

Official Publication of the SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION 10680 PBA Memorial Blvd. (NW 25th St.)

Doral, FL 33172-2108

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The HEAT is published monthly by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association solely for the benefit of its members. The publication, dedicated to the advancement of the law enforcement profession through better and stronger community relations, is the official medium of expression for the South Florida PBA. A limited number of paid advertisements are accepted for the publication, which is produced through organizational funds. These advertisements are not endorsements by the PBA unless otherwise specified.

The HEAT is the official publication of the South Florida PBA. However, opinions expressed in the publication, including "The Pres Says," are not necessarily those of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association. BOD Updates are a summary of the approved meeting minutes.

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1) Address letters to: The Editor, HEAT 10680 NW 25th St. Doral, FL 33172

2) Letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address.

3) A writer's identity may be withheld by request.

4) Please keep letters and/or articles legible.

5) The Editor reserves the right to add editor's notes to any letters submitted, if necessary.

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THE PRES SAYS

Just like that we said goodbye to 2019 and hello to 2020. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

We here at the PBA have been extremely busy to say the least. Last month was pretty intense. We had officers who engaged a couple of dirtbags who entered a jewelry store in Coral Gables shooting, robbing the store, then

shooting their way out leaving mayhem in their wake. These criminals then hijacked and kidnapped a UPS driver and his truck and proceeded to lead officers on a multi-county chase into Broward County. All the while these guys were firing at officers and civilians alike. In the end, both scumbags that started the chain of events were eliminated. Unfortunately the UPS driver and one other civilian loss their lives due to the acts of these two criminals. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the UPS driver and the innocent bystander during this most difficult time.

As you can imagine this case has drawn a lot of media attention. We here at the PBA made sure that the distraction and the attempt to shift the blame onto others, that these two scumbags put into play, remain where it belongs, with the bad guys. Fortunately, all the officers who were involved in both in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties were PBA members. To them we say, the PBA supports you and will stand with you.

As we start this year off, I hope that everyone is keeping true to their New Year's resolutions and, like

I said last month please try to stay away from the negativity that we sometimes find ourselves in. There are some folks out there that thrive living in the mud all the while trying to pull others into it. Sometimes we need to take a deep breath, step back, and look for the good that is all around us. Last month we witnessed that at the malls where the POAT set up tables collecting money for officers who have found themselves in financial hardship. The support of our community

could be seen by people walking up and saying thank you for what we do and giving money to a great cause. To those of you that volunteered at these tables during the holiday season we say "thank you."

This year, the PBA joined forces with the U.S. Marine Corps and Commissioner Pepe Diaz, who also served as a Marine, and the Toys for Tots program — because every child deserves a toy at Christmas. The support was overwhelming. Thank you to all that donated. Your acts of kindness does not go unnoticed.

Soon we will be accepting nominations for PBA Municipal/Monroe County PBA representatives for the 2020-22 term. This is your opportunity to get more involved. Contact Maritza Landa for nomination forms, beginning January 13th at 9 a.m.

As we continue into the New Year, know we here at the PBA are committed to providing the best legal representation and support that our members deserve. I hope that one of the resolutions that every member makes is have their Will prepared. If not for you, for your family. It is another free service that the PBA offers to its members.

Stay safe out there!

Steadman Stahl, President *steadman@sflpba.org*



On a recent visit to the Metrorail, President Stahl felt quite safe with these crimefighters on duty.



Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody meets with PBA leadership to discuss issues concerning law enforcement.

PBA HEAT, January 2020 3



From The Desk of The EVP



By John A. Jenkins, Executive Vice President Happy New Year! Feliz Ano Nuevo! Bon Ane!

This past year was a very busy year for your South Florida PBA which was met with many challenges for us and several of our collective bargaining units. It is surprising to know that in this day and age we still have police agencies that do not have pay step scales, take home police vehicles, night differentials and lack in salaries and benefits. What these police agencies fail to realize that not providing comparable salaries and

benefits to their employees leads to significant retention issues and high turnover, and in turn could negatively impact the level of service provided to you haven't already, mark your calendars for next year's South Florida PBA Law Enforcement Awards Gala, which will be held on May 16, 2020. As you know, this event sells out faster every year and it's one you don't want to miss. You never know what special guest might be in attendance. Last year we had the honor of Governor Ron DeSantis delivering the keynote address.

Again, I want to wish you all a very prosperous and happy new year. Leave last year behind you and make 2020 your year. It's never too late for new beginnings!

If you have any questions, concerns, or developing issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at (305) 593-0044 or via email at *jenkins@sflpba.org*.

the residents. We were able to secure these very benefits, through successful contract negotiations, for several of our collective bargaining units in 2019. Your PBA Executive Board, Board of Directors and Legal Team look forward to continuing to fight for the benefits of our members in 2020, regardless of what you may hear. The PBA is your collective bargaining unit and our legal services are truly the best in the business. They fight for your benefits, they fight for your legal rights with no caps on costs, limitations or hidden fine print surprises. That is the benefit of having the South Florida PBA and the Florida PBA behind. If anyone tells you otherwise, I challenge you to do your homework for yourself, pick up the phone and ask many questions. One thing your Board of Directors can tell you is that this organization is now transparent. We will answer the easy and the hard questions without hesitation. I also invite you to attend a PBA Board of Directors meeting, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Due to the holiday, this month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Again, call one of your Executive Board members, a legal team member or send us an email at info@dcpba.org and I promise you, your voice will be heard.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that the deadline to nominate a police or correctional officer or detective for an award (to be presented at our annual gala) is fastapproaching. Do you know of a law enforcement professional deserving of recognition? Nominate him or her today! (See details below.) Also, if



& the Artie Felton Investigative Excellence Award

Do you know a police or correctional officer or detective who deserves recognition for outstanding law enforcement work? If so, please forward their name and a synopsis of the incident or an incident report to:

> SOUTH FLORIDA PBA Attn: 2019 Awards Committee 10680 NW 25th Street, Doral, FL 33172

> > You may do so anonymously.

The deadline for nominations is January 13, 2020!





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By Capt. Nizam "Ish" Ishmael, Treasurer

Law enforcement as a career can be emotionally taxing to all involved. As a result, Law Enforcement Professionals (LEP) become cynical as a coping mechanism to get through with minimal emotional damage. This cynical view of the world can be seen as the years in law enforcement pass. Anything and everything we disagree with, don't like, or finds different becomes BS.

It represents LEP anger, frustration, and growing intolerance of things that bombard them every day while doing their jobs in law enforcement. I recently spoke with one

of our members that said, "Being a cop wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for all the BS." The frustration and overwhelming need to turn it all off causes LEP to take a psychological shortcut by just labeling things as BS. It beats having to listen to people's problems every day at work. It is the same problems the LEP has been listening to for the past five or ten years and probably will be listening to for the next ten or fifteen years. It's just easier to shut down psychologically and distance yourself from the events around you. LEP can put up protective shields and not be affected by the events around them. They don't have to think about things they disagree with. They just label them BS and move on. LEP don't have to try to explain or deal with events outside their comfort zone. Creating this distance is a much less painful way of facing the emotional challenges of law enforcement in the short run.

As cynicism develops, and everything becomes BS, the LEP must be able to explain the source. So, the obvious answer appears. The idiots cause all the BS. Now the LEP, who is growing in both law enforcement experience and, simultaneously, cynicism, can explain any social dilemma or problem that presents itself by stating, "It's just BS, and this guy/gal is an idiot." Now there is no longer any need to deal with the problems LEP encounter every day. They just go through the motions because "it's just BS anyway." Anyone they don't agree with "is just an idiot." That means anyone LEP don't like, don't trust, are uncomfortable with, or don't even know is an idiot. The longer someone is in law enforcement, the larger the number of idiots he or she knows. Fewer and fewer people in the LEP life are spared the label. By the time many LEP are ready for retirement, they can count on one hand the number of people who are not idiots. Also, the more years someone is in law enforcement, the more different varieties of idiots, the LEP discovers or creates. Because the term is reserved for anyone the LEP doesn't trust, and many LEP trust only a small inner circle of partners and friends, the world soon appears overpopulated with idiots.

Now, armed with these two concepts, the LEP can be protected from the emotional battering experienced every day at work. They are very effective concepts if the LEP goal is to blunt feelings, avoid getting hurt, and function in a hostile world of negative experiences. What about at home? How does this social alienation and cynicism affect the personal life of a LEP? How does the LEP who has not been given information or guidance on dealing with cynicism learn to live a balanced life?

Without effective training in emotional survival skills, both in the beginning of and throughout a law enforcement career, a cynical outlook is unfortunately the predictable result. Without taking time to make emotional survival a priority, many LEP lives will be typified by a lifetime of cynicism-based thinking and decisions. The consequences of this type of thinking and interaction with children and loved ones are typically felt only years later in terms of failed love relationships and strained, or even broken, parent-child relationships that may never recover.

Another year is here, welcome it with a happy heart and a positive mind. I wish you a very Happy New Year. Contact me at *ish@sflpba.org* or at (305) 593-0044.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

Soon we will be mailing out South Florida PBA member cards for 2020-21. Only members in good standing with a current address on file will receive a new card. If you need to update your member information and/or make a dues payment, contact Margarita Vasquez at membership@sflpba.org or (305) 593-0044.

Now Accepting Applications for PBA Scholarships!

The Dade County PBA Scholarship Committee accepts applications for scholarship funds between January 1st and April 15th of each year. Applications must be postmarked by April 15th for acceptance. No exceptions! Scholarships are based on financial need as well as merit. All information provided will be kept confidential. Scholarships are awarded once a year.



Eligibility Requirements (all criteria must be met to be considered):

1. Applicant must be a child of a South Florida PBA member with a minimum of five years membership or have prior Board approval. Children of retirees are not eligible to apply.

2. Applicant must be, or plan to be, a part-time or full-time student at an accredited two-year or four-year college. Graduate students are not eligible to apply.

3. Applicant must include an essay, of no more than 500 words, about themselves, their college and career goals, and about their family and background. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font only.

4. Send application, essay, Letter of Acceptance (first-time applicants only) and an official transcript with GPA in one package to: South Florida PBA Scholarship Committee, 10680 PBA Memorial Blvd. (NW 25th Street), Doral, FL 33172.

DO NOT submit any photos, resumes, letters of recommendation. DO NOT bind in any way.

To obtain an application, go to *http://dcpba.org/scholarship* or contact Kim Gregson at (305) 593-0044 or e-mail: *kim@sflpba.org*.

Robert's Review



By Robert Davis Jr., Sgt.-At-Arms

January is here! I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays and are ready for what a new year brings.

I recently met with a officer that was being given a 15-day suspension for calling in on a holiday. Now let me get this straight -

management, in an effort to try and stop call-ins, has adopted a policy that invokes an automatic suspension when you call in on a holiday. Now, the reason for this is to try and eliminate overtime. But you're going to eliminate overtime by giving officers more time off? Now let's think about that for a minute. It makes you just say, "Hmm..." This policy will never work and it will create more overtime.

I propose an alternative solution. On any given holiday there are about 100 court officers that are sent out to facilities to help eliminate overtime. How about giving, let's say 30 of them, the option to work 3 to 11 using seniority for the selection process. This would eliminate overtime at the facilities on the 3 to 11 shift and give officers the option to be with their families in the morning and report to work in the afternoon. This would be a good option for Christmas, for instance. Officers can be home with their kids opening gifts and then report to work that afternoon. You see, after being here at the PBA for four years you get to experience the difference in how employees are treated in Corrections and the police department, where they don't seem to have a call-in problem on holidays because their administration makes every effort to work with the employees, because, let's be honest, the administration wants to be at home on those days too. Also, when these facilities are informed that additional staff will be present on holidays there is nothing stopping them from allowing more staff off on that day (10% is the minimum that can be allowed off more can be added if the facility is properly staffed).

We have all worked on holidays when they send the court people over and they don't have any place to put them and, in spite of this, they won't allow anyone to take the day off, even when they're over. I think what the administration needs to understand is that when officers feel like they have options, they're more apt to come to work. Hey, you don't have to listen to me but I know that the Miami-Dade Police Department and Fire Department don't have a call-in problem. So what are they doing different? They are working with the officers and not against them. Everyone says put family first, but in Corrections it had better not cost any overtime.

This is just my opinion and one possible solution. I'm sure there are many options and they need to be explored because the current system is clearly not working. We need to make some serious changes to ensure that we are all working together. But, you know what's really sad is that they are suspending officers for calling in, saying that it's creating overtime on holidays when in many cases it's not. The administration, by their own policies, are creating the overtime by suspending people, because you see, on the holidays there is additional staff to cover. I can bet you they're not giving out suspensions on holidays, so it's going to create overtime. But hey, that's just me using common sense. New year's resolution don't argue with stupid people, always say 'you're right, I'm wrong' and walk away. So, if I say those words to you and walk away you know what I am thinking. LOL.

As always in closing, stay safe out there.



Congratulations to Officer Robert Hendry, Jr., who was named Officer of the Month for November. He is pictured here with Captain A. Yeber, Lieutenant C. Williams, and Sergeant J. Lawson.



POLICE OFFICER ASSISTANCE TRUST

The Staff and Board of Directors of the POAT would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

The Homeruns for Heroes Sixth Annual Kickball Tournament will be held at Kendall Indian Hammocks Park on January 18-19, 2020. The park is located at 11395 SW 79 Street. Come out and support your favorite team during

some friendly competition. There will be food and beverages sold. Opening ceremonies and games commence on Friday at 6 p.m. Continuing games will start Saturday at 9 a.m. A great time to be had by all!

POAT News

Join more than 1,000 runners and walkers for the Kids and Heroes Fun Walk/Run on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at the beautiful Tropical Park, hosted by Bomnin Chevrolet. Proceeds benefit the Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT). Come out and join us for this fun-filled family day. Runners and walkers of all levels are welcome to participate.

Come join us for the Walk to Cure Diabetes on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The walk starts at 9:00 a.m., with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m., at Tropical Park. To register to walk for the POAT Team, log onto www.JDRF.org; navigate to the Miami Walk and complete the registration, designating POAT as your team when that specific field appears. Remember, this is a fundraiser which requires everyone who walks to raise money for JDRF to help fund research worldwide. We look forward to your participation and support for the POAT Walk Team. If you have any questions, please contact the POAT office at (305) 594-6662.

The Cops Ride for Kids Motorcycle Ride to benefit POAT's Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children 2019 was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated in the ride and the coordinators who put this together. Mark your calendar - next year's ride is scheduled for December 5, 2020.

We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to work one of the donation tables at the malls this holiday season. The joy our efforts bring to the children of our fallen brothers and sisters is huge, and all of the volunteers who helped raise funds for this meaningful program should take great pride in a job well done. On behalf of all of the surviving children, thank you!

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Thanks for your support and stay safe.



It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.

- Jerry Seinfeld

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Alex Alvarez

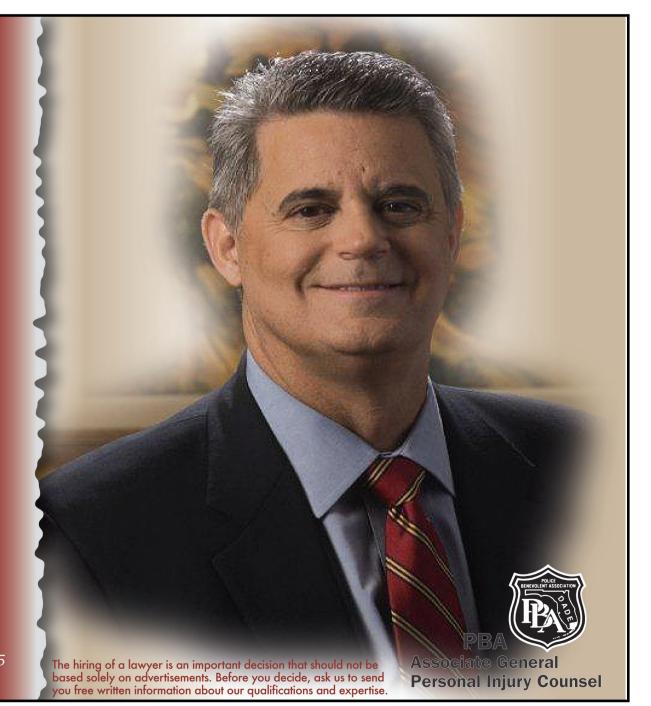
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4. Unless you have walked

Candid Post-Shooting Advice From a Cop Who's "Been There"

By: Calibre Press

The days, weeks and even years after a deadly force encounter can be extremely stressful for reasons we don't need to explain. One deputy, who throughout his career had been involved in several shootings-three of them fatal-and had investigated more, felt compelled to share insider thoughts on what he felt fellow officers should be aware of when engaging, and hopefully helping, an officerinvolved in an OIS.

He generously reached out to Calibre Press to share what he called "The Rules of Engagement" with fellow officers nationwide. Here's what he wrote:

1. Realize that taking a human life, unless you've done it yourself, is a matter beyond your comprehension. You don't know what it feels like and you don't know the fears it produces in some of us.

2. Try to understand your officer's "new reality." He or she has probably just survived a brush with death or serious harm. That experience, in and of itself, can really shake one's self-confidence and heighten a sense of vulnerability.

3. Police shootings become media events. Department leaders would do well to vigorously and

2019 PENDING GRIEVANCES

<u>Editor's Note</u>: This list represents the pending grievances filed at the various departments represented by South Florida Police Benevolent Association as of November 30, 2019. The PBA legal staff receives many other complaints that are resolved by other means.

DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT:

CORRECTIONS Association TGK	3 1	
Transportation MWDC	1 1	
Total		6
EL PORTAL		1
FL CITY		2
HIALEAH		4
HOMESTEAD		2
KEY WEST		2
MDPD		
Property & Evidence 1 Town of Cutler Bay 1		
Total		2
MIAMI GARDENS		2
MONROE COUNTY S.O.		1
NORTH MIAMI		1
OPA LOCKA		4
SWEETWATER		2
WEST MIAMI		2
TOTAL GRIEVANCES		31



publicly support their involved officers from the start. The overwhelming majority of officer-involved fatal confrontations are lawful uses of lethal force. "Bad shootings" are often evident from the moment one arrives on the scene. Remember that cops who have made mistakes need support, too. Arguably, they need it more. The reality is, failing to support your involved officer sends a chilling message not only to that particular officer but to your whole department. To the extent you do not support your officer in his or

> her time of need, you stimulate the birth of some very negative events inside and outside the department, all related to fear.

The bottom line is, cops need to know they will get a fair shake when it's their time in the barrel. In the worst-case scenario of a bad police shooting, little is lost by public support of the officer's right to be a human being, recognizing like it or not—human error occurs in every occupation. Whatever your rank or role, hanging your officer out to dry when a mistake has been made will do nothing to help your credibility, either inside or outside your department.

The fact is, tomorrow it could be you. We would all do well to remember that phrase, "But for the grace of God, go I." out there.

in your officer's shoes, don't judge him or her. Great unintentional harm is done by our fellow officers' behavior toward the officer who has just killed someone in the line of duty. Treat the officer like you would hope to be treated if you were in their situation. Don't gossip about the officer's performance behind his back. Officers who second-guess like that are only expressing their own inner lack of selfconfidence. Telling others how much better you think the situation could have been handled usually only indicates you're struggling with your own inner fears. Other cops involved in life-threatening situations serve to remind each of us how vulnerable we are

5. There are some helpful expressions of concern that can let the officer know you really care. Saying things like, "You've been on my mind" or "I've been thinking about you" can go along way. Invite the officer to have coffee with you. Pick up that thousand-pound telephone and make the call.

6. We live in violent times. We've been sending peace officers out into our communities to protect us for many generations. We hire them and we train them. We background check them and test their psychological fitness for law enforcement. Then we arm them and send them into harm's way, asking them to keep us safe from people who would do unspeakable things. How we treat them after they risk everything to keep us safe is the creation of tomorrow's policing reality. Many of our men and women in law enforcement don't trust getting a fair shake, even from their own brethren, and this reality seeps into our system where contaminates everything it comes into contact with. Each officer in this profession, regardless of rank, has the responsibility to create and maintain that fair shake.

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Persons (and their family members) who either live, work, worship, attend school, operate businesses or other legal entities located in Miami-Dade County are welcome to join our credit union. All persons (and their family members) who work in any of our Member Groups may also join. Membership is also open to businesses and other legal entities located in Miami-Dade County, Florida.





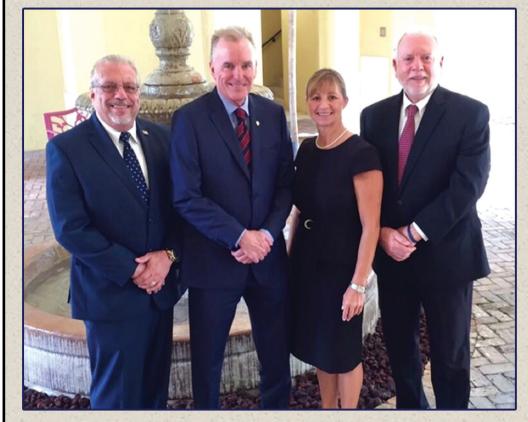


who graduated with an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing from Broward College of Nursing on December 10th. She is the daughter of retired Correctional Officer Scott Conner, and goddaughter of PBA Executive Assistant Maritza Landa and South Miami Police Chief Rene Landa. She will be taking her State of Florida Boards in January.



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RPOC News



By Dennis Bambach, President

We hope you all had a great holiday season. Your Board of Directors wishes all the RPOC Family a New Year of good health and much happiness.

Our 2019 Holiday Luncheon was again a great success. Our members

and guests enjoyed catching up with old friends and acquaintances and meeting new members. My thanks go to Penny Spisak and Maggie for organizing and working hard to make it all happen.

Once again, I would like to thank the members of the board and their spouses for all the hard work they put in during the past year. This organization runs successfully only with the cooperation and teamwork provided by our great board.

We will be sending out our annual mailout this month. This will include renewal forms and information on the 2020 reunion. Please make sure to update any contact information on your renewal forms as this is the only manner in which we can send you information or get in touch if necessary. We are mailing out notices but want to remind everyone that all of the information that you receive in the mailout is online at our website *www.rocpba.org.* You can pay your dues and register for the reunion in this easy manner.

<u>Reminder</u>: We are currently accepting applications for the Otis Chambers RPOC Scholarships. Applications will be accepted through March 15th. We encourage our members who have children or grandchildren who are college bound to apply.

The 2020 Retiree shoot dates have not been set by the training bureau. Hopefully, I will have them before the next newsletter comes out. As soon as I get them, I will have them posted on our website *www.rocpba.org*. Please go to the website for that information and for the luncheon dates. We have also posted reunion pictures, luncheon pictures, etc. Our website also has the application for joining the RPOC if you know of someone who is interested.

We would like to welcome new member: George Hubbard, Corrections.

The luncheon at the Miccosukee this month will be Wednesday, January 15th. Come out and enjoy the good food and great company!

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our 31st Annual Reunion which returns to the Lake Mary Marriott, April 16th through April 19th, 2020. There will be more detailed information in the next issue of the Heat along with complete reservation information. We hope to see you there.

> May you all have a healthy, safe, and prosperous 2020!



OF OUR HEROES KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

OFFICER SAMUEL J. CALLAWAY Miami Police Department January 10, 1927

OFFICER ROBERT DEKORTE Coral Gables Police Department January 21, 1972

SERGEANT JOSEPH O. KEPHART South Miami Police Department January 18, 1970

SERGEANT STEVEN ERNEST BAUER North Miami Police Department January 3, 1992

OFFICER ROBERT H. BONNETT Coral Gables Police Department January 17, 1992

CORRECTIONS OFFICER LEONARD TRUDEAU Miami-Dade Department of Corrections January 16, 1995

> OFFICER THEODORE ZORSKY Key Biscayne Police Department January 8, 2002

OFFICER JAMES WALKER Miami Police Department January 8, 2008

OFFICER ROGER CASTILLO Miami-Dade Police Department January 20, 2011

OFFICER AMANDA HAWORTH Miami-Dade Police Department January 20, 2011





Here's a snapshot of some of our most popular posts on social media during the past month...

Be sure to find and follow us on social media!



Let's congratulate Miami's newest crop of future heroes! Repost from Miami-Dade Police Department: Join us in congratulating the newest members of Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) #18 for completing their training that consisted of defensive tactics, building searches, and victim rescue training.



Last month, your South Florida PBA had the pleasure of hosting the official training session for police motorcycle units in Miami-Dade County! In attendance were officers from 15+ different units throughout the county. They may be wearing different badges and uniforms, but they're all on the same mission: keeping our Miami streets safe. Thanks for spending part of your day with us, officers!



We can't believe it's almost been a year since we tragically lost Officer Jermaine Brown.On Dec. 3rd, to honor him and his family, local government officials proclaimed Thursday, December 12th, 2019, as "Day in Remembrance of Officer Jermaine Brown" in front of a room of fellow officers, family members and friends. Forever Rest In Peace, Officer.



A special shout-out to Alberto Gil for stopping by the PBA yesterday and filling our toy donation box to the brim! He and Cici Seda of Our Pharmacy Network (OPN) are long-time supporters of the PBA and law enforcement. We appreciate their generosity during the holidays and throughout the year!



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