

JUNE 2020

Volume 38 / No. 6

SOUTH FLORIDA

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THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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South Florida Police Benevolent Association
10680 PBA Memorial Blvd. (NW 25th St.)
Miami, FL 33172-2108

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HEAT

THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Official Publication of the SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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Georgianne Cox, **Editor**

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.

HEAT (USPS #020-062) is a publication of the South Florida PBA, 10680 NW 25th St., Miami, FL 33172-2108. Permission to mail at periodical rates is granted by Miami, FL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

HEAT
c/o South Florida PBA
10680 NW 25th St.
Miami, FL 33172

HEAT Deadline:
5th of Each Month

No responsibility whatsoever is assumed, by HEAT or the South Florida Police Benevolent Association for unsolicited material. Members or readers submitting letters to the Editor are requested to observe these simple rules:

- 1) Address letters to: The Editor, HEAT
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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



WOW, what a crazy last few months it's been. When this pandemic started we thought we knew how to prepare and what to expect. Boy we could not have been more wrong.

With things such as hurricanes we could see a light at the end of the tunnel, and if we had to get away, we could go to another part of the County or State. There you could perform the simple tasks we take for granted, such as getting a hair cut, attending birthday parties, or even a funeral. That has all changed with COVID-19. Birthday parties now consist of cars filled with family and friends parading down the street you live, honking horns, clanking pans and waving signs. Or you have "virtual" parties or gatherings on Zoom (and unfortunately funerals are done virtually as well). Gone are the days of the hand shake, hug or personal touch, and they are replaced with a smile, nod and a wave, with the hopes that our daily lives will one day return to normal. But, as with every crisis we face, we will get through it.

When we found ourselves with a shortage of face masks and face shields for our First Responders, we saw boat companies who once made windshields for boats start making face shields. We now have people who are

making hand-made face masks for our First Responders, and to all of them we say "Thank You." The stresses that we now face from this invisible killer known as COVID-19 has taken its toll on all of us, but we are pushing through it. Last month, the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels flew over South Florida to salute the frontline workers. The American Strong series of flights took off from Boca Raton and flew South towards Homestead. This flyover was a much needed distraction from all the negativity and stress that COVID-19 has caused. Social Media lit up with positive posts tracking the Blue Angels as they flew South. As I have said in the past and I will continue to say — we will get through this. It's what we do. To all of our First Responders out there, your hard work and dedication is not going unnoticed.

Sadly last month the police memorials had to be canceled due to COVID-19. Although the memorial was canceled for the safety of all of those that would have attended, a touching ceremony was conducted by honor guard members from agencies across South Florida was held in its place. The Police Officer Assistant Trust (POAT) coordinated this incredibly moving service which was put out on video. It was a fitting tribute that took place of the ceremony. To the families of the officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice, please know they will never be forgotten. It was their duty to serve, it is our duty to remember.

Last month we celebrated Mother's Day. Although everyday should be Mother's Day it's the one day a year we go above and beyond to salute our mothers.

As we all know, we would not be here without them. And, as we go into June, we will celebrate Father's Day. Just as with Mom, without Dad we would not be here as well. For those of you who are still fortunate to have your Mom and Dad: call them (when you are done reading this article) and let them know you're thinking about them. For those of us who no longer have our parents: look up to the heavens and smile and tell them you miss them. To all the Moms and Dads out there, we here at the PBA salute you.

As we move forward through these difficult times, stay positive and look for the good in one another. And when you think you have it bad, stop, take a deep breath, and look around. There are people who are battling life threatening diseases and other hardships.

At a time when many are keeping their distance your PBA is standing beside you, shoulder to shoulder, patch to patch. Know that whatever threat we face, whether invisible or overt we have your back and we are stronger together.

Stay safe, see you next month and wash your hands!

Stay safe out there and see you next month!

Steadman Stahl, President
steadman@sflpba.org



Some of MDPD's law enforcement heroes making a difference while keeping their distance.



The South Florida PBA partnered up with the HPOA to make sure officers have the masks and other personal protection devices they require to stay safe while fighting the pandemic.

CONGRATULATIONS

PBA Scholarship Recipients!



By Capt. Nizam "Ish" Ishmael, Treasurer

As of April 16, 2020, the South Florida PBA received 52 applications for scholarships, representing various agencies. While the pool of applicants was quite impressive, there were three that rose to the top. The top scholarship winners are: Nia Brown, who took Gold; Grace Wood who won silver; and Yaelle Reeve placed Bronze. Congratulations ladies! There is no doubt your future is bright.

Here is a breakdown of the applicants:

- 27 were graduating High School Seniors
- 10 were Freshman at College/University
- 5 were Sophomores at College/University
- 8 were Juniors at College/University
- 2 were Seniors at College/University

Some of the universities and colleges the applicants are attending include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| · Barry University | · Miami-Dade Honors College |
| · Broward College | · Nova Southeastern University |
| · Davidson College (NC) | · Nova University Paine College |
| · Flagler College | · Pomona College (CA) |
| · Florida A&M University | · Savannah College of Art & Design (GA) |
| · Florida Atlantic University | · Stonehill College (MA) |
| · Florida International University | · University of Central Florida |
| · Florida State University | · University of Florida |
| · Manchester University (IN) | · University of South Florida |
| · Miami-Dade Community College | · Valdosta State University (GA) |

Areas of study include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| · Accounting | · International Relations |
| · Athletic Training | · Mechanical Engineering |
| · Aviation | · Music/Business |
| · Behavioral Neuroscience | · Neuroscience |
| · Biological Science | · Nursing |
| · Biology | · Pharmacy |
| · Biology/Orthodontics | · Political Science and Statistics |
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| · Criminal Justice | · Psychology |
| · Criminology/Exercise Science | · Public Health /Sociology |
| · Economics/Political Science & Business | · Social Work |
| · Engineering Fashion Design | · Sociology-Criminology |
| · Health Services Administration | · Spanish Speech Language & Communication Disorders |
| · History/Education | · Undecided |
| · Hospitality - Theme Park Management | |

I had the pleasure of serving as the Scholarship Chairperson and wanted to thank the Scholarship Committee – PBA Secretary Mary Ann Stahl, PBA Board of Director Robin Pinkard, PBA Representatives Noel Heron and Ronnie Hufnagel, and PBA Life Member Olga Lopez for their dedication and commitment.

Keep an eye out for January 1, 2021, as the South Florida PBA Scholarship Committee accepts applications for scholarship funds between January 1 and April 15 of each year. We all are very proud of our PBA children.

"The greatest natural resource that any country can have is its children." Danny Kaye

Contact me at ish@sflpba.org or at (305) 593-0044.



Congratulations to our Gold winner, Nia Brown (PBA Member: Robert Brown, MDC&R).



Congratulations to our Silver winner, Gracie Wood (PBA member: Hollis Wood Jr., Key West PD).



Congratulations to our Bronze winner, Yaelle Reeve (PBA member: Yaara Reeve, MDPD).

How COVID-19 Is Impacting The Real Estate Market

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION – That certainly applies to the area where you are looking to buy a house, but the same does not necessarily hold true when dealing with the parties and the professionals in the transaction. With the coming of COVID-19, now more than ever buyers, sellers, lenders, realtors, attorneys, and title companies are finding socially distant creative ways to engage in, and complete, the closing process. In this unprecedented time, sellers are hesitant to have potential buyers, who are strangers, opening their closets, inspecting bedrooms, combing through kitchen cabinets, or simply just lingering in their home. The days of “open houses” might just be a realtor’s tool of the past.

The good news – sellers still need to sell, and buyers still need to buy. So in addition to the traditional photographs of the property, virtual showings complete with drone technology and two-way video are taking over the real estate industry. When it comes time to make or accept the offer, there is no more meeting the realtor at the kitchen table. Thanks to new laws and new technology, and in particular, a new Florida law which became effective January 1, 2020 allowing for Remote Online Notarizations (RON) as well as more reliable videoconferencing, contracts and required closing documents may now be digitally signed and notarized.

More good news – interest rates are low! The U.S. average mortgage interest rate was recently 3.33% for a 30-year term and 2.86% for a 15-year term*. If you are not looking to move, that is still good news - you can take advantage of the lower interest rates and refinance your existing mortgage. Refinancing can save you hundreds of dollars off your monthly payment, and you may even qualify to take cash-out. That money that can be used to pay off higher interest credit cards or to make home improvements.

Once you have the contract to buy or sell, or if you opt to refinance, the next step is to select a well-qualified real estate attorney and/or title company (Closing Agent) to assist you and your lender with the closing.

Most of this work can be accomplished remotely.

RON allows a document to be notarized via a two-way audio and video bridge. The person executing the document is in one location, while the notary is in another location. While this can be useful for some documents, unfortunately, to date, many lenders have not yet approved RON for mortgages. However, with the rapidly changing times due to COVID-19, the expectation is that lenders may soon accept RON for a

contactless closing. Until this occurs, the traditional manner of notarizing documents in the Closing Agent’s conference room is not your only option. The PBA has notaries on staff to assist you free of charge, or a notary can meet you in an outside open area, or perhaps even in your backyard.

As we all navigate through this difficult time, know that changes are being made in the real estate industry to adapt. Whether you are buying, selling, or refinancing, surround yourself with experts in the field who have the knowledge and experience to adjust with the times.

If you are interested in discussing your real estate options, do not hesitate to contact us. We can assist with transactions throughout the State of Florida. As the PBA recommended real estate lawyer and title company, we gladly offer a free consultation and discounted fees to all PBA members and their families.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

**FreddieMac, (Week of April 23, 2020).*



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From The Desk of The EVP



By John A. Jenkins, Executive Vice President

I pray this article finds everyone in good spirits and healthy after these few months of the new normal with Covid-19 pandemic. I am sure we all know someone or a family that has been affected by this pandemic. Hopefully, we will be back to some type of normalcy prior to this article being printed and distributed.

Again, last month would have been our 27th Annual Law Enforcement Awards Gala and we want to thank all our sponsors who honored their commitments and made donations to the Love Fund.

You truly are a friend to the organization and to our members. Congratulations to all our recipients and look for the announcement of honorees and winners in next month’s Heat. I also want to tell you to save this month’s Heat, which should be a collector’s item, as next month we will roll out the new look Heat. I know everyone will enjoy the new look.

This month is the qualifying for many local and state political races. This year we have a Primary election on August 18th and the General election on November 23rd of this year. We do not have to stress the importance of voting. Do your homework on all the candidates and vote the person not the party. Go with who has your best interest and benefits at heart. We will do our political screenings and of course provide you with the recommendations of the South Florida and Florida PBA endorsed candidates.

In closing, I want to say “Happy Father’s Day” to the many fathers reading this article. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, and developing issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at (305) 593-0044 or via email at jenkins@sflpba.org.



Vivian and Luciana Kamoutsas love reppin’ the PBA outside the MIA. These cute little ladies are the daughters of former PBA attorney and now Senior Counsel for the Florida Department of Education, Anastasios Kamoutsas, Esq.



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



**By David Greenwell,
Vice President**

Once again, our Law Enforcement brothers and sisters rose to the occasion. In the past, we have fought against evil with our guns and badges, this time the enemy is invisible. It can attack our families through us and our weapons are courage and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In the past law enforcement has been called in to take over other departments, like animal services, elections and perform out of classification like during the aftermath of several hurricanes; where we put down our guns and badges and picked up chain saws and work gloves. However, this time, our enemy is invisible; this time it is the COVID-19 pandemic and it doesn't care that we are first responders.

I believe Miami-Dade County and especially the Miami-Dade Police and Corrections has done a good job handling the pandemic despite the everchanging nature of it. Once Mayor Gimenez issued the local "Stay at Home" order, as usual, our Police, Communications and Corrections officers stepped it up and continued to protect and serve our community, under new and challenging situations.

This time, the team of heroes reaches farther and wider than just our law enforcement community. This time the team includes healthcare workers, the doctors and nurses, who, just as we do, now have a dangerous and difficult job of trying to save others while putting themselves, at great risk. An ER nurse told me of a young doctor, who elected to take care of the COVID-19 patients in lieu of his older colleagues thinking he would be safer. Unfortunately, despite the idea that younger

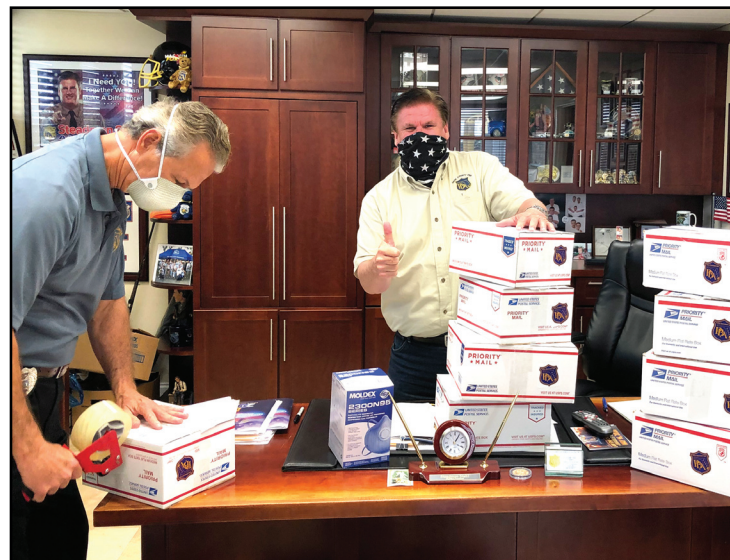
people were somehow in less danger from the virus, he became infected and died in his line of duty. People like this doctor are definitely heroes. Isn't it refreshing how we have shifted our idea of what a hero is from athletes and celebrities to first responders, healthcare workers, truckers and other essential employees.

The story of the young doctor mentioned above reminds us that you must be extremely careful at all times and even following the CDC recommendations and, being a doctor, this virus can be deadly. Everyone should continue practicing social distancing and be wearing a face covering when in public places like grocery stores, Home Depot, pharmacies, etc. Also, we must be saving the N-95 masks for our first responders and health care workers, because if the people on the front lines get sick, then things in and around our society could decline very quickly. As we are the thin blue line our healthcare workers are also a thin line between society and the virus.

We at the PBA are out and about ensuring that you have PPE and anything else needed. We have assisted many officers in getting PPE to help keep them safe. We have also requested that our officers get a

5% COVID-19 hazardous duty pay supplement, since we all know the usual hazards of the job; this pandemic has additional hazards by affecting our loved ones through us adding additional worry and stress to a very stressful job and time. Just know we are working hard every day for the well-being of our members. Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns: greenwell@sflpba.org.

As always, make sure to stay safe out there!



Vice President Greenwell and President Stahl pack up N95 masks for officers all over the state of Florida.



PBA President for the FHP Chapter, Trooper Bill Smith, getting needed safety equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.



President Steadman Stahl and Vice President David Greenwell meet with officers from different stations for questions and concerns during this difficult time.



Assistant Director Pat Hanlon has met with the PBA at least once a week, since the COVID-19 started, to ensure our officers are safe. We are all in this together.



Your PBA was on-hand at the Training Bureau to feed some hard-working police officers in training.

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The Correction's Corner



By Sgt. Jermaine Lawson

The past few months were very devastating for our department and community. The pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus put a hard strain on our resources and created a lot of anguish for our officers and their families as well. Living in self-isolation has profound socio-political implications, in addition to the effects that it has on a person's mental health and well-being. This was something no one could have anticipated, and we were not prepared for what was to come. We were in uncharted territory. What was initially seen as a largely China-centric shock has now become a global crisis. The Covid-19 outbreak generated both demand and supply shocks reverberating across our law enforcement community. This along with the fear of a broader outbreak causes our department to sparsely distribute critical supplies. I hope that we will never experience anything like this for the remainder of our careers.

This outbreak created chaos department-wide and struck fear amongst our employees. Many employees were left frustrated with the department's initial response to the situation. To be fair, it is very hard to blame the department because this is not something anyone could have planned for. I am not trying to take sides here but the only approach to take in this situation was a commonsensical one, and for me, they did. In my opinion, all the precautionary measures that were implemented helped in mitigating the spread of the virus. Moreover, the measures implemented were in concert with guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Sometimes we tend to look at the glass half empty and forget that the glass is in fact, half full. What I am trying to say is, despite the hardships experienced, we had it way better than many other departments. In some municipalities, employees had to purchase their own supplies. We must remember the effect that this pandemic had on the global economy. The U.S. shortage has multiple causes,



Captain A. Yeber and Lieutenant C. Williams present a certificate of commendation to Officer D. Walker.

including problems with the global supply chain. Before this pandemic, China produced approximately half the world's face masks. As the infection began to spread across China, their exports came to a halt. This resulted in a growing demand for urgent medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health care workers and first responders.

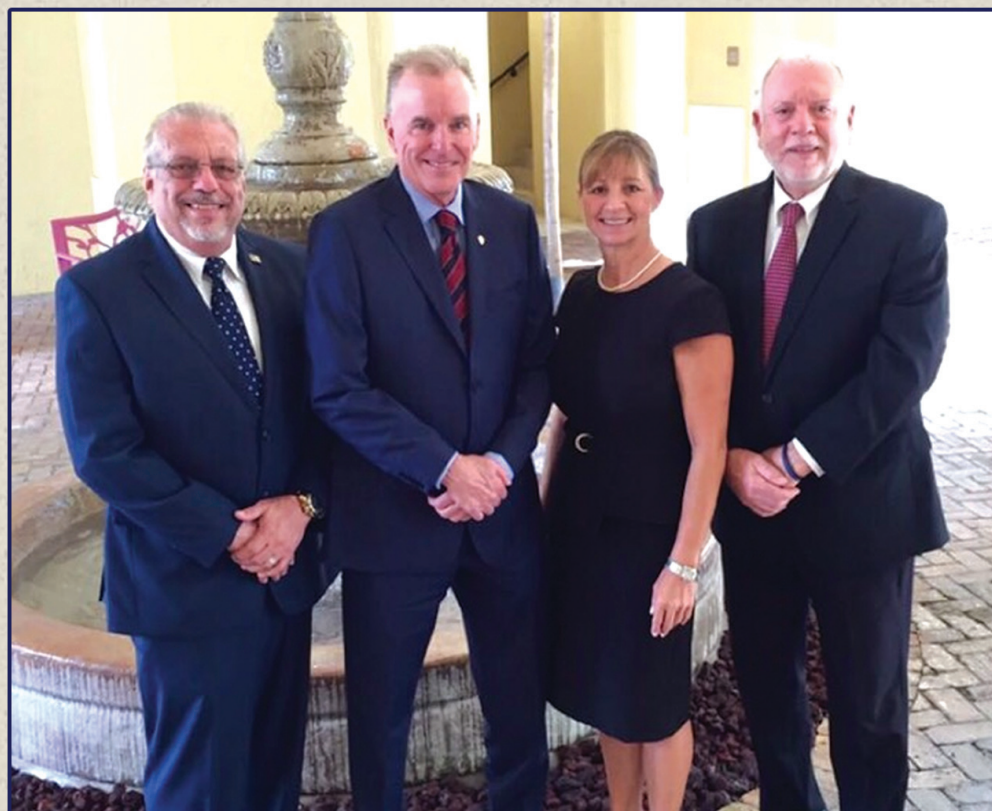
This was the determining factor that led the Department to impose more stringent measures for the issuance of emergency supplies so that we would remain in good standing should the pandemic continue for an extended period. One example was the decision to issue a single N-95 Mask to each officer for seven days. In my opinion, this was way too long even though the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends re-using masks intended for one

time use if stocks become low or fully depleted. Regardless of how we may feel, the department deserves a lot of credit for conducting large-scale onsite voluntary testing of officers and inmates in our custody.

This is something we should all learn from, and I do hope the department already has contingencies in place should an incident of this magnitude happen again. I also want to take this time to thank every employee for their bravery and dedication during this national crisis. Even though the conditions were not favorable, you guys reported to work each day to provide continuous service to the community. This pandemic shook our community to its very core, and this required all of us to stand up to the challenge, and we did. As first responders, we are always in the unenviable position of putting our own safety on the line for the benefit and safety of our community. In closing, remember to pay close attention to your surroundings, do not gather in groups, clean and disinfect surfaces, take social distancing seriously, avoid drinking and eating in public places, wash your hands frequently, do not share personal items, wear a mask and finally, self-quarantine if sick.

PBA'S ASSOCIATE PERSONAL INJURY COUNSEL

Martin, Lister & Alvarez, PLC



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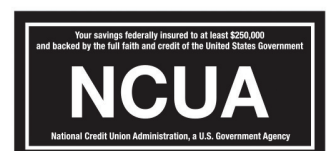
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DUTY vs. CONVENIENCE

By Bert Gonzalez, MDPD Retired

As police officers in South Florida, we have many benefits that others in our profession around the country do not have. We don't pay for our uniforms and we can change them out at any time at no cost. Our off-duty employment factors into our retirement where in most agencies it does not. And our accumulation of leave-time and its eventual pay-out is a huge bonus. But perhaps the best, most obvious and convenient benefit we have, is the Take-Home Car - *Personalized Patrol Vehicle* or *PPV* as it is officially designated. If you live in the tri-county area surrounding Miami-Dade - Broward, Monroe, and Collier Counties - once you make probation you are eligible for a PPV and will eventually be assigned one. If you live in Miami-Dade, you are authorized to drive it off-duty, with some restrictions, almost anywhere in the County at a cost of \$0.00 dollars. That's a big, fat ZERO! What a great benefit it is. No more mileage on your personal car, lower insurance, and no gas expenditures. But how did we get this and what obligations come with driving a police car off-duty?

For you young *Jedi Knights* that have joined our ranks in the last 15 years or so and who may not know the origins and history of PPVs, around 1988 the Metro-Dade Police Department began a pilot program in South District to evaluate the cost of having PPVs as opposed to the "Pool Vehicle", which is how we operated historically. The Police Benevolent Association (PBA) was instrumental in providing study after study that proved that the take-home car

cost less in the long run instead of using pool cars that we basically drove into the ground within two years. The PBA lobbied relentlessly and convinced the County Commission to approve the PPV Program. In 1992 the program went Department-wide, and in August of 1993, after 10 years of service, I was assigned my first of what has turned out to be five take-home cars. There were many officers that were on the job for 20 years or more that never had one and retired a few years after receiving their first car and enjoyed the benefit for only a short time. Anyone that came on after 1993 will probably enjoy having a car for their entire 25, 30, or 35 year career. Think about that. Our program also spawned the same programs for every other agency in Miami-Dade County.

But having that take-home car comes with some obligations attached. One of the selling points to the Commission was that when we are off-duty and driving throughout the County or parking at a mall, the grocery store, our doctor's office, or a bank, the visibility of that car deters crime and it makes law abiding citizens feel safe that there is a cop around. Some of you may not even know that, when in your take-home car, you are required to monitor the radio - police radio, not FM - and listen to the frequency of the district you are traversing or the Headquarters frequency. Why is that? You have heard the saying that technically we are always on-duty. True to a point. If you see a serious crime being committed, say a robbery or someone's life is in danger, you are required to act. Maybe just observe and call it in to on-duty units, or intervene if necessary. I'm not saying or advocating get involved in minor issues or

respond when you hear the call go out. Don't. Just call it in if necessary. What about stopping to advise on a crash and check for injuries? Does stopping for something like that take that much time out of your day? Or stopping for that stranded motorist and just offering to call a wrecker or a relative? What if that stranded motorist is your family member and needed a little help, and that off-duty officer rendered assistance? Would you appreciate that but perhaps wouldn't stop yourself because you didn't want to be bothered? Mmmm. I have stopped countless times to advise on a crash or help a broken down motorist. I have even changed a tire or two for someone who couldn't do it themselves, and got them out of harm's way. The thanks you get are immeasurable. Not to mention the great *PR* you gave the Department and police in general.

But the most important reason for monitoring the radio is for that *REAL 3-15* that may go out. Not the normal back-up signal that units get on calls, but where an officer is alone and may be in peril. All "3s" are simulcast on

Headquarters and if you are monitoring, no matter where you are you will hear it go out. Case in point: recently, I was on my way home from playing tennis. Something I have done my entire career and mostly in my take-home. Many of you to the gym, I go to tennis. I play next to Killian High in Kendall and take SR 874 home to Westchester. I got onto 874 and saw a trooper on a traffic stop. I stopped behind him and waited a couple of minutes for him to issue the ticket. He then came back to thank me. At the very least, we all should stop and give the "thumbs-up" sign and wait for it in return. We both then went on our way.

I got off on Bird Road and headed to SW 79 Ave to go home and passed the entrance to a Publix on the corner. I turned west on SW 32 Street and the 3-15 tone came over Headquarters frequency. "Attention all units, 3-15 to 7805 SW 40 Street, Publix Supermarket. Off-duty FWC officer with a violent shoplifter." I said "Holy-you-know-what Batman!" That's my Publix where I shop and I probably know the FWC officer working an off-duty job there. Without hesitation I turned and burned and advised the dispatcher I was arriving at the Publix right behind a Midwest officer. He ran in and I came in about 10 seconds behind him. As I came up behind the Midwest officer, dressed in my tennis gear, I advised that I was from the Airport, heard the 3-15 and came in behind him. We went to the FWC officer and fortunately he was ok. But suppose he wasn't?

As I suspected, the FWC officer is someone I've known for quite a few years now. But that is beside the point. He was a cop and that's all that matters, isn't it? The FWC officer thanked all of us and he was relieved. Once the situation was settled, the young *Jedi* from Midwest offered to take the call from FWC and stated that he doesn't like doing paperwork on his off-duty jobs so he'll handle. I thought that was generous. But as I was getting ready to leave and say my good bye to the Midwest officers, young *Skywalker* said this to me: "You should turn off your radio." What did you say? Inside voice. I just stared at him for a hard second and told him that this is the exact reason we listen to the radio when we're driving around off-duty in a take-home police car. Shocked and appalled at what he said, I turned and walked away.

This is the most serious and quintessential example of why we monitor the radio. There is no reason more important than the safety of a fellow officer. We become so self-absorbed in our daily lives we sometimes forget that along with our job and the conveniences we have, they also bring obligations that almost no other profession has. When you are driving around the County conducting your personal affairs, listening to music or your favorite talk-radio, enjoying this free, four-wheeled benefit, remember that you have a "Duty" to those around you that wear the badge and could, on occasion, need your help.

I leave you with this: suppose that same officer that told me I should turn off my radio is working his off-duty job and the situation goes sideways and he is now engaged with a subject, lying on his back getting a painful lesson in life, and the 3-15 goes out over Headquarters. The off-duty, 58 year-old retired sergeant, is on his way home from tennis, hears the 3-15 go out two blocks away, and says to himself that he should turn off his radio and goes home instead of responding to an officer that needs assistance, and the next day he hears that the off-duty officer was seriously injured or killed? If that was you that didn't respond when you could have made the difference between that officer going home or not, could you live with yourself after that? We should all carefully consider what is most important to us - our personal convenience or our *DUTY*.

You decide. Let's be careful out there!



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2020 PENDING GRIEVANCES

Editor’s Note: This list represents the pending grievances filed at the various departments represented by South Florida Police Benevolent Association as of April 30, 2020. The PBA legal staff receives many other complaints that are resolved by other means.

DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT:			
ANIMAL SERVICES	1	MDPD	
CORRECTIONS		Association	1
Association	1	Total	1
TGK	2	MIAMI GARDENS	2
MWDC	1	MIAMI SHORES	1
CSB	1	MONROE COUNTY DETENTION	1
Total	5	NORTH BAY VILLAGE	2
EL PORTAL	1	NORTH MIAMI	1
FL CITY	1	OPA LOCKA	4
HIALEAH	2	SWEETWATER	2
HOMESTEAD	1	WEST MIAMI	1
KEY WEST	1	TOTAL GRIEVANCES	27

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

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.

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POAT News

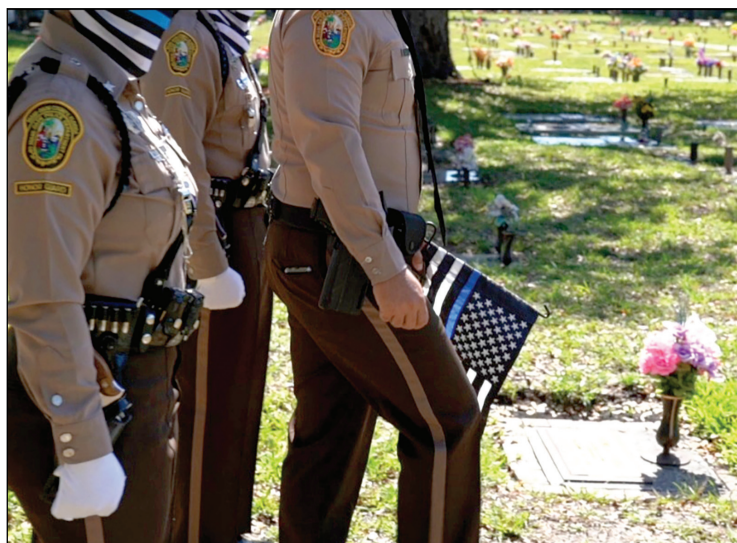
As in previous years, the Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT) recognizes the importance of honoring those who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of making our communities a safer place to live. In May of 2011, POAT initiated project Honoring Every Resting Officer (HERO), with the goal of honoring officers killed in the line-of-duty at their resting place. For the last nine years, the officers were honored from May 1st through May 31st, with a flag and grave marker placed at each grave or crypt.

Every year, we sit together with all the family and friends of our fallen heroes, to remember and honor those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty; however, these are unprecedented and challenging times for our South Florida community and for all. We still have a hard time grasping the fact that it was necessary to cancel the Police Memorial this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time in its history. This annual event honors federal, state, and municipal heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and serving the citizens of Miami-Dade County. These brave men and women left behind husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, and partners.

Though we were not together this year in person, the POAT family honored their loved ones by placing a blue light in their windows in solidarity, and videos were posted to our website www.POAT.org.

Everyone memorialized on the Wall of Honor were united in courage and in valor, and committed themselves to a calling greater than themselves.

Thanks for your support and stay safe.



newest little rookie

NIKOLAS RENE LANDA



Nikolas was born on May 4th and weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. His parents are Andraisa and Rene Landa Jr.; and his grandparents are Chief Rene Landa, South Miami Police Department, and Maritza Landa, PBA Senior Executive Assistant. Nikolas joins his big sister, Brianna, who couldn't be more excited about the new addition to the family.

THE ALVAREZ LAW FIRM

Alex Alvarez

Former Metro Dade Detective, honorably retired.

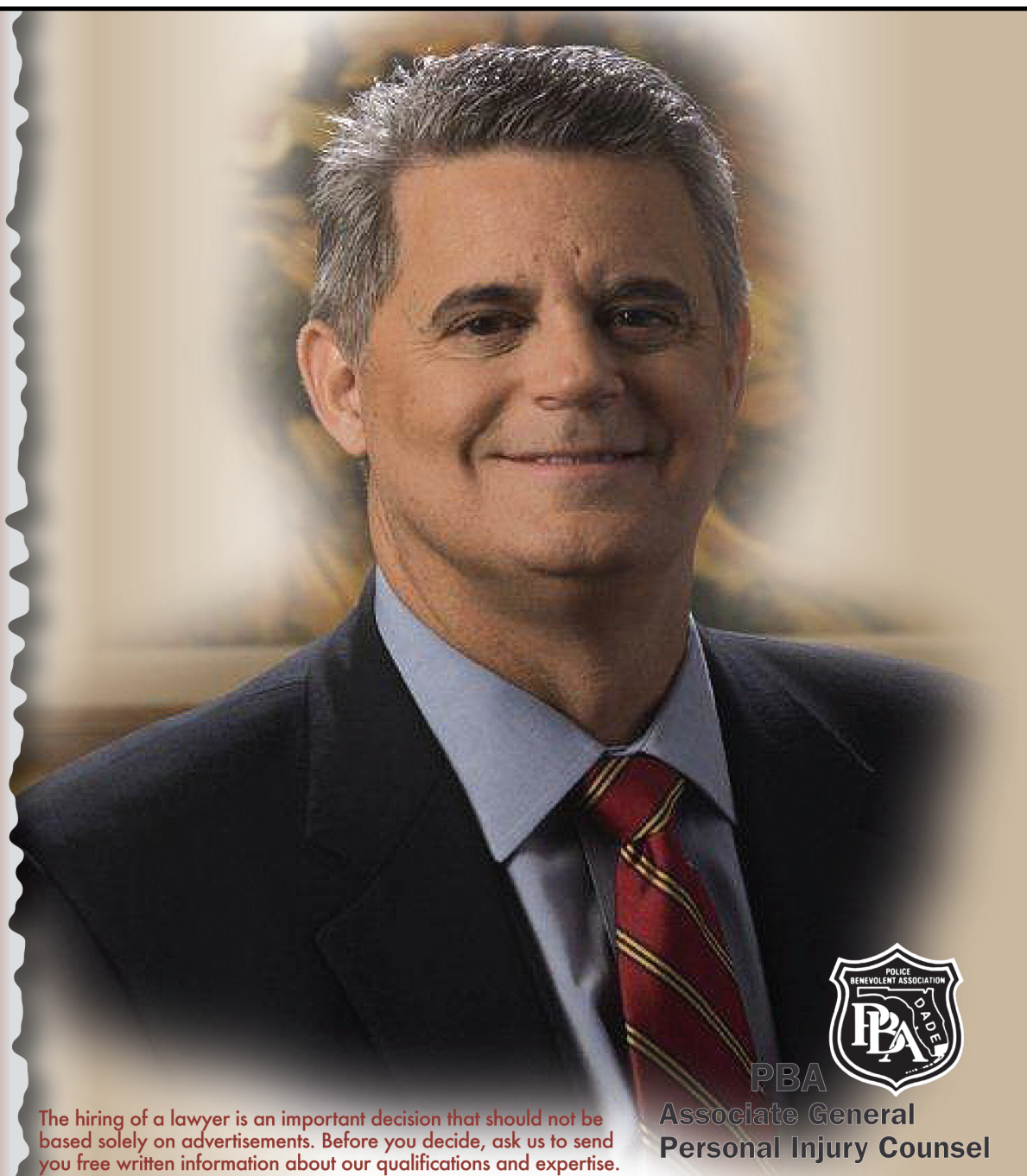
Trial Lawyer handling Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Matters.

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RPOC News



By Dennis Bambach, President

First and foremost, I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. These have been trying months full of uncertainty and angst. The coronavirus has physically separated us from our families and friends, but I hope that everyone is taking advantage of technologies to still be in

touch. This has also been an opportunity for some to learn new things and certainly to take care of things we "didn't have time for" previously.

The hurricane season begins this month and we should all make early preparations. This on top of the COVID 19 situation will unfortunately exasperate shortages of hurricane supplies. With any luck we will have a mild season but should take precautions just in case.

Just a reminder, it is never too early to start planning for next year's reunion and to save the date on your calendar. The reunion will return to the Marriott Lake Mary, April 22nd thru April 25th. We will keep you updated on all reunion information.

The next 2020 Retiree Open Shooting Session at the MDPD range for MDPD Retired Officers is scheduled for Monday June 22nd. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please call the training bureau at (305)715-5000 to verify as this information was given to us before the current situation. Each retiree is responsible for bringing their own approved equipment including ammunition. Proper attire is required: long pants, shirts with sleeves, sneakers or boots. No shorts, tanks tops or red shirts are allowed.

We are still uncertain about the Miccosukee lunches as buffets are likely to be shut down. If anyone has any suggestions as to lunch meeting places after this crisis, please contact any of your board members.

To all the great Dads out there, HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Hope you have a super day and are able to physically be with your families. Please stay safe.

*No matter what you're going through,
there's a light at the end of the tunnel.*

June IN MEMORIAM

of our heroes killed in the line of duty

DEPUTY SHERIFF WILBUR HENDRICKSON

Dade County Sheriff's Office
EOW: June 2, 1915

OFFICER JOHN RHINEHART RIBLET

Miami Police Department, FL
EOW: June 2, 1915

TOWN MARSHAL CHARLES D. BRYANT

Homestead Police Department, FL
EOW: June 15, 1923

MARSHAL RALPH G. LANGWORTHY

Fulford Marshal's Office
EOW: June 10, 1928

SERGEANT HOMER COLLINS BARTON

Coral Gables Police Department, FL
EOW: June 6, 1938

DETECTIVE HUGO MAX BECKER

Hialeah Police Department, FL
EOW: June 25, 1966

OFFICER EPHRIAM BROWN

Opa Locka Police Department, FL
EOW: June 3, 1986

OFFICER JAMES MATHIS BEASLEY, JR.

Sweetwater Police Department, FL
EOW: June 25, 1986

OFFICER WILLIAM DON CRAIG

Miami Police Department, FL
EOW: June 21, 1988

OFFICER SCOTT RICHARD RAKOW

Miami Beach Police Department, FL
EOW: June 30, 1988

OFFICER CHARLES BRIAN STAFFORD

Miami Springs Police Department, FL
EOW: June 11, 1991

OFFICER GIOVANNI L. GONZALEZ

Miami-Dade Police Department, FL
EOW: June 16, 2009



Social Snapshot

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!



What a great day! We partnered with our brothers and sisters at the Hispanic Police Officers Association (HPOA) to distribute masks to our law enforcement heroes. Keep doing what you do best, officers! We're here for you. #backtheblue #sflpba



Miami-Dade Police Dept./Facebook

Check out Miami-Dade Police Department on the national news! Way to go, officers. You make us so proud! ❤️

Repost from Fox News: Members of the Miami-Dade Police Department's Economic Crimes Bureau are "paying it forward" by delivering flowers to nurses at various hospitals throughout the county. The police department wrote in a post on Facebook, "We thank those on the frontline of the COVID-19 epidemic." #AmericaTogether



Let's give it up for your South Florida PBA Secretary, MaryAnn Stahl!

From the Town of Cutler Bay Facebook page:

(On April 17th), we celebrated and honored Officer Mary Ann Stahl, who is retiring from Miami-Dade Police Department after 18 years of service.

Officer Stahl, an esteemed member of our Police Department and Neighborhood Resource Unit, has been a valuable asset to our community. She has been awarded 67 commendations and 4 departmental awards for her work ethic, initiative, dedication to duty, professionalism and exceptional work.

She has volunteered as a Police Explorer Advisor and instructor at the Police Explorer Academy. As an active participant with the Explorer Program, she organized community clean-ups, holiday toy drives, and served Thanksgiving dinners to the homeless at the Homeless Assistance Center.

She has also served countless community hours raising money for the Police Benevolent Association Love Fund, the Police Officer Assistance Trust, The Michael Fux Foundation, and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Thank you, Officer Stahl, for your service, dedication and contribution to the safety and well-being of our community!



Navigating Uncertain Times

Recent weeks have seen some extraordinary moves in the financial markets, as the world reacts to the spread of COVID-19. Please know that we are closely monitoring current news and economic reports, and we are committed to supporting you through this season. Always feel welcome to contact us any time, for any reason.

We are here to help.

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