Each year, the organizing team thinks of an extra obstacle to add the day of the competition to throw teams into an unexpected situation, similar to what they may face on the streets. The officers stopped momentarily to assess the structure before realizing that the only way through was up.

"We wanted to slow them down," Margolis shares. "A lot of the dogs would get there and not know where to go."

Competition judges made sure to pay close attention to this part of the course, where the trust and partnership of each team was tested. Handlers were tasked with leading the K9s up two platforms and down a narrow tube slide back to the ground.

"None of these dogs hesitate to do anything," notes Margolis,



K9 officers and SWAT Team members from Boynton Beach and Delray Beach Police Departments perform an action-packed halftime demonstration.



Delray Beach Police Department K9 officer Adam Margolis and K9 Ike show off their expertise in the halftime demonstration with the Boynton Beach SWAT Team.

whose partner Ike has competed in the O-course in past years. "The handler has to come through to guide the dog, so he understands what he's supposed to do."

It's easy for judges like Marc Plunske, a retired K9 officer from the Sunrise Police Department, to recognize the qualities of a thriving team. As a judge in the "fastest and hardest-hitting" segment of the competition, Plunske assessed the power of all K9s by wearing a decoy suit and being lunged at with snarling teeth while catching them mid-launch.

"You're going to see it in the interactions between the handler and the dog," Plunske stresses. "The dog's general disposition will show that he's happier out there doing the task."

The speed and strength of each K9 was calculated during a 40-yard sprint. This time, the rating was all dependent on the dog. When it came to preparing Ike for the 40-yard dash, Margolis said



The South Florida K9 Competition organizing committee added an unexpected obstacle in the course that required K9 teams to navigate a slide.



The Boynton Beach Police Department honors former K9 officer Joe Crowder, who passed away unexpectedly in 2016, at the event. The first South Florida K9 Competition in 2011 raised money to purchase K9 Daxxx, who became Crowder's partner.



Vero Beach Police Department K9 Officer Chris Vasquez and partner Asco engage a bad guy in a decoy suit during the obstacle course competition.

it was as easy as dropping the leash. The rest of the work was measured on the stopwatch at the finish line and by the man in the decoy suit who gives each mouthful a one-to-five-rating.

There was no second-guessing Plunske's ratings as he caught K9 after K9, each trained to launch and clench with unquestionable force when pursuing a dangerous suspect.

"I'm looking for entry. How hard is this dog actually hitting you?" Plunske clarifies. "And then there's the bite. If the dog is biting hard on its initial hit, that's going to be a five."

Margolis was hardly surprised to see the dream team from Miami, Rex and Marin, take first place in both the O-course and the hardest-hitting category. Margolis knew that his shining moment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



BATTLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

with Ike would take place during the K9 demonstration that the Boynton Beach and Delray Beach K9 Units and Boynton Beach SWAT Team performed at halftime of the competition.

"The demo is one of the high points you hear people talking about. We do a lot of cool things that you wouldn't typically see in a regular K9 demonstration," Margolis shares. "We prepare weeks in advance."

As if it wasn't enough for the crowd to get hooked on the action taking place during the demonstration of SWAT teams blowing the doors off makeshift homes or sending dogs into moving vehicles to pull out the drivers, families were also able to walk through the large maze of vendors and activities sprawled out in the parking lot. This year, the Boynton Beach PD K9 Unit was able to raise more than \$10,000 just through food and T-shirt sales.

"The people who attend come year after year because they have such a great time with their friends and family," Slater expresses. "When I can look up into the crowd and see the stands completely filled, it makes it all worth it."

For longtime K9 officers like Margolis, the competition gives



2018 SOUTH FLORIDA K9 COMPETITION

Miami Police Department K9 Officer John Marin and his partner Rex took first place in the obstacle course and hardest-hitting competition.

the community a special chance to see the connection between K9 and partner. It's the reason so many K9 units across Florida keep participating each year, it's keeps the community coming back to show support.

"For the most part, people have no idea what we go through as K9 officers," Margolis attests. "Being a K9 handler is a very physical and grueling job, and when the people can actually see that and how cool it is watching a human and a dog working together as a team, it's pretty shocking. That's why we keep it going." ❤️

Conni Gibson, CPA

(561) 739-7977

Florida Certified Public Accountant
Master's Degree in Accounting

- Taxes
- Financial Statements
- Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Payroll Processing & Tax Reporting
- Business Consulting & Formation
- IRS Representations & Audits
- Nonprofit & Trust Services

Cell (561) 253-4577
cgcpa@cgibsoncpa.com

Providing financial guidance to those that serve others.

MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS

LAW ENFORCEMENT &
FIRST RESPONDERS

PRIVATE
FOUNDATIONS

PHILANTHROPIC
INDIVIDUALS

IronBridge is a premier fee-based wealth management firm focused on solutions covering:

- Financial Planning
- Investment Management Programs
- Personal Risk Management

Our team's industry credentials include:
 CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification (CFP®)
 Certified Investment Management Analyst® designation (CIMA®)
 Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst® designation (CAIA®)
 Level II Chartered Financial Analyst Candidate

IRONBRIDGE WEALTH COUNSEL, LLC
 Offices: Boca Raton | Austin | Scottsdale
 Phone: 512.309.0230 | 954.816.2719
 Contact Email: Shane.Morrow@IronBridgeWC.com
 www.IronBridgeWC.com

Shane Morrow is a registered representative of Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp., a broker-dealer (member SIPC) and registered investment advisor offering insurance through Lincoln affiliates and other fine companies. IronBridge Wealth Counsel is not an affiliate of Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp. CRN-1815626-060717

HOST YOUR NEXT PARTY AT THE PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA *Banquet Hall*



PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA MANAGEMENT, INC. BANQUET HALL AVAILABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Amenities include:

- 3,600 square foot banquet hall
- Dance floor
- Tables & chairs
- Large self-contained parking lot
- Audio-Video availability
- Full prep kitchen with refrigeration and electric hot box

Hours of Operation: 11 a.m.-midnight

***No admission fees shall be charged for any events**

***No alcohol sales permitted**



FOR RATES CONTACT 561-889-4577

SPECIAL RATE FOR PBA MEMBERS

PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA | 2100 NORTH FLORIDA MANGO ROAD | WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409 | WWW.PBCPBA.ORG



'You were such a gentleman'

PBSO's Timothy Stambaugh remembered for his integrity

After a long battle with cancer, Timothy Stambaugh of Royal Palm Beach passed away on April 11.

Stambaugh spent 17 years as a fleet technician with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. On his tribute wall at the Palms West Funeral Home website, his former coworker Lissette Lopez wrote: "Tim, you were such a gentleman. Your service at fleet was magnificent. Thank you for your dedication and service to PBSO. You will always be part of this great family. RIP."

Another colleague, Katie Hines, wrote: "Tim was an amazing coworker. I loved

chatting with him and learning about his life. He loved sharing photos of his puppy! He is missed already!"

A lifelong Florida resident, Stambaugh was born in West Palm Beach in 1956. He was married to his wife Patti Ann for 22 years until her death in 2012. Stambaugh is survived by his sisters Leslie and Norene and his brother Keith, along with four nieces and two nephews.

Stambaugh was involved with the Boy Scouts for much of his youth, and he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Another former coworker noted: "He was a true asset



**Fleet Technician
Timothy Michael
Stambaugh
Palm Beach County
Sheriff's Office
End of Watch: April 11, 2018**

to our organization, a person of integrity who lived by the code of the Eagle Scouts."

His family asks that donations be made to the Boy Scouts of America in his name. As an adult, Stambaugh's interests included gun collecting and sailing. He was a member of West Palm Beach's Flotilla Club. ♥

Remembering a beloved K9 officer

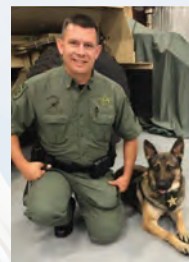
MCSO Lieutenant Bryan Parrett succumbs after long battle with colon cancer

It's always difficult to say goodbye to an officer and a friend, but to lose one so young to a deadly disease is especially tragic. Lieutenant Bryan Lee Parrett, 46, of Port St. Lucie lost his battle with colon cancer on March 20.

Parrett was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado and spent 24 years with the Martin County Sheriff's Office. He held a variety of positions there, including deputy sheriff for the Department of Corrections, U.S. Marshal, and K-9 officer. During his years of service, Parrett received numerous letters of commendation and thank-yous from grateful citizens, in addition to the Meritorious Service Award in February 2014.

Parrett was diagnosed with stage IV cancer in 2017, and several fundraisers were held at local businesses to help defray the cost of his medical expenses. In a display of support, a contingent of local law enforcement agencies was on hand to escort the ambulance when Parrett was moved to hospice care on March 16.

In a post on the "Lieutenant Bryan Parrett Memorial Page" on Facebook, one of his relatives wrote: "Bryan's coworkers/partners/brothers were always there visiting with Bryan and the family and always asking what they could do for everyone else. We know you were in a lot of pain too, and it has been very difficult for you also.



**Lieutenant
Bryan Parrett
Martin County Sheriff's
Department
End of Watch:
March 20, 2018**

Thank you for sharing parts of Bryan that we never knew and sharing work stories. They will be treasured."

Parrett is survived by his wife Renee, son John, daughter Paige and stepsons Jordan Keehn and Jacob Strotz. ♥

'He wanted to keep us safe'

Jupiter's Sam Miller made sure his friends and family came first

Captain Samuel E. Miller spent a life in service of his country and his family. He passed away on April 11 at the age of 64.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, he served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1972-75. In 1982, he joined the Jupiter Police Department. He held several positions during his 31 years on the job, including motor officer.

Miller was an avid football fan, rooting for both his Pittsburgh Steelers and his children's high school team. He even ran the film video for Centennial High School football games for several years.

His family and fellow officers always knew that Miller cared for them. In a post

on Miller's dignitymemorial.com page, David Watkins wrote:

"In 2001, I told my cousin Sam that I was going part-time, back into law enforcement. I expressed my concern to him that my department (the Pennsylvania Game Commission) did not issue the part-timers any Kevlar vests; only the full-time officers. He said, 'Heck, the bad guys don't care if you're part-time or not. They only see the badge!' I told him I would just have to buy a vest. Sam said, 'Just you wait. I've got something for you.' A few weeks later, a vest showed up in the mail. He had sent me one of his own Kevlar vests. When I telephoned Sam to thank him, all he said was, 'You're



**Captain
Samuel E. Miller
Jupiter
Police Department
End of Watch:
April 11, 2018**

welcome, I just wanted to make sure you are safe.' That was the way Sam was."

Miller is survived by his wife, Kimberly; sons Mike and Matthew; daughters D'Lynn Ryan and Laurelee Beard, as well as nine grandchildren. ♥

'She's kindness personified'

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The masses who know and love Joanne Kazanjian declare that she is an expert at the care and feeding of police officers. No surprise, considering how one of the Palm Beach County PBA's office assistants first built those skills: Joanne worked as a cafeteria manager for the School District of Palm Beach County.

"She's used to working with kids," muses Angela Twomey, the PBCPBA office manager.

Of course, Joanne's greatest experience with law enforcement has come through being married to PBA President John Kazanjian. And Kaz provides the greatest recommendation for why members should never hesitate to put their trust in Joanne.

"She's my boss," he says.

Making the rounds of introducing the PBCPBA team members through these "Meet the Staff" stories has provided an opportunity to hear from them about why they love doing the jobs they do. But the masses who know and love Joanne have learned that she rarely, if ever, talks about herself. More likely, Joanne will flash that comforting, reassuring, uplifting smile, and sometimes that's all members need to get through a situation that might bring them to the PBA offices.

"She's kindness personified," states PBA attorney Larry Fagan. "She's never in a bad mood. She always responds with laughter. She's always polite. She's the sweetest lady I've met in 52 years, hands down. And nobody else is even in the running."

Joanne was hired as a part-time office assistant 15 years ago when she needed a change of pace after she and Kaz lost their daughter Kaitlin in a terrible car crash. Then-President Ernie George hired Joanne because, as Kaz details, "Being a cop's wife, she knew what all the members went through every day."

With her welcoming smile and a demeanor that puts an arm around everybody she meets, Joanne is a natural to handle putting together new members' packets. It's truly a great asset for the PBA to have each new member's first interaction at the PBA office include getting a personalized membership card from Joanne.

She has become a jack-of-all-trades in her 15 years, including doing everything from working the phones to soliciting help from sponsors to working the reception desk at PBA headquarters. But Joanne has really become a jack-of-whatever-you-need. From organizing a room for a meeting to running inventory or sorting any items, she answers every call.

"Joanne is willing to jump in and do anything anytime," Twomey reports. "We're all about teamwork here: Whoever needs a hand, we grab a person. And Joanne is one of those people who always lends a hand."

She lends multiple hands to all the PBCPBA charity events, which Kaz says is her therapy for losing Kaitlin. Joanne likes to see to every detail, whether it's an idea to make the invitations to the annual PBA Ball a little more personal, or stuffing items into the goodie bags given to each participant at the golf outing each March.



Perhaps that is why every photo of Joanne taken at a golf outing, a PBA Ball or anywhere usually shows her smiling.

"She's really the office sweetheart," notes PBCPBA Legal Assistant Courtney Lawrenson, whose desk is directly across from Joanne's. "She's not just our coworker. She's more like our sister."

Joanne definitely is not the would-be First Lady of the PBA. Anything but. "No ego there," Fagan confirms. "She's your mother, your sister and your best friend all wrapped into one."

Her favorite job these days might be as grandmother. Her son, John, a PBSO deputy, has twins and her daughter, Kristin, has two sons. After her job at the PBA mushroomed into full-time hours, she cut back to help take care of the newborn twins. Being grandma certainly is her labor of love.

But the Palm Beach County PBA members will always be her babies, too.

"You feel like you can tell her everything," Lawrenson confides. "She's the kind of person who brings people together."

A story about Joanne would not be complete without recognizing her for the inspiration she has become for the PBCPBA. Kaz states that the money raised for the PBA scholarship funds from events such as the golf outing and the Angel Run named for Kaitlin come from members never forgetting his daughter and always honoring her. But every member will add that the goodwill and encouragement spawned from the tragedy flow right through Joanne.

"You look at someone who has that strength, and it's a silent strength that comes off as genuine kindness," Fagan assures. "Members see that strength that comes from her, and it helps form the backbone of this organization. She is beautiful inside and out." ♥

Upbeat on the beat

Palm Springs PD Chief Tom Ceccarelli's positive attitude is improving life for officers and citizens

Tom Ceccarelli admits that he didn't go for promotions until later in his career.

"But once you get promoted and realize you can make a difference as a supervisor," he expresses, "you get energized by that and want to move up."

In 2012, that energy encouraged Ceccarelli, then a 30-year veteran, to finally put out his résumé for the top job. As a result, he was hired as chief in Palm Springs.

"One of my brothers asked why I wanted to be a chief – it's a big headache," Ceccarelli relates. "Of course, every day isn't perfect, and you do more paperwork as chief, but it's never a boring job. And when you get to run an organization, you can really make a difference. You can't solve a problem unless you take it on."

Chief Ceccarelli's upbeat attitude has made an impact on the 44 officers and 18 civilians in the department. It also has helped modernize the department and improved the lives of Palm Springs' citizens as a whole.

But more on that shortly.

In 1983, the 21-year-old New York native ("like every other Floridian," Ceccarelli jokes), who had recently taken a job with the Boca PD, finally realized that that he had been tuned in to this career path since he was a kid.

"My father wasn't in law enforcement; he worked in Manhattan," Ceccarelli shares. "The story goes: every night after work, he would turn on the police radio scanner, and my two older brothers and I developed an interest in law enforcement listening to those calls. That's just the story we tell; not sure how true it is."

Possibly elaborated story aside, one of Ceccarelli's brothers joined the Nassau County Police Department in New York, and the other joined the Port Authority Police Department, which oversees the tunnels and bridges connecting New York and New Jersey. The latter has a harrowing story about the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center story. And this one is certainly true...

"My one brother was stationed there during the first bombing (in 1993) but had been transferred away two weeks earlier," Tom recalls. "On the morning of 9/11, he was supposed to go to a meeting at the towers, and after they fell, we didn't hear from him for two weeks. Then, one day we saw him on TV, helping out in the aftermath. That was just my brother. It turned out, on his way to the meeting he had forgotten something at the office and turned back. His boss and partner who continued on to the meeting ended up getting killed."

Meanwhile, 1,241 miles down I-95, Tom was about to receive his promotion to captain in Boca, overseeing the professional standards department and responsible for internal affairs, hiring, recruitment and accreditation. Before that, Ceccarelli's assignments had included road patrol, tactical, vice/organized crime, the bicycle unit and community policing. After being promoted to sergeant in the late 1990s, he worked in road patrol and the major crimes unit of the detective bureau. As captain, he first headed the professional standards bureau, before becoming a road patrol district commander.

As chief, Ceccarelli set in motion plans to modernize the department, as well as to improve the lives of his staff and community.

"The first thing I saw was that the fleet was aging," he recounts. "The average age of the 56 cars was nine years with 90,000 miles, and we were only replacing two per year. So I sold it to the manager that we were spending more on a new transmission than the car was worth, for example. We get a lot of support from the council, and everyone is really nice. Now we're buying six to eight cars per

Meet Palm Springs Chief

Tom Ceccarelli



- Born and raised in New York. Moved to Florida at age 20.
- Joined the Boca Raton Police Department in 1983 at age 21.
- Promoted to sergeant in Boca in the late 1990s and captain in the early 2000s.
- Hired as the Palm Springs Chief in 2012.
- Bachelor's degree from Barry University and a master's in criminal justice administration from Lynn University.
- Graduated from the FBI National Academy and the Command Officers Development Course through the Southern Police Institute of the University of Louisville.
- President of the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police.
- Two brothers who are retired law enforcement officers.
- Father of a 14-year-old daughter.

year. They're officers' offices. If you're unhappy spending 12 hours a day in your office, how happy will you be working?"

Ceccarelli also updated the department's firearms, modernized the radio system and this year he's buying new records management software to focus on predictive crime analysis. But perhaps his most notable achievement has been putting a big emphasis on training and on his officers' continuing education.

"You'll never get better if you're not going to learn," he emphasizes. "It's something nobody can take away from you."

When confronted with the "Doesn't experience count?" question, Ceccarelli responds, "Of course, but if you don't know anything other than what you're exposed to, your horizons can only go so far."

And to the "I don't have time" response, Ceccarelli shares another true story about his personal experience of not continuing his college education when he moved to Florida and returning in his 30s to get his bachelor's degree. Then, 10 years later, when he decided to go for chief, Ceccarelli delegated time to earn a master's degree as well. In addition, Ceccarelli spent three months attending the FBI National Academy in 2011 and graduated from the Command Officers Development Course through the Southern Police Institute of the University of Louisville.

"I'll always have that education, and my experience too," Ceccarelli summarizes. "I think it's helped me in both ways to become a better chief."

And a better instructor as well. Ceccarelli has taught numerous classes in the investigation of prescription narcotics abuse, as well as the use of less lethal weapons, including ASP/Baton, Pepper Spray and Taser. He has also instructed in the Citizen's Police Academy and many children's safety classes.

Now, as Palm Springs continues to grow, Ceccarelli's focus is on cleaning up crime in the town's expanding path that is currently four square miles in the center of Palm Beach County, with a population of roughly 23,000.

"We've taken on some not great areas and turned them around," he reports.

Perhaps that is also a metaphor for boosting morale within the department.

"There are always people who tell you how bad things are," he says. "But if things are so bad, why stay? This is a great job, it really is. Some people just like to be miserable. But isn't it better to do something about it?" ♥



FINANCE THE HOME OF YOUR DREAMS IN THE COMMUNITY YOU SERVE

Whether it's purchasing their first home, upgrading to a larger one or re-financing to lower their payment or pay off debt, SWBC Mortgage Corporation continues to help law enforcement officers build their future.



- Specialize in loan origination and developing lasting relationships with referral partners and borrowers
- Have a passion to help local law enforcement professionals build a secure and lasting future through home ownership
- Graduate from the University of Central Florida



KEVIN COLEMAN

SWBC MORTGAGE CORPORATION
SR. LOAN OFFICER | NMLS #209691

4540 PGA Blvd, Ste #200 | Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418
CELL: 561.307.6405 | OFFICE: 561.295.8107
FAX: 888.280.1369 | EMAIL: kcoleman@swbc.com
swbcmortgage.com/Kevin-Coleman

© 2017 SWBC. All rights reserved. Loans are subject to credit and property approval. Other restrictions and conditions may apply. Programs and guidelines are subject to change without notice. Rates are subject to change daily. Corporate office located at 9311 San Pedro Avenue, Suite 100, San Antonio, TX 78216. SWBC Mortgage Corporation, NMLS #9741 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). 05/17 8540-6575



The Future of Public Safety Software is Here

Modern policing demands an intelligence
driven fully integrated solution.

ProPhoenix provides you
that opportunity today.



ProPhoenix Solutions — Next Generation Public Safety Software

CAD • Mobile • Law RMS • Fire RMS • EMS • Jail • IA • NCIC • E911 • AVL • Multi-Juris

For
NJ

- Integrated e-Ticketing with no per ticket fees
- New 2017 NJTRI is included
- Readiness for NJ NIBRS, Police Accreditation
- Built-in Data sharing with all NJ Users & NJDex

PROPHOENIX
Next Generation Public Safety Software

Visit prophoenix.com to learn the features
and benefits of each ProPhoenix Solution.

609-953-6850 | sales@prophoenix.com





Members Only Section

Celebrating PBC PBA members and the way they serve every day

Palm Beach officers get photo opp with President Trump

Prior to boarding Air Force One and departing from Palm Beach International Airport to return to the White House on April 22, President Trump stopped to pay his respects. Trump had just concluded six days at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach – his 17th visit since becoming president – and he paused on the tarmac to take a photo with the officers who keep him safe when he comes to town.

With Air Force One in the background, President Trump posed with 33 motorcycle officers from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Delray Beach, West Palm Beach and Palm Beach Gardens. These are the officers detailed to his motorcade every time he travels from the airport to Mar-a-Lago and back and to Trump International Golf Club, where he played a few rounds during this visit.

"From my understanding, the president requested to take a picture with the motor officers," explained Greg Allen, a Palm Beach County PBA executive board member and Palm Beach Gardens motor officer who was part of the detail and the photo.

"He shook a lot of officers' hands, and they were very excited and very appreciative," Allen continued. "He was all smiles and made some statements that made us feel good."

As the president gathered officers around him to take the photo, they responded with applause. Trump followed that with a rousing double thumbs up that can be seen in the photo.

He then boarded Air Force One, but the moment truly lingered. As the plane approached Washington D.C., he posted the photo on his Twitter page with the message:

"Thank you to the incredible Law Enforcement Officers of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. They keep us safe and are very cool about it!"

PBSO responded by posting the tweet on its Facebook page with a thank-you note reading: "It's an honor to protect and serve our Commander in Chief." ❤️



Boynton Beach honors Officer of the Year

Boynton Beach Police Department Officer of the Year Detective Astrel Labbe was honored on April 13 at a luncheon hosted by Palm Beach County Victim Services.

The 16-year veteran of the Boynton Beach Police Department was recognized for his genuine, kind, caring and trustworthy character that positively impacts victims of violent crimes. Labbe's remarkable service, especially his efforts this year to help an elderly victim of sexual assault who suffered from Alzheimer's, led to this honor. Labbe's professionalism and expertise led him to successfully work with this victim through the interview process, while always keeping the wellbeing of the victim a priority.

Labbe also showed this distinct ability to comfort victims of violent crimes while performing an investigation with another victim of sexual assault, who struggled to discuss the incident due to the trauma that it caused. Labbe's calm and caring disposition gave the victim the support necessary to provide her statement and complete the crime's investigation.

In addition to his detective work, Labbe is a K9 handler for the Palm Beach County Therapy Dog Pilot Program and also partic-



ipates in many events that bring law enforcement closer to the community, including Coffee with a Cop and Shop with a Cop.

Labbe was joined at the luncheon ceremony by many previous Officer of the Year award winners, who all congratulated him on receiving this distinguished honor. ❤️

Boynton Beach K9 statue receives place of honor

Boynton Beach Police Department unveiled a new K9 statue in Crowder Dog Park on April 18 to honor Joseph Crowder, a Boynton Beach K9 officer who died suddenly in 2016 due to a medical episode.

Officers from Boynton Beach Police Department gathered in uniform at the park on Renaissance Commons Boulevard to unveil the new statue, which was dedicated to Crowder and his working K9, Daxxx. Daxxx was purchased as a result of the first annual Boynton Beach K9 Competition in 2011 and was Crowder's K9 partner until the dog retired.

Crowder was a 14-year veteran of Boynton Beach Police Department. His family members were present at the ceremony and wore Joe Crowder memorial T-shirts. Boynton Beach K9 officers also attended the statue unveiling with their K9s to pay their respects and honor the legacy of their blue brother. ♥



MCSO hits home run for fallen military brother

The softball tournament that Martin County Sheriff's Office members have played the past five years to honor a military brother from Stuart just keeps getting bigger.

On the weekend of April 14-15, teams from throughout the state came to play in the 5th Annual Aaron Vaughn Memorial Softball Tournament at Halpatiokee Park.

Navy SEAL Aaron C. Vaughn died on Aug. 6, 2011 serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. The CH-47 Chinook helicopter in which he was riding was shot down in Wardak province, Afghanistan. Vaughn left behind his wife, Kimberly, son Reagan, 2 years old at the time, and daughter Chamberlyn, two months old at the time.

Proceeds from the event support Operation 300, a non-profit organization that creates weeklong adventure experiences for children who lost parents as a result of service to their country. The organization was created in honor of Aaron Vaughn.

MCSO Watch Commander Lieutenant Danny Cunningham organized the tournament again this year. Martin County Sheriff Bill Snyder also stopped by to meet veterans and support the cause.

The team from Martin County Sheriff's Office took the tournament championship. Second place went to a team from St. Lucie County, and the Florida Guardians took third place. ♥



Tournament champions from the Martin County Sheriff's Office



Martin County Sheriff Bill Snyder came out to support the cause.

Delray Beach officers lead the way

Delray Beach police officers were honored at the department's quarterly awards and promotions ceremony.



December 2017 Officer of the Month

Officer Stephanie Holst



January 2018 Officers of the Month

Detective Robin Moschette, Officer Stephanie Holst, Sergeant Michael DeBree, Officers Marlon Reis, Joseph Kratz and Jerry DeFranco

SAVE UP TO \$10,000 OR MORE WITH MY FIRST RESPONDERS 1% LISTING FEE AND 1% BUYER'S REBATE!

MONEY SAVED USING MY 1% FIRST RESPONDER'S LISTING FEE

Home Sales Price	Standard 6% Fee Paid when using Traditional Agents	3.5% Listing Fee 1% to House Pro 2.5% to Buyer's Agent	Homeowner's Savings First Responder's Savings
\$350,000	\$21,000	\$12,250	\$8,750
\$450,000	\$27,000	\$15,750	\$11,250
\$550,000	\$33,000	\$19,250	\$13,750

FIRST RESPONDER'S BUYERS REBATES

Home Sales Price	Traditional Agent	First Responder Rebate
\$350,000	\$0	\$3,500.00
\$450,000	\$0	\$4,500.00
\$550,000	\$0	\$5,500.00

"Because you help make our community a safer place, I want to help you and your family save thousands of dollars when buying or selling a home!"



Emily Weihs, P.A.
Ph: (561) 634-1628
Email: emilysellsfl@gmail.com



Lifesaving Award

Officers Jesus Tabares, Francisco Casarez and Megan Vickery, along with civilian Guy Carrier, received a lifesaving award for rescuing a near-drowning victim.



Chief's Achievement Awards

Detective Adrian Rackauskas



Officer George Castro and Code Enforcement Officer Karen Proto



Officers Normile SaintMartin, Alex Smith and Sergeant Danny Pacheco




Master Police Officer

Officer Adam Whiting achieved master police officer status in the career advancement program.

Martin County and Boynton Beach riders travel in force

Multiple Palm Beach County PBA agencies took part in the 21st Annual Florida Tour de Force charity bicycle ride, which kicked off on April 9 in North Miami Beach. Along their journey, riders from the Martin County Sheriff's Office and the Boynton Beach Police Department stopped to enjoy a hearty meal prepared by the BBQ Grill Team before continuing on the 270-mile journey that concludes each year in Orlando four days later.

The cyclists experienced some challenging weather conditions along the way, but nothing would stop them from completing the ride that honors law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. They also raised money for the families of Florida's law enforcement fallen heroes.

First responders from across the state, including the Martin County Fire and Rescue Squad, took part in the charitable event that passes through more than 40 law enforcement jurisdictions. 



Members in the Community

Showcasing the positive presence of law enforcement officers across Palm Beach and Martin counties that encouraged leadership and strengthened community bonds.

Martin County officer brings the bun back to school



Martin County School Resource Deputy Andrea Olson brings style and safety to Hope Rural School in Indiantown. She left such an impression on the young girls there that they all put their hair in buns to mimic Olson's hairstyle.

Officers address school security in Riviera Beach



On March 1, Riviera Beach officers helped address parental concerns on student safety by hosting a town hall on school security. The meeting was held at JFK Middle School, where officers including Interim Assistant Chief Spencer Rozier stressed the importance of the “see-something-say-something” message. They also answered questions from parents and members of the community on how law enforcement is constantly working to strengthen school security.

West Palm Beach officers celebrate greatness



West Palm Beach officers were proud to congratulate a class of 106 fifth-grade students who graduated from the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T.) at Northboro Elementary School in April. The ceremony took place in the auditorium, where WPB officers including Chief Sarah Mooney distributed drawstring backpacks and other goodies to the graduating class, the eighth this year in West Palm Beach County.

Stuart's big night out



Stuart Police Department officers were happy to receive another invitation to the annual Night Out Celebration hosted by Pierpoint residents. The event took place on March 21 at the Pierpoint Yacht Club, where officers enjoyed a barbecue dinner followed by a question-and-answer discussion with the residents. Stuart City Commissioner Nick Blount also attended the event, where officers and residents were able to get to know one another and build a strong community bond.



Northwestern Mutual

Experienced in FRS planning, financial analysis, and life insurance needs
The **First Choice** for **First Responders**



Monique Heinz
Financial Advisor
moniqueheinz.nm.com
(561) 236-1291

05-4013 © 2018 Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company (NM), Milwaukee, WI (life and disability insurance, annuities, and life insurance with long-term care benefits) and its subsidiaries. Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC (NMIS) (securities), a subsidiary of NM, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, and member of FINRA and SIPC. Monique Macloskey Heinz, Insurance Agent(s) of NM. Monique Macloskey Heinz, Registered Representative(s) of NMIS. Monique Macloskey Heinz, Representative(s) of Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company®, (NMWMC) Milwaukee, WI, (fiduciary and fee-based planning) subsidiary of NM and a federal savings bank.

199-Two room suites with private bedroom and separate living area

Complimentary full cooked to order breakfast & cocktail reception daily

Outdoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center, jogging trail

Complimentary local transportation & easy access to both Florida Turnpike and I-95

Corporate rates for business travel, meetings and social groups/events

**We've Got Your Back,
and Appreciate Your Service!**

**First Responders with their families
SAVE 5% - 20% ON BEST AVAILABLE RATES!**

**Call now for details and
reservations!**



www.bocaratonsuites.hilton.com
7920 Glades Rd. Boca Raton, FL 33434
561-483-3600

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officers give back

When Deputy Sheriff Gregory Gerbasi responded to a citizen's complaint of a bicycle robbery in Lake Worth, he committed his efforts to returning the item to the 9-year-old boy who owned it.

The bicycle had been a gift to the boy two days prior to the robbery, which took place on April 14. Noticing the trauma that the experience had caused in the young boy, Gerbasi quickly established a perimeter and utilized all available resources — including multiple K-9 units and the aviation unit — for his investigation. Charles Johnson also assisted in the search, but despite their efforts, the suspect was not identified and the bike was not located.

Aware that the family was not financially equipped to replace the bike themselves, Gerbasi and Johnson took it upon themselves to buy the child a new bike with their own money. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officers went to Walmart to pick out the bicycle, and they even coordinated a partnership that led to the donation of a helmet, lights and bicycle lock to ensure the safety of the child.

Gerbasi's and Johnson's efforts to go above and beyond the call of duty for the victim of this incident caused an emotional response from the family, who were overwhelmed by the gesture. Their efforts are another great example of law enforcement shaping positive relationships with the community, one grand gesture at a time. ♥



RYAN J. WYNNE, ESQ.

SS & W

Slinkman, Slinkman & Wynne, P.A.

**REPRESENTING ACCIDENT VICTIMS
THROUGHOUT FLORIDA FOR
FOUR DECADES**



RICHARD K. SLINKMAN, ESQ.

*Reduced fees for law
enforcement and their
immediate families*

Car Crash, Slip and Fall or Accident?...Let us help you

The Law Firm of Slinkman, Slinkman & Wynne provides:

- Contingent fee contracts- No Fees or Costs unless we prevail on your injury case.
- Free confidential initial consultations
- Attorneys who handle your cases...not just paralegals or support staff
- We are proud to offer home, hospital and nursing home visits to you in the event that you are unable to meet with us in our office. Let us travel to you.

(561) 686-3400

WWW.SSWLAWFL.COM

Thank-You Notes

TO THE PBA

3-21-18
Dear Mr. Kazanjian,

I thank you and the PBC PBA for endorsing me in my candidacy for Wellington Council Seat 2.

Thank you also for the most generous campaign contribution. Having your support truly meant a lot to me during the race!

Ever yours,
Tanya Siskind

John & Committee,

Thank you for your support and endorsement of my re-election campaign. Your support & endorsement helped to ensure a strong victory. I greatly appreciate your help & assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark Mullinix

Dear Mr. Kazanjian & Officers,

Thank you very much for your kind support and encouragement for my Highland Beach campaign for Commissioner. It was an amazing & successful race. And we won!

I will be implementing my goals -- and actually already did so in the over

last two meetings. I am hopeful we on the Commission will update & improve many aspects of our Town.

Many thanks again for your believing in me!

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Gossett-Seidman
Highland Beach Commissioner



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.pbc-pba.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@pbc-pba.com to your approved sender list.

E-PBA is Your Source For...

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

To sign up...

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

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

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

Emergency Contact Procedure

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

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

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

PBCPBA Charity Fund Deductions

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

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

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

Attention: Retirees

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

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

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

Enjoy the full peace of mind your retirement should mean.

817.311 Unlawful Use of Badges, Etc.

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

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



Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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

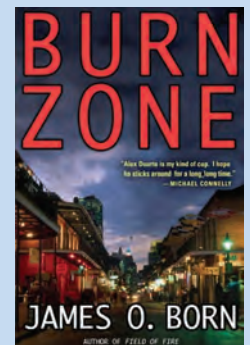
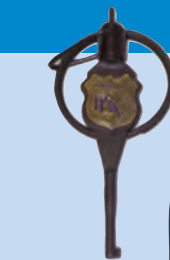


Get your PBA "Support Law Enforcement" Tag

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

Get your PBA-Logo Merchandise

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





The home of your dreams
can be within reach

SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED US

A VA home loan can help make it happen.

At Freedom Mortgage we believe that those who protect the American dream, should be able to reach one of their own. A VA home loan offer many benefits, including:

- 100% home financing – no down payment¹
- Minimum credit score 550
- No monthly private mortgage insurance²
- Competitive interest rates
- Allows the seller to pay most closing costs³
- Finance up to \$6,000 towards energy efficient improvements



Contact your Freedom Mortgage
Loan Officer for more information!

¹ When the loan amount exceeds the FHFA loan limit, the amount of the borrower's VA entitlement or the entitlement plus down payment/equity must equal 25% of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower.

² Loans guaranteed by the Veterans Administration (VA) are subject to a one-time funding fee.

³ All seller contributions are subject to negotiated contract of sale.



FREEDOM MORTGAGE®

RICH TSCHERNIA

Senior Vice President, National Affinity Lending • NMLS# 46504

800-462-8178

Rich.Tschernia@freedommortgage.com • freedommortgage.com/union@freedommortgage.com

Information is subject to change without notice. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend. Freedom Mortgage is not affiliated with the U.S. government, HUD, FHA, VA, or any other government agencies. Freedom Mortgage Corporation, 907 Pleasant Valley Avenue, Suite 3, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, (800) 220-3333. Lender NMLS# 2767. Licensed Mortgage Banker – NYS Department of Financial Services, New York License# 108327. Equal Housing Opportunity. For additional information about Freedom Mortgage Corporation, please visit nmlsconsumeraccess.org.

© 2018 Freedom Mortgage Corporation. All rights reserved.
RT199(1217)



STAR & SHIELD

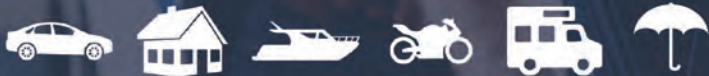
INSURANCE

CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE!
866.942.9822

NEW EXPANDED CARRIER OPTIONS

**More Options!
More Carriers!
More Opportunities
to Save!**

**Dedicated to Serving
Public Safety
8 Years and Counting!**



TAKE-HOME CAR

Extended Liability coverage for authorized personal use of government-issued autos available.



ENDORSED BY
**FLORIDA POLICE
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

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

Star & Shield Services LLC, dba Star & Shield Insurance is an insurance agency offering insurance through multiple insurance companies (carriers). Applicants are individually underwritten by each respective insurance carrier. Some individuals may not qualify for insurance and/or all available discounts. Insurance coverage subject to policy terms and conditions of each respective carrier. Not available in all states. Promotional material for descriptive purposes only.

MAZDA
of
Palm Beach

MazdaofPalmBeach.com

Show
Your
Badge
and
SAVE!



**PROUD SUPPORTER
OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**THANK
YOU**

*For all
that
You Do!*

Mazda of Palm Beach
(561) 273-8400

2677 Northlake Blvd. North Palm Beach FL, 33403

**YOU TAKE CARE OF US
WE TAKE CARE OF YOU!**

EXIT 77 (east) NORTHLAKE BLVD & ALT. A1A