



# Florida Sheriffs Association

## Honorary Sheriff

### Frank Messersmith

*February 2013*

Frank Messersmith is best known as the man who did battle at the Capitol for the 13 years while representing the Florida Sheriffs Association. Frank's sweetest victory was restoring \$1.4 billion in retirement benefits to law-enforcement officers.

But not everyone knows that Frank once worked undercover as a "John" in prostitution stings with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, or that he was an award-winning journalist before his career in law enforcement. All of this preceded his five terms as a Florida Representative, as he led the charge to build more prisons, which resulted in a record reduction in crime.

In his political career, Frank was hailed as "the GOP's Point Man," and "a Rising Star Among Republican ranks." However, what gave Frank the staying power was his ability to find the middle ground among lawmakers - very often those issues involved sheriffs. After leaving elected office, Frank became the sheriffs contracted lobbyist in 2000. Frank Messersmith received recognition as Honorary Sheriff in 2013.

