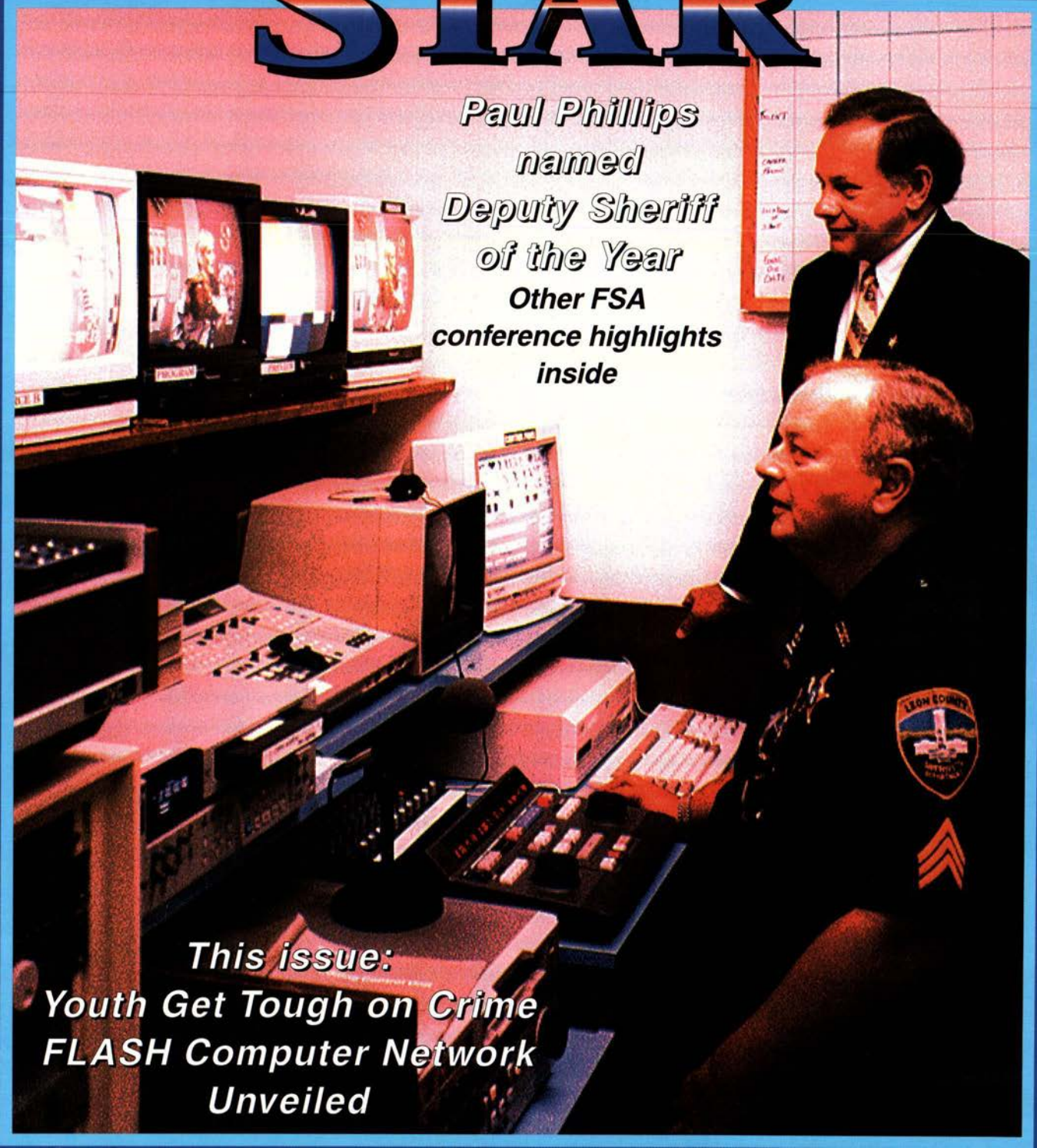
SHERIFF'S STAR



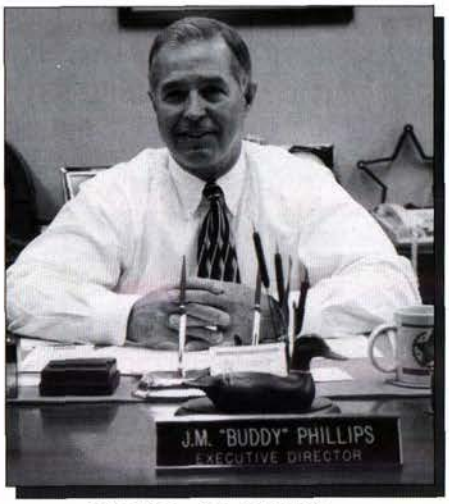
Paul Phillips named Deputy Sheriff of the Year

Other FSA conference highlights inside

This issue:
Youth Get Tough on Crime
FLASH Computer Network Unveiled

From the desk of . . .

J.M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association



J.M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association

This issue of *The Sheriff's Star* is devoted, in a large part, to reporting on our 1995 Summer Florida Sheriffs Association Conference held in July at Walt Disney Village.

You might wonder, "What could citizens of this state find of interest from a meeting of 67 Sheriffs and their upper-level staff?"

The answer is: Plenty.

And the reason: This meeting highlighted the direction that law enforcement and criminal justice are headed into the 21st century — something that will directly affect the everyday lives of Florida citizens.

Several themes were apparent at the conference that I'd like to share with you.

❶. **Politics and advances in criminal justice go hand-in-hand.** We were very fortunate this year to have several senators and representatives participate in the event, as well as our attorney general, Bob Butterworth, and secretary of state, Sandra Mortham. The good news they shared is that the Sheriffs have come a long way in getting recognized for political clout and having the ear of legislators. The not-so-good news is that we've got a long way to go.

Repeatedly, we heard senators and representatives emphasize the importance of educating all legislators about the many aspects of criminal justice and letting them know what is needed to make this great state of ours a safe place in which to live, work, and raise our families. With the 1995 legislature — most agreed — the Florida Sheriffs Association did just that.

Those from the law-enforcement community seem to agree this was the biggest year for criminal justice and prison legislation in the history of the state.

The fallout following the legislature is the current concern. There are indications that supporters of other budgetary items are trying to target criminal-justice dollars to siphon into their own coffers. I'm here to tell you, there could be nothing worse for this state.

For one, it's counterproductive to target one portion of the budget to build credibility and dollars for your own cause. Florida needs dollars spent in all areas: human services, education, economic development, as well as criminal justice. Many of you might remember Gov. Lawton Chiles' presentation using the three-legged stool. Criminal justice plays an important role in keeping that stool from toppling over.

A more important argument, perhaps, is evidence of what can happen when you don't spend enough money in the area of criminal justice — which is what has been happening over the years in previous administrations that didn't support corrections, and therefore, didn't provide resources to keep criminals off the street.

Florida is now in a "catch up" mode. There have been a number of years when prison beds were not built, which led to earlier release of criminals — since there was no where to put them.

The 1993-1994 Florida Department of Corrections annual report includes an eye-opening chart illustrating inmate admissions. What it tells us is that between FY 1983-84 through FY 1989-90, inmate admissions had shown a steady increase. This was a period when very few new prison beds were added — which meant offenders were released early to continue to prey on an unsuspecting society. Corrections stats have always shown that prisons are filled largely with habitual offenders — the recidivism rate is staggering.

In FY 1990-91, more prison beds were built, prisoners started serving more of their sentences — and guess what? Prison admissions began to decrease. The total drop was from 44,488 in FY 1988-89 to 26,623 in FY 1993-94.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out: If you build enough prison beds to keep the offenders off the street — crime goes down. But if you refuse to plan enough facilities to house those offenders, and prevent them from repeating offenses, crime will rise.

We assure you, the Florida Sheriffs Association and its 67 member Sheriffs will do everything possible to keep criminal justice a high priority in the minds of legislators in the coming years.

❷. A second theme that was obvious during the conference was the **value gained in sharing of resources.**

The Florida Sheriffs Association is committed to encouraging networking between the state's law-enforcement officers. That means everything from sharing ideas on programs that were successful to sharing equipment in a crisis situation.

I'd like to encourage *Sheriff's Star* readers to review the story on FLASH, a computer system that is now being implemented to tie together the Sheriffs' offices. It's expected to make a significant contribution to maximized use of your tax dollar in the very near future.

❸. And finally — a topic that our staff from the Association introduced at the meeting was an idea for a **law-enforcement memorial and new training facility** to be based in Tallahassee.

Many of us have been touched by the outpouring of emotion surrounding the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. We'd like to propose a similar memorial to our state's fallen heroes: those officers who gave their own lives to protect the lives of Florida citizens.

In tandem, what better way to honor them than to equip those who follow in their footsteps with increased training, advanced techniques, and the tools needed to continue the fight against crime?

That's our dream for the Florida Sheriffs and citizens of this state. I invite your comments, support, and ideas for this combination memorial and training center. Please note our address, phone and fax numbers on the opposite page and use them to correspond with our office.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

J. M. Phillips

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

Crime Prevention Tip:

Youth Organized Against Crime

Drugs were out of control. There were 10 gold-chain snatchings in one year. It was 1979 and this school — Holmes-Braddock Senior High — clearly had a problem.

A neighborhood Crime Watch officer at the time, Earl Chantlos was approached by Crime Watch coordinator Betty Anne Goode to start a similar concept in the schools. The idea was to train the students to be the eyes and ears of the school resource officers and police.

"The majority of kids are good kids," Chantlos says. But they were afraid to say anything. That is — until they realized there was power in numbers — the good guys squeezing out the bad.

Chantlos, with the help of administrators including assistant principal Fred Bertani, called together a cross section of students — the good, the bad, and the borderline. He told them that in order to clean up the image of the school, they needed the students' help.

Chantlos helped organize patrols of students on the lookout for crime. The kids were trained by the school resource officers on what to look for and how to report, including how to take a proper description of the offender.

It was to be the start of a wildly successful program — Youth Crime Watch — now a national program that's also mandated in 32 Florida counties. Youth Crime Watch has been endorsed by everyone, including the president of the United States, Attorney General Janet Reno, and Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles.

And the trend continues at its alma mater. Though there were 5,300 students in Holmes-Braddock Senior High in the 1994-1995 school year, there was only one theft reported.

Chantlos, now a crime-prevention deputy with the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office, says, "We taught the kids how to be better citizens, how to be informed citizens."

Against crime together

Youth Crime Watch activities include: field trips to the jail, the courts, and rehabilitative facilities; crime-prevention instruction; sexual-assault prevention instruction; teaching crime prevention to elementary schools; and neighborhood school watch.

One important note is that the kids are taught only to observe and report — not to get involved in physical confrontations.

Following are some of the tips offered in Youth Crime Watch literature. Pass it along to children you know. Or better yet, if you don't have a Youth Crime Watch in your county's schools, contact the Youth Crime Watch of America and get one started.

Procedure for reporting to police

1. Identify yourself as a Youth Crime Watcher
2. State the type of crime
3. State where the crime is committed, as specifically as possible
4. Give a description of the suspect
5. Give a description of the vehicle and state tag number
6. Specify the direction of travel
7. If the crime is in progress, stay on the telephone with the police
8. The more information you can give, the better

Questions to ask yourself before reporting to police

1. How many suspects were there?
2. What did they do?
3. What did they say?
4. What did they take?
5. Which way did they go?
6. Were there any other witnesses (get names, addresses, and phone numbers)?
7. Is there any other information that you feel is important?

Suspect identity

1. Hair color, style
2. Approximate height
3. Eyes, eyeglasses
4. Complexion
5. Beard, mustache, sideburns
6. Nationality, if known
7. Approximate age
8. Approximate weight
9. Visible scars, marks, tattoos
10. Speech characteristics (accent, lisp,etc.)
11. Shirt
12. Coat or jacket
13. Trousers
14. Shoes
15. Weapon type

For more information, contact Youth Crime Watch of America, 9200 So. Dadeland Blvd., Ste. 320, Miami, FL 33156; phone (305) 670-2409. ✪

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

Volume 39, No. 5, September/October 1995

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The Sheriff's Star is published six times per year; January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December, by the Florida Sheriffs Association, a non-profit corporation, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519 (street address, 2617 Mahan Drive). The subscription rate is $5 per year and the publication number is USPS 493-980. Second class postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Please send address corrections to ***The Sheriff's Star***, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519. ISSN 0488-6186

E-mail: 74633.1625@Compuserve.com Phone (904) 877-2165 Fax (904) 878-8665

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J. Paul Phillips, Jr. named
FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year

By Tom Berlinger
Director of Operational Services

ORLANDO – Sheriff Charlie Wells (left), the 1994/95 President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, presents the award to Sgt. Paul Phillips, along with Phillips' boss, Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone (right).

"Spend a few hours with Sgt. Paul Phillips, and what becomes unmistakable is the enthusiasm he has for his job," notes a smiling Eddie Boone, Phillips' boss and four-term Sheriff of Leon County.

Hard work, dedication to his craft, and that enthusiasm have earned Phillips the distinction of being named the 1995 Florida Sheriffs Association Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

After 28 years in the profession, most law-enforcement officers want to "drive a desk" instead of a police car, and they are looking to merely "lay low" until retirement.

Instead, "Paul Phillips looks for bigger and more difficult challenges," Sheriff Boone insists, and Phillips' record in recent years does nothing to diminish this claim.

Since joining the Leon County force 14 years ago, Sergeant Phillips has seen it all. He served in uniform patrol, was a plainclothes investigator, served a number of years as the agency's chief hostage negotiator, and worked in the communications section. Today, he serves as sergeant in charge of their crime-prevention unit which presents over 500 programs each year.

The unique work which distinguishes Phillips began in 1989. It was then that he became the driving force behind the creation and continuing success of several innovative and unique programs.

That year, Sheriff Boone allowed Phillips to experiment with a weekly television program. The program was called "Against Crime Together," and it was broadcast on a Tallahassee-based local access cable television station. The show gained widespread acceptance, with crime prevention as its primary focus.

The program, which offered an interview format, was aimed at providing the general public with an in-depth look at local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies, community-service programs, and the inner-workings of the state's juvenile and adult court systems.

Over the three-and-a-half-year life of the show, guests included the attorney general, the local state attorney, Florida's statewide prosecutor, the commissioner of FDLE, and the chiefs of most of Florida's state law-enforcement agencies. Over 150 half-hour programs were produced and aired across north Florida.

As a result of changes in staff and management at the television station, reorganization left the program without access to a full-time engineer or production staff. Unfortunately, that signaled the show's demise.

But, in 1990, even when the television program was in its prime — Sergeant Phillips and other members of his crime-prevention unit began exploring the concept of publishing a community-supported, crime-prevention newsletter. If successful, it would be distributed free to local residents via community-minded business owners.

In addition to the usual crime-prevention tips and local criminal statistics, this publication would also be a vehicle which would allow for the participation of local writers, neighborhood associations, neighborhood watch groups, and the business community.

The initial run of the publication, coined "Crime-Watch," was 2,500 copies. Today, nearly six years later, the publication has expanded to 24 pages in length, and circulation has grown to nearly 15,000. The publication is completely self-supporting; paid for through ads bought by Tallahassee-area businesses. Sergeant Phillips continues to serve as its editor.

In 1994, Phillips developed a relationship with Mr. Fellis Carnley, a retired sales manager for the Tallahassee CBS affiliate, WCTV. Undeterred by the demise of the first television program, they developed the idea for a new, locally produced show that would carry the same name and message as the "Crime-Watch" publication. A pilot program was produced in which viewers would get an inside look at Leon County's newly opened boot camp.

Phillips and Carnley then approached the station manager of Tallahassee's local Fox television network affiliate, WTLH, and sold him on the concept for the new program.

The station agreed to air the program in prime time — at 10:00 on Saturday night. This slot would place the program in harmony with the Fox network's "cop" night.

For the new show, Phillips serves as the chief writer and producer, and he makes all story assignments to ensure that all parts of the program are ready to assemble. He also does all the post-production work. A total of 37 programs have been aired to date.

Joel Smithgall, promotions coordina-

tor for WTLH Fox-49, recently told FSA that their station is viewed by an estimated 94,000 households at any given time and can be seen over a stretch of 17 counties in North Florida and South Georgia.

The credentials to back him

Phillips has a bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University; he's regional vice president of the Florida Crime Prevention Association, and he is a certified Crime Prevention Practitioner. Sergeant Phillips is married and has four children ranging in age from 15 to 28.

Paul's dad, J. Paul Phillips, Sr., is a 41-year veteran of law enforcement and is the retired deputy director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. "This is such a great honor for Paul," Phillips' father said. "Since childhood, he's always been a quiet, low-profile kind of guy who never sought the limelight in anything he ever did. But he's a hard worker who has always made his mom and me very proud."

For his efforts, Paul Phillips, Jr. was awarded a handsome plaque and a check in the amount of $1,000. The presentations were made at a recent statewide conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association in Orlando.

FORT LAUDERDALE – Broward County Sheriff Ron Cochran (left), presents a runner-up award to Deputy Greg Maison.

GAINESVILLE – Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich (right), presents a runner-up plaque to Deputy C.W. Phillips.

And Now, For the Runners-Up . . .

FT. LAUDERDALE–In addition to the annual Deputy Sheriff of the Year award, the Florida Sheriffs Association presents separate awards to two individuals chosen as runners-up.

The first of the two runners-up is Deputy Sheriff Gregory Maison of Broward County. During 1995, Maison was assigned to uniformed patrol, but he also served as the crime-prevention specialist in the unincorporated area west of Fort Lauderdale's city limits.

"Deputy Maison makes a strong commitment to excellence," notes Broward Sheriff Ron Cochran. "On a daily basis, he dedicates himself to preventing crime, teaching children, and helping every citizen who crosses his path."

Maison had many accomplishments during 1994. He personally conducted 25 crime-prevention presentations to area adults and presented 10 programs to a total of over 5,000 school children that emphasized safety, gang awareness, and drug resistance. He also volunteered over 800 hours working with children in Broward's Police Athletic League. As part of his personal commitment to this cause, Deputy Maison assisted in raising funds and coordinating community support to send a select group of children to Puerto Rico on an eight-day good-will tour.

Maison coordinated eight neighborhood cleanup and beautification projects as a part of his ongoing effort to improve the quality of life in the areas he patrols. He also organized two "feed the needy" programs, one at Thanksgiving and one during the Christmas holidays.

During 1994, Deputy Maison was nominated for various other law-enforcement awards including the Red Ribbon Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and West Broward district's Deputy Sheriff of the Year award and he was also Broward Sheriffs Office employee of the month in January, April, May, and August.

His tireless efforts have earned him praises from all corners — and now he's been declared one of the best in the state!

GAINESVILLE–As often happens, deputies are recognized for exceptional quick thinking and effective action, particularly under high stress and life-threatening circumstances. Such is the case with our other runner-up, Deputy C.W. Phillips of Alachua County.

The incident that earned him accolades from near and far, and for which he was chosen as the other runner-up, occurred during the early-morning hours of May 8, 1994. Phillips was on routine patrol when he received a bulletin from a neighboring county concerning a homicide suspect believed to be driving into Alachua County.

Shortly after hearing the bulletin, Deputy Phillips spotted the suspect vehicle and began to follow it toward the small community of Micanopy. As he followed the vehicle, one of the occupants fired at him with an assault rifle. Even without immediate backup available, Phillips continued pursuit.

Upon entering the town limits of Micanopy, the driver stopped the vehicle and all three men occupying the vehicle began firing a barrage of bullets at Deputy Phillips. He immediately took cover and returned fire.

Two of the suspects were shooting at him with military-style assault rifles — the third was firing a 9mm handgun. Remarkably, despite the fact that at least 30 rounds were fired at him, Deputy Phillips succeeded in shooting and killing one suspect, shooting and wounding another. The third was uninjured.

The two remaining suspects fled the scene on foot, but were apprehended a short time later. When the smoke cleared, one of the suspects was found to have seven outstanding warrants against him, including charges of second-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder. Much to his credit, Deputy Phillips escaped this incident unhurt.

"The quick thinking, courage, and bravery displayed by Deputy Phillips was remarkable," noted a proud Steve Oelrich, Phillips' boss and the Sheriff of Alachua County. "It's an example of how a professional, well-trained deputy can react when facing a near impossible task....we were thrilled and impressed by his actions." ✪

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President

1995 1996 FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

The Sheriffs pictured here were installed as officers at the 82nd Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association, July 23-26, 1995. They will serve until the next Sheriffs Association election in July, 1996.

Geoffrey Monge
Vice President

Charlie B. Wells
Immediate Past President

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1995 FSA Scholarship Winners

By Tom Berlinger
Director of Operational Services

Each year, the Florida Sheriffs Association awards three separate $1,000 scholarships to sons or daughters of employees who work within any of Florida's 67 Sheriffs' offices. Applicants for FSA scholarships must be enrolling full-time in a college or university in the fall, and their long-term goals must include a plan to enter the criminal-justice system as a career.

Here's a snapshot of this year's winners.

Heather Leigh Irwin

Heather Leigh Irwin is the daughter of Mrs. Mary Irwin, a clerk who works within the Criminal Investigations Division of the Sarasota County Sheriff's office.

Heather will be a junior this year at the Sarasota campus of the University of South Florida. She is majoring in criminology, and after completing two years of college-level study, Heather has managed to maintain a 3.47 grade-point average.

Long-term, Heather is working toward earning a bachelor's degree, and plans to begin a career in the law-enforcement profession.

Stacey M. Justice

Stacey M. Justice is the daughter of Corporal Richard Justice of the Citrus County Sheriff's office, based in Inverness.

This past year, Stacey earned such high academic honors that she

Stacey with Citrus County Sheriff Charlie Dean.

was allowed the opportunity to dual enroll as a high school senior, and college freshman.

Stacey will be a sophomore this coming year, and she's majoring in criminal justice at Central Florida Community College in Ocala.

In addition to maintaining an impressive 3.78 grade-point average, Stacey works part-time at Winn-Dixie to aid her parents in paying for her college education. In high school, Stacey was active in the key club, the drama club, the Spanish club, and the marching band.

Long-term, Stacey is working to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology — and she plans to attend law school.

Megan J. Chapman

Megan J. Chapman is the daughter of Deputy Sheriff David Chapman of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office.

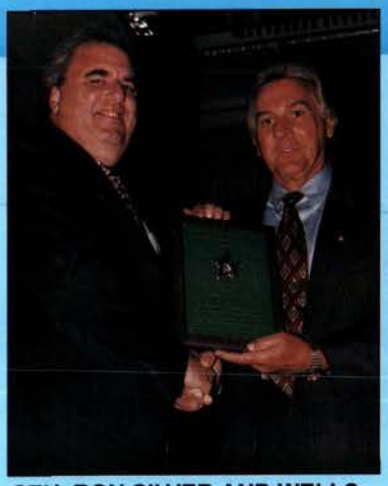
Megan was elected student-body president of Herndon High School, and she earned many scholastic and service-related honors during her high-school career.

She's an honors graduate of Palm Beach Community College, and this coming year, Megan will be entering the University of Florida in Gainesville.

In addition to maintaining a 3.56 grade-point average throughout junior college, Megan worked as an unpaid volunteer in the state attorney's office in West Palm Beach, where she assisted in assembling reports and case files for their team of prosecutors. Megan has also kept jail inmates informed about the progress of their cases.

Megan's future plans include earning a law degree and becoming a prosecutor for some very fortunate state attorney here in Florida. ✪

Politics, Teamwork Future of Law E



SEN. RON SILVER AND WELLS

WELLS, REP. BOB SINDLER AND TRAMEL

Appreciation awards were presented to state Sen. Ron Silver, state Rep. Bob Sindler and state Sen. Locke Burt by Sheriffs Association President Charlie Wells. He was assisted by former FSA president and legislative chairman Tom Tramel in the presentation to Representative Sindler.

WELLS AND SEN. LOCKE BUR

By: Julie S. Bettinger

The themes from our Florida Sheriffs Association annual summer conference could not have been more clear: Effective law enforcement requires political support, and teamwork can make the difference.

Florida's Sheriffs honored those legislators who supported criminal-justice reforms in the 1995 legislative session and spoke of future reforms that are needed. They learned of a new computer networking system that will help agencies and staff be more efficient (see related story, page12), and met a representative from the Navy who offered federal resources for Sheriffs to tap during investigations.

There were also a large number of plaques awarded, big smiles, and camera flashes to top off the conference. All in all, the attendees seemed to agree that it was time well spent on behalf of law enforcement in the state of Florida.

Awards and kind words

Sen. Ron Silver (D-North Miami Beach), received an FSA legislative award and in his acceptance speech echoed the sentiments expressed by many other legislators and public officials.

"In this past session, we saw the pendulum swing toward criminal justice," Silver said. "Many legislators ran their campaigns as tough on crime — and many stuck to the course and supported law-enforcement legislation. They stayed with us."

Because of their backing, he said, "I can tell you that Florida is a much better place to be."

Silver thanked the Sheriffs, their staffs, and the Florida Sheriffs Association's general counsel/legislative director, Maury Kolchakian, for their work on behalf of criminal justice.

State Rep. Bob Sindler (D-Apopka), chairman of the House Corrections Committee, received the Representative of the Year award. In presenting the award, FSA's immediate past president, Manatee Sheriff Charlie Wells, told the audience, "Representative Sindler sat down to talk and asked us, 'What is it we can do to help you?' and 'What can we do together?'"

Wells, an active participant in the 1995 Legislature, said it helped the Sheriffs gain a firm footing in order to make even greater strides during the 60-day session.

In receiving the plaque, Sindler sincerely thanked the audience. "To the front line people in law enforcement — I owe you so much," he said.

There were major reforms made in the 1995 legislation, Sindler acknowledged, and he pledged his support for an even stronger session in 1996.

"I want to work with you next year to further strengthen the criminal laws and make sure our citizens

Shaping the forcement

After addressing Sheriffs and guests, Secretary of State Sandra Mortham presented autographed posters to newly elected FSA President Tom Mylander (left) and Immediate Past President Charlie Wells. The posters commemorate the Sesqui-centennial of Florida's statehood.

Because he is a former Sheriff, Attorney General Bob Butterworth speaks a language Sheriffs understand – and with humor.

are safe," Sindler said. "I'm certainly going to make it my top priority."

Also in conference attendance was Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth. He gave credit to the Florida Sheriffs for being willing to represent the state's law-enforcement issues in the Legislature.

"The Florida Sheriffs have become major players in the Florida Legislature," Butterworth said. "They are more influential now than ever in the legislative process, and I believe only good can happen when Florida law-enforcement officers play a significant role in shaping Florida law."

Law enforcers and law makers have pursued an ambitious criminal-justice agenda in the last few years with important gains. The Department of Juvenile Justice was a result, he said, adding, "It was the Florida Sheriffs who made the difference."

Without FSA's involvement, he said, there wouldn't have been as many changes in the criminal-justice system as were made in the 1995 Legislature. "This last year you outdid yourselves," Butterworth said. "All I can say is, 'Wait 'til next year.'"

Florida Sheriffs Association Senator of the Year award went to Sen. Locke Burt (R-Ormond Beach). Burt told his audience, "There's a group of us in the Legislature who are new — both conservative Republicans and conservative Democrats. We think it's wrong for a person to be able to rob two houses before they visit the state penitentiary, or steal eight or nine cars before they go to the pen. But (with legislation), we've started to build more prisons and make fundamental changes in the criminal-justice system."

Budgets are tight, he conceded, "and you have a number of people who are aggravated about taking money away from the kids (and education) for criminal justice. I would just remind them that criminal justice is only (5.4 percent) of the budget for the state of Florida."

Burt commended the Florida Sheriffs for their work on behalf of criminal justice in the 1995 Legislature. "That's why we were able to pass 33 major criminal-justice pieces of legislation this year," he said.

On the failure to make changes on sentencing guidelines, one of the high legislative priorities of the FSA, he consoled the Sheriffs, saying, "We've got to make some compromises."

As encouragement, he told the Sheriffs, "Keep participating in the process. We need you. Thank you again for protecting our freedom and our families."

Wisdom from friends of law enforcement

Secretary of State Sandra Mortham addressed the conference on Tuesday during lunch.

Manatee Sheriff Charlie Wells, immediate past president of the FSA, introduced Mortham, who is a former legislator and county commissioner. Though she's only in her second year in the elected office of secretary of state, Wells said, "I believe she's a lady on the move."

Mortham took the podium and said, "You are probably one of the few groups in the state of Florida that I'm perfectly at home with. Your

continued on page 10

Summer Conference Highlights

Installing state Sen. Charlie Crist (right) as an Honorary Sheriff was one of President Charlie Wells' final acts before turning the gavel over to his successor .

lives and your deputies' lives are on the line every single day. You probably have the most difficult job in the state of Florida. Politicians in Tallahassee have no idea."

In the last decade, she said, "I believe things have shifted and you have certainly seen it in the past legislative session."

Mortham said that in her travels there hasn't been a county she has visited that the message wasn't clear: "We have got to get the criminal-justice system under control."

Mortham commended the Florida Sheriffs Association, saying, "Your association worked very, very hard at making sure this was not a partisan issue. You helped legislators understand what needed to happen."

She buffered her comments by adding, "Is it complete? No. You can't say we had a wonderful last session and assume everything will be fine. If the legislators didn't think they would see you again next year, your agenda would go to the bottom of the list."

The government needs to change. It needs to be more taxpayer friendly, Mortham said — a goal she's working toward.

"The mindset has been, 'These really are not our dollars'" But she added, "They are — yours and mine — and I'm doing everything possible to get the biggest bang for our buck."

Mortham ended her comments by presenting posters commemorating Florida's 150th birthday to immediate past FSA president Charlie Wells and incoming president Tom Mylander. She also offered a pledge to the audience: "If I can be helpful in any way, my door is always open."

One of the highest awards given by the FSA was presented following Mortham's speech. Charlie Wells presented Sen. Charlie Crist (R-St. Petersburg) with the Honorary Sheriff award, a rare honor bestowed on non-Sheriffs who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support a strong law-enforcement agenda.

Wells credited Crist as "the legislator who is most responsible for helping to achieve the objectives of STOP — Stop Turning Out Prisoners." His advocacy led to legislation which required prisoners to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

"It's refreshing to see a new day in Tallahassee," Crist replied on receiving the award. He commended Sheriff Charlie Wells for founding STOP with the help of Kathleen Finnegan, and commended Maury Kolchakian, FSA legislative director, for "navigating the halls of Tallahassee."

"I am truly humbled to be named an honorary Sheriff," Crist said. As a candidate for a leadership training program in St. Pete, he said he rode all night with a Sheriff's deputy. He remembers getting a call for a burglary in progress inside an office building at 11:00 p.m. The deputy barely flinched at the idea of approaching the building and not knowing what it held for him.

"That kind of courage gave me a tremendous respect for the work you do," Crist said.

Progress in fighting crime

During one of the formal meetings, Sheriff Neil Perry, chairman of the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation, and Chief David Milchan, president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, provided a detailed plan for accreditation to come online. This is considered an important development in cooperation among law-enforcement agencies across the state.

Brian Stamper, S.A.C., Mayport Field Office in Jacksonville, addressed the Sheriffs to introduce the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, a worldwide federal law-enforcement organization that's staffed by civilian special agents whose primary mission is to "protect and serve" the Navy and Marine Corps by providing a variety of law-enforcement and counterintelligence services.

Pinellas Park Police Chief David Milchan (left) and St. John's County Sheriff Neil Perry gave Sheriffs a progress report on the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. Sheriff Perry is chairman of the commission, as well as the newly elected treasurer of the Sheriffs Association. Chief Milchan is the president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association and a member of the accreditation commission.

About half of the 950-member

special-agent corps are general crimes investigators responsible for the investigations of felonies, including homicide, rape, burglary, robbery, child abuse, arson, and theft of government property. The agents work closely with local, state, federal, and foreign law-enforcement agencies, including Sheriffs offices, Stamper said.

NCIS has an aggressive counter-drug program, as well. They form joint task forces and arrange undercover operations to attack narcotics at the source and in transit throughout the United States.

Stamper offered the services of the NCIS to Sheriffs and encouraged them to tap into the vast resources of this federal program.

During the formal meetings, in addition to hearing from special guests, which included legislators and support personnel, three new Sheriffs were welcomed into the fold: Sheriff Nat Glover, Jacksonville; Sheriff Charlie McCutcheon, Palm Beach County; and Sheriff Frank McKeithen, Gulf County.

Hernando Sheriff Tom Mylander was welcomed as the incoming president of the Florida Sheriffs Association (please see the new list of officers and photos on page 6). In accepting the formal induction, he told the audience, "It's a real honor, also a real challenge. Charlie Wells is a hard act to follow, but a class act. He's represented this Sheriffs Association with dignity and a lot of class."

In lighter news

There were some lighter notes during the conference, including a presentation about the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and a night of country-and-western music by three Sheriffs and some fellow musicians.

Sheriff John Walker, chairman of the Youth Ranches, introduced a presentation about the facilities. "One of the things I promised the people in my county I would do is to get involved in youth programs," Walker said. "I found that when I got involved in the Youth Ranches, I was serving the best purpose. It's been one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had."

Three new Sheriffs recently became members of the Sheriffs Association, and President Charlie Wells (left) made it official with the presentation of membership plaques. They are (from left) Frank McKeithen, Gulf County; Nat Glover, Jacksonville; and Charlie McCutcheon, Palm Beach County.

C.T. O'Donnell, Youth Ranch president, gave a slide show and thanked the Sheriffs for their support in 1995.

After-hours during the conference, Manatee Sheriff Charlie Wells, Columbia County Sheriff Tom Tramel, and Highlands County Sheriff Howard Godwin combined their talents and entertained Sheriffs and their families with a musical line-up of mostly country-and-western tunes.

After Sheriff Tom Mylander (right) was installed as the newly elected president of the Sheriffs Association, he presented a leadership award to his predecessor, Immediate Past President Charlie Wells.

Wells and Tramel, playing guitars, sang backup for a band they recruited for the event. Tramel stepped forward for a couple of solos, including, "Working on My Next Broken Heart."

Sheriffs happily rehashed a highly successful 1995 session of the Florida Legislature, then applauded as appreciation awards were presented to Sheriff Tom Tramel (center) and Sheriff Everett Rice (right) the co-chairmen of FSA's legislative committee. The awards were presented by Sheriff Charlie Wells (left), who also played a prominent role in persuading the Legislature to pass top priority law-enforcement bills.

The meetings adjourned Wednesday with all Sheriffs and staff returning to their respective counties better informed, batteries charged, and ready to tackle the challenges of law enforcement for another year. ✪

Information in a FLASH

A development that is expected to save citizens of this state significant tax dollars — a new computer networking system — received its debut at the Florida Sheriffs Association annual summer conference.

Called "FLASH," an acronym for "Florida Sheriffs," the system is a multi-service computer program that allows Sheriffs' offices to share information and/or manpower. With FLASH, Sheriffs' offices can communicate in an instant and save hundreds of hours reviewing resources that were once available only in printed manuals.

To create FLASH, Metro-Dade provided funds for initial equipment purchases and loaned Commander Bill Heller to the project; Bay County provided computer techies to write the program; and Pinellas County assigned Sgt. Bob Diemer to coordinate the effort on behalf of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Diemer, a narcotics officer for 14 years, has also been on loan to the FSA to coordinate special task forces, including Narcotic Enforcement, which was highlighted in the last issue of *The Sheriff's Star*.

He recruited Jack Hughes and Joel Heape, investigators for the Bay County Sheriff's office to provide technical support.

"These guys are Narcs who play with computers on the side," Diemer says. "I just wrote out my wish list of what I would like a computer to provide, and they invented it."

Because Diemer tapped into existing resources, FLASH cost the FSA practically nothing. "We scrimped and saved using old computers," Diemer says, "and the system is now up and running. As far as we know, it's the only system of its type in the U.S."

Tapping the computer power

Diemer explains that there are three levels of entry for FLASH users: Sheriffs, prisoner transportation officials, and everybody else.

Kelly Collier, FSA projects coordinator, monitors the FLASH system on a daily basis.

Using special passwords, Sheriffs can communicate confidentially among themselves. Staff members who are responsible for transporting prisoners are also able to share information confidentially. The third level provides free communication among all levels of Sheriffs' offices and their staffs.

Prisoner transportation is expected to provide the most significant savings, Diemer says.

Previously, when a prisoner was being transported, other counties were called to find out if someone else was traveling the same route. The approach was extremely time consuming.

With FLASH, the information is provided to FSA by all agencies every Friday, and once entered in the computer, it is immediately accessible with a phone call between computers and a few key strokes.

The information is cross indexed by destination, the dates a prisoner needs to be moved, and the originating counties. "This is going to save hours upon hours for transportation coordinators," Diemer says.

Saving time in emergency

FLASH is expected to speed response time in emergency situations, as well, Diemer explains.

Currently, disaster coordinators for Sheriffs' offices use eight manuals provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. These manuals include resources such as bomb-detector dogs, all-terrain vehicles, weapons, helicopters, etc., from all law-enforcement agencies in the state. The information is categorized by region, then county.

Diemer's team entered the information and made it accessible in a matter of seconds, rather than hours.

No more poring through books, Diemer says. "Sheriffs can now search statewide for SWAT teams, motorcycles, and other equipment they need from other Sheriffs' offices and city police departments." Resource entries also provide a contact name and direct phone number.

The training schedule will also prove useful, Diemer believes. By pooling the resources used by each Sheriff's office, agencies can provide training at a much lower cost per individual. They can review the curriculum in other county training programs, and team up, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel. It will also save Sheriffs time as staff search to find a company offering a particular type of training.

Categories include: gangs, narcotics, criminal investigations, and administrative support.

FLASH's capability is virtually unlimited, Diemer says. With improved communication, emergency response, training, and prisoner transportation, FLASH will increase the effectiveness of law enforcement in Florida.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL

This Honor Roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to progressive law enforcement. Distinguished Service Certificates are awarded to those who have supported the Sheriffs Association as Honorary Members for 25 or 30 years. Lifetime Honorary Memberships are awarded to veteran law-enforcement officers whose careers have spanned 40 years or more; and to supporters whose donations to the Florida Sheriffs Association total $1,000 or more.

MR. AND MRS. CASTILE

MR. AND MRS. DOUVILLE

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster presents 25-year awards to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Castile; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Douville; Mr. W.C. Jameson; LTC. Morris Knight; Mr. Jennings Murrhee (former Clay County Sheriff); and Mr. Ralph Vertner. (LTC. Knight also received a Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Builder Certificate in recognition of the outstanding support he has given to the Youth Ranches.)

MR. AND MRS. NICHOLS

MRS. JONES

BROOKSVILLE — Hernando County Sheriff Thomas A. Mylander presents a 25-year award to Mr. and Mrs. K.M. Nichols; and a 30-year award to Mrs. Erna Jones.

MR. JAMESON

LTC. KNIGHT

DeLAND — Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel (right) presents a 30-year award to Col. Zack Williams.

WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County Sheriff Charles A. McCutcheon presents a 25-year award to Mr. William J. Priff.

MR. MURRHEE

MR. VERTNER

Briefly noted...

Coats sighted again

LARGO – One never knows where soft-spoken, silver-haired Jim Coats is going to show up next.

Twice in recent years he was tapped by Gov. Lawton Chiles to fill temporary vacancies as Sheriff of Gulf (Port St. Joe) and Santa Rosa (Milton) counties.

The latest sighting, according to the *St. Petersburg Times*, finds him back on "square one" at the Pinellas County Sheriff's office receiving congratulations as the newly appointed chief deputy under Sheriff Everett Rice.

After joining the Pinellas SO 24 years ago, Coats ascended through the ranks from patrol deputy to sergeant and then to major. Enroute, he was in charge of a multi-agency narcotics task force, the organized crime division, and the investigations division.

Pot goes under cover

PALATKA — As lawmen become more adept at spotting marijuana crops in fields and forests, "pot" producers are moving their crops indoors with greater frequency.

"I think you're going to see that trend increase," Putnam County Sheriff Taylor Douglas told the *Florida Times Union*,"simply because the 'dopers' want to protect their crops not only from law enforcement, but also from other dopers."

Just neighborly curiosity

In case you wonder if your neighbor is raising marijuana in his living room, here are some of the telltale signs:

* Lights on around-the-clock.
* Fans or air conditioning running constantly.
* Supplies of mulch and PVC pipe in view.
* Areas of the house or barn where visitors are not welcome.

Happy sleuthing!

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

Honor Roll

Home towns eliminated
from roster of
Lifetime Honorary Members

To protect our Lifetime Honorary Members from receiving unwanted solicitations and junk mail, we have discontinued printing their home towns when we print their names.

We decided this was necessary after we learned that certain organizations of questionable legitimacy were adding our Lifetimers to their mailing lists. Obtaining a complete mailing address was relatively easy for them as long as they had the Lifetimers' home towns. Without the home towns, it will be extremely difficult.

We have never permitted other organizations to use our membership lists, and we will continue to do everything possible to protect the privacy of our members.

On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association by giving $1,000 or more to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to *The Sheriff's Star*. Under a regulation which became effective in 1984, those whose gifts total over $5,000 will receive additional gold stars on their plaques – one for $5,000, two for $10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over $25,000.

Presentations

We regret that photos of Lifetime Honorary Members are not always available when their names appear on the membership roster. Consequently, we often find it necessary to print the names in one issue of *The Sheriff's Star* and the photos in a subsequent issue.

New Lifetime Honorary Members

Mr. and Mrs. Willard K. Ahlrich
American Bank – Bradenton
American Express Foundation – New York
Mr. Jules E. Anslow
Mr. William Arzet
Ms. Barbara BeMiller
Mrs. Deborah K. Borland
Mr. Steven C. Bradley
Burdine's – Clearwater
Mr. Donald B. Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Cosentino
Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Crabtree
Ms. Nanci Craciun
Mr. Gary J. Damen
Mrs. Sara W. Danielson
Deakins-Carroll Ins. Agency
Mr. Anthony J. DeStefano
Ms. Andrea Euvino
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Fenneman
Dr. Emil Ferris
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Flink
Mr. Cardell Fosque
Friendship Council Bingo
Mr. Fred Froberg
FP Corbett Company
Mr. Russell W. Getchel
Mr. Paul Golden
Golden Years Day Care
Mr. Max Golow
Mrs. Sara Nell Gran
Mrs. Dorothea N. Greenlees
Mr. and Mrs. Terry W. Gregg
Mr. William Hackney
Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Hall
Mr. Fred Hamet
Holiday Inn – Titusville
Hollinswood Ranch
Mr. William S. Jenkins
Mr. Steve Katz
Lafayette County Sheriff's Office
Land O'Frost – Searcy, Arkansas
Mrs. Clare Lavallee
Mr. George E. Longland
Ms. Joan R. Matson
Maya Motels, Inc.
Mr. Nicholas R. Meli
Mr. Salvatore J. Melilli
Honorable and Mrs. Jeff D. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Mohney
Ms. Vera Motlow
Mr. Herbert Mycroft
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Myers, Jr.
Ms. Astrid Norleen
Norwest Mortgage, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Mike O'Keefe
Mrs. Laura Parent
Ms. Charlotte Bell Pechmann
Mr. Harold Perkins
Mr. and Mrs. Les Phinney
Mr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton Powell
Mr. and Mrs. David Price Price & Associates
Mr. and Mrs. David Price Project Stable
Mrs. Sonya Rasmussen
Ms. Marie Rusch
Mrs. Judi Scanapico
Mr. Joseph Schlessinger
Mr. Danny Sheldon
Ms. Roxanne Simon
Mr. Sam Sloan
Mr. Leo Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Smith
South Financial Corporation – Gainesville
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Suggs
Ms. Garnett Taylor
Temple B'nai Darom – Ocala
Reverend and Mrs. Ben L. Trammell, Jr.
Union County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Robert R. Wathen
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Weatherford
West Coast Insurers
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Zemp

STARKE – Presented by Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner (left) to Mr. and Mrs. George Brown.

WEST PALM BEACH – Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Charles A. McCutcheon (left) to Mr. Norman C. Sudduth.

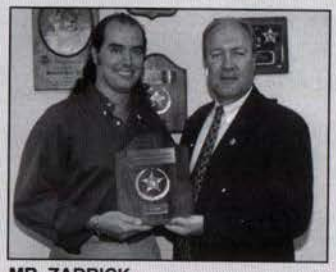
BOYS RANCH – Presented by Youth Ranches Resident Director Jim Cosgrove (right) and Vice President for Planned Giving Linda Crews (left) to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lewis, of Live Oak. The presentation was in front of a Boys Ranch residence cottage named in honor of the late Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis, father of Dean Lewis. Sheriff Lewis was a founder of the Boys Ranch.

PENSACOLA – Presented by Escambia County Sheriff Jim Lowman (right) and Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Linda Crews to Mr. John E. Taylor (center).

Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .

OCALA – Presented by Chief Deputy J. P. Holland (center), Marion County Sheriff's Office, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arnold, of DBA Management.

LIVE OAK – Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Linda Crews (left) to Mrs. Dennis Stewart.



MR. ZADRICK

THE SINIARDS

OCALA – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ken Ergle (coat and tie) to Mr. Steve Zadrick, from S&S Ranch; and Mac and Lovella Siniard.

GAINESVILLE – Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Doug Medlin (left) to Mr. Louis B. Adair, Sr.

MR. MAKSYMKOW

MR. HOLM

MR. BLAKLEY

TAMPA BAY AREA – Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Terry Gregg (left) to Mr. Peter Maksymkow, Palm Harbor; Mr. Michael Holm, Director, MacDonald Training Center, Inc., Hillsborough County; and Mr. Claude B. Blakley, St. Petersburg.

PASCO COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Terry Gregg (right) to Mr. Martin Marks, president, Lakes of Regency Security Patrol. Mr. Marks accepted the membership on behalf of the Lakes of Regency residents.

CRYSTAL RIVER – Presented by Youth Ranches President C.T. O'Donnell (right) and Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Doug Medlin (left) to Ms. Mary Jane Cole.

COAST BROTHERS

VETERANS HOSPITAL

TAMPA BAY AREA – Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Mac Stones (center) to Mr. Mike Thompson (left) and Mr. Jerry Thompson, representing Coast Brothers, Inc., Pinellas Park; and to James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Hillsborough County, represented by Mr. Dick Silver, administrator; and Mr. Marty Gall, director of volunteers.

Half century is not enough

BUSHNELL – When Louise Milton went to work for the Sumter County Sheriff's office in 1945, she was part of a threesome that included Sheriff Mose Baldree and Deputy/Jailer Charlie Hooten, according to "big spreads" in Central Florida daily newspapers.

Back in those dimly remembered days, the Sheriff met his payroll by collecting fees from the county for arresting, transporting, and incarcerating lawbreakers. It was a very efficient system – no arrests, no fees. To economize, the Sheriff and his family lived in the jail.

Today, Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., operates on a budget that exceeds $4 million, and he has more than 90 people on his payroll, including Louise Milton.

Gov. Lawton Chiles (left) and Sumter County Sherriff James L. "Jamie" Adams offer congratulations to Louise Milton after she received a resolution from the governor and cabinet.

In the 1940s, Ms. Milton was in charge of bookkeeping, maintaining payroll records and meeting the public, and she did it all for $90 a month. Now, a half-century later, she is the Sheriff's administrative assistant for finance and her duties are a bit less diverse. When the subject of retirement came up recently, she told a news reporter she has no plans to do that any time soon.

Gov. Lawton Chiles and Cabinet Members were impressed with Ms. Milton's half-century of service, and honored her with a resolution praising her adaptability to change. The governor also noted that she had worked for seven Sheriffs. One of those was Marguerite Baldree, said to be Florida's first and only elected woman Sheriff. Mrs. Baldree was appointed to the office after her husband was killed. Later she was elected.

CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN - with multi-colored embroidery including metallic gold thread, adjustable band

AUTO TAG 6 x 12" - Metal, embossed, 4 colors, baked on enamel finish

LAPEL PIN 7/8" die cast metal with 4 color enameled finish

BELT BUCKLE 3 1/2 x 2 5/8 solid brass

Join the celebration!

To celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Association, we are selling colorful baseball caps, coffee mugs, auto tags, belt buckles, watches and lapel pins. This will give loyal friends and supporters an opportunity to join in the celebration by mailing the order form printed below. Eighty-five years is a mighty long time. The Association has many accomplishments to contemplate with pride, so come on, let's contemplate and celebrate!

11oz. COFFEE MUGS - white colo with 85th anniversary type and green bands listing all 67 counties

Style # 4500 MEN'S GOLD BAND Face No. 1 | Style # 4200 WOMEN'S GOLD BAND Face No. 1 | Style # 4502 MEN'S TWO-TONE BAND Face No. 2 | Style # 4202 WOMEN'S TWO-TONE BAND Face No. 2 | Style # 4500 MEN'S GOLD BAND Face No. 3 | Style # 4200 WOMEN'S GOLD BAND Face No. 3

NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" dials in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style are available in both all gold or gold/steel two-tone as depicted above. All watches carry a 3-year limited warranty from the date of purchase against failures due to defective materials or workmanship. Gold or two-tone bands can be purchased with either of the three available faces.

MEMBERSHIP ITEMS ORDER FORM

❑ Mrs. ❑ Ms. ❑ Mr. ❑ Miss

Name (Please print)

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City State Zip Code

Please make check or money order payable to
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 12519, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2519

I wish to purchase:

No. _____*Automobile tags at $10.00 each. $_____

_____*Lapel pin(s) at $8.00 each. $_____

_____*Belt buckle(s) at $15.00 each. $_____

_____*Watches at $165.00 ea. Style No. _____ Face No. ____ $_____

_____*Hats (❑ white or ❑ green) at $12 ea. $_____

_____*Coffee Mugs at $12 ea. $_____

(postage & handling cost included in prices) Total $_____

** Please add 6% Sales Tax for membership items* $_____

(Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping) Total enclosed $_____

** Add .5% or 1% discretionary sales surtax, if applicable.*

If you would like to renew your membership at this time please make out a separate check for $20. Membership Dues are deductible for income tax purposes.