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# By: Jennifer Agress, PBA Contributing Writer

With COVID-19 running rampant all over the world, anxiety for many is at an all-time high—and everyone in our community, and our country, is looking for a hero to come to their aid. Who are those heroes, you ask? The brave men and women on the front lines: our doctors, nurses, medical techs, firefighters, EMTs, grocery store clerks, pharmacists and the heroes always running headfirst into danger, you, the men and women of law enforcement.

As we very well know, law enforcement officers are no stranger to danger. While signs of trouble cause many in our society to run away, we instinctively run towards it, trained to take on whatever crosses our path. But fighting an invisible enemy like COVID-19? That's a whole new ballgame. And yet, here you all are...still fighting as fervently as you did before.

As guardians of our communities, you've had your (hopefully, gloved) hands in everything related to this pandemic. With nothing more than some latex and a mask to protect you, you've guided sick patients through every coronavirus testing site. You've patrolled the streets of South Florida to make sure curfews and shutdowns are respected. You've manned prisons where outbreaks of the disease are expected. You've run headfirst into crowds to breakup groups of people ignoring social distancing laws. You've been outside doing your jobs for hours on end, when government leaders and medical experts warn most against stepping outside their house for more than a walk or run. You're at our hospitals, our grocery stores, our schools and everywhere else where more people than you

"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

- CHRISTOPHER REEVE

want to have contact with are constantly going in and out. And while all of this has been going on, you've responded to normal calls, too—making sure people aren't speeding, answering to robberies, fighting armed intruders, breaking up fights and more.

Through it all, the risk of loss didn't stop you, and there has been loss. A number of officers all over South Florida have tested positive for COVID-19, putting not only

their lives, but those of their families, roommates and vulnerable loved ones at risk. Two officers, Sergeant Jose Diaz Ayala of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and Deputy Shannon Bennett of the Broward County Sheriff's Office, tragically died from it.

"As law enforcement officers, we like to say 'we've seen it all,' but none of us could have predicted something like this," said Steadman Stahl, President of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association. "We don't even fully know the ramifications of this disease, but our members are still out there fighting it just like they would any other danger, putting their own lives at risk without a second thought. I'm so unbelievably proud of the strength they've shown during this, just like I am with every danger that comes their way."

Thank you for being the heroes of our community, and for coming together as brothers and sisters in law enforcement to fight this greater, unknown enemy. We WILL get through this together, and when we do, we'll have you (and anyone else on the front lines) to thank.

# MAY 15TH IS NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

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Official Publication of the

## **SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

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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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## **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 10680 NW 25th St Doral, FL 33172

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

- 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.

## **PBA Executive Committee**

Steadman Stahl, President John A. Jenkins, Executive Vice President David Greenwell. Vice President Nizam "Ish" Ishmael. Treasurer Mary Ann Stahl, Secretary Robert Davis, Sergeant-At-Arms Al Lopez, Chaplain Peter Newman, Chaplain Emeritus

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# THE PRES SAYS



## COVID-19

Well times certainly have changed. The situation we are currently in now will be remembered as a game changer and one for the history books, similar to when President Kennedy was assassinated, or here locally when Hurricane Andrew landed on our coast, and the Parkland shooting. Now we have the

COVID-19 pandemic. This is absolutely going to change our profession: the way we handle calls, interact with one another, and how we move forward.

Our first responders are dealing with a pandemic, which the likes have never been seen before in our lifetime. First responders across the country (and the world for that matter) are dealing with the invisible killer, but we will get through this. For those that say, "How do you know?" I know because that's what we do. When Hurricane Andrew hit, it decimated this community, but we worked through it and overcame its adversities, just like we will do with this crisis. We here at the PBA stand with all of our brothers and sisters: from Communications, to the officers working the streets, to the Correctional Officers in the jail facilities. Know that we stand with you, we see you and we say "thank you." Your hard work and dedication, although at times may seem to go unnoticed, is greatly appreciated.



PBA Vice President David Greenwell and PBA President Steadman Stahl meet with Florida's Chief Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis.

The PBA has been working with our departments to make sure the officers have the equipment they need to deal with this pandemic, from masks, to gloves, to hand sanitizer, to name just a few. What has made it very difficult is obtaining those same items every police department in the country is looking for. The PBA has been working with our elected officials, locally and in Tallahasse, on how to handle our first responders who have contracted COVID-19. Florida's Chief Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis, ordered the Division of Risk Management to process Worker's Compensation claims for first responders who have contracted the virus on the job. CFO Patronis stated, "If we are going to ask our public servants to fight this panademic on our behalf, they have to know we've got their backs if they get sick." We could not have said it better and we would like to thank CFO Patronis for his ongoing support of us.

## Memorial Day

The month of May is also a time when we pay our respects to the men and women who have payed the ultimate sacrifice. For the first time, the police memorial at Tropical Park, along with the National Police Week in Washington D.C., has been canceled for the safety of all those who would have attended. Although the memorial ceremonies may have been canceled, may the families of the fallen officers know that their memory and heroism will never be forgotten. It was their duty to serve, it is our duty to remember. We here at the PBA will never forget their

As we move forward through this, it's refreshing to see the good in our fellow man that comes out during these difficult times. Please try to stay positive and know that we here at the PBA will continue to work for the needs of our members.

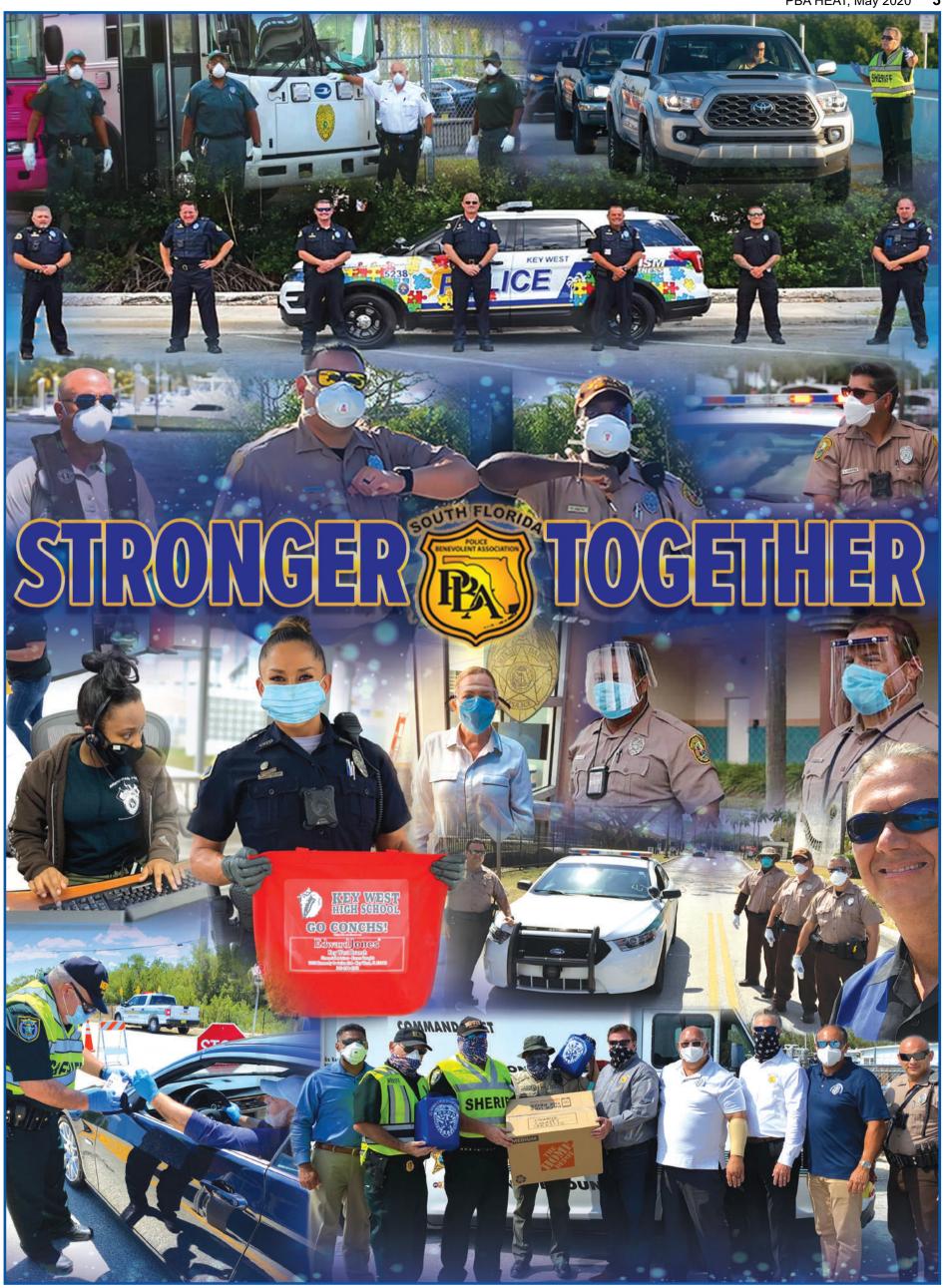
At a time when many are keeping their distance, your PBA is standing beside you, shoulder to shoulder and patch to patch. Know that whatever threat you face – whether invisible or overt – we've got your back. And we are stronger together.

> Stay safe out there and see vou next month!

Steadman Stahl, President steadman@sflpba.org



The Police Memorial Ceremony in Tropical Park was cancelled this year, but the PBA will never forget our fallen brothers and sisters. It was their duty to serve. It is our duty to remember.







# newest little rookie

# LYLA ANN CALOW



Lyla was born on January 24th and weighed 6.8 lbs. and measured 21 inches long. Her parents are Katie and James Calow. Lyla has a very proud uncle in PBA President, Steadman Stahl and her grandma, PBA Secretary, Ofc. Mary Ann Stahl (MDPD) is her hero.

# From The Desk of The EVP



## By John A. Jenkins, Executive Vice President

This month, we honor law enforcement professionals and May 10th thru May 16th has been designated as National Police Week. Unfortunately, the South Florida Police Benevolent Association had to cancel this year's 27th Annual Law

Enforcement Awards Gala, an event which honors our local heroes and remembers our fallen heroes. This event has always been successful, and this year would have been even grander than last year's event where Governor DeSantis was the keynote speaker.

National Police Week is meant to honor and remember those in the law enforcement profession who have given the ultimate sacrifice in losing their lives. We want their families to know they will never be forgotten. Although all public gatherings have been canceled throughout the country, one should take the time to say a prayer and honor a law enforcement professionals on social media, or by saying 'thank you for your service' when you see one. Remember while our great Nation is being protected by our military, who are celebrating Armed Forces Day this month, the police officer

is the frontline warrior who will be working and engaging his/her community during mandatory quarantines, curfews, and stay at home orders. For this reason, more than ever, we need to thank them for putting others before themselves. I personally want to thank our retired and active military personnel and our police officers for all you do.

We will never be the same or continue socializing as we have done in years past. This Covid-19 pandemic has forever impacted our lives. Social distancing has become a widely used term. I always thought I was a hand sanitizer addict, but now my usage has gone to an extreme level as I'm sure it has for all of you. We have now stopped shaking hands, hugging, and other affections we have always expressed to friends and loved ones. We are cleaning and disinfecting more than ever and all these products are flying off the shelves.

What does this pandemic mean? One can take a spiritual approach and use this time to draw closer to God. Is God sending a message or reminding us not to be dependent on luxuries? Such luxuries that were removed when all indoor dining establishments, schools, movie theaters, parks, beaches, shopping malls, theme parks, etc. were all shut down and taken away. This has allowed us to spend more time at home with family and friends and reflect on life. Is this a reset or a reminder for humanity to value what should be important to us? This pandemic has already seen more deaths than the

tragic events of 9/11. If the experts are correct and we see coronavirus related deaths in the United States between 100,000 and 200,000, that will be more than the casualties of both the Vietnam War (58,000) and WWI (116,516). The highest American death toll came during WWII with approximately 405,399. On Memorial Day (May 25th) we'll once again have the opportunity to commemorate those who have died in military service to their country. We owe them a great debt. Without their sacrifices America wouldn't be the best country in the world today.

Call it what you want or chose to believe what you want but this is definitely a wake up call to make some changes in your life and place more value on the preservation and protection of life and enjoying your family and friends to the fullest. We know one thing for sure, coronavirus, whether manmade or not, does not discriminate. Let's pray that a vaccination is developed and we start to curb this deadly virus.

I would be remiss if I didn't say "Happy Mother's Day" to those mothers reading this article. You are special and without you we would not have life. 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*.



Allen Butler Henderson, Deputy Sheriff Metro-Dade Police Department

William Z. Henderson, Deputy Sheriff Metro-Dade Police Deputy

Charles R. Williams, Deputy Sheriff Dade Police Dep

Frank Angelo Croff, Officer Miami Police Department

Richard R. Marler, Officer

Charles D. Bryant, Town Marshal

Dillon Duncan Brooke, Corrections Officer Miami-Dade Corrections Department Oct. 21, 1924

Laurie Lafayette Wever, Sergeant

Hubert Carl Paul, Officer City of Miami Police Department Sept. 4, 1925

John D. Marchbanks, Officer Miami Police Deports Feb. 16, 1926

Samuel J. Callaway, Officer

Jesse L. Morris, Officer

Albert R. Johnson, Officer

James Franklin Beckham, Detective Miami Police Department Feb. 3, 1928 David Cecil Bearden, Officer

March 20, 1928 Ralph G. Langworthy, Marshal

Augustus S. McCann, Officer

Francis Cyril Guest, Sergeant

Sidney Clarence Crews, Officer Miami Police Department March 31, 1933

Robert Boyle, Sergeant Miami Beach Police Department

Homer Collins Barton, Sergeant

June 6, 1938 Patrick Howell Baldwin, Officer

Wesley Frank Thompson, Officer

Sept. 18, 1941 Luther Paul Daniel, Trooper

Dec. 5, 1941 John Milledge, Officer Miami Police Departmen

Johnnie Young, Officer Miami Police Department

Frampton P. Wichman, Jr., Officer Miami Police Department Sept. 24, 1948

Leroy Joseph Lafleur, Officer Miami Police Department Feb. 16, 1951

Luther T. Hardison, Constable Feb. 17, 1951

James Herbert Brigman, Officer Miami Police I Feb. 28, 1951

William Franklin Brantley, Chief Homestead Police Department

Edward Emile Fritz, Jr., Officer

Robert J. Staab, Lieutenant Bal Harbour Police Departme

Billy Howard Stephens, Officer Nov. 23, 1957

John Thomas Burlinson, Officer

Leonard Claude Tribble, Officer

Jerome Roger Christman, Officer

Earl Lee Johnson, Officer

Jerrel Eugene Ferguson, Officer Miami Police Department Nov 7 1962

Ronald F. McLeod, Office Miami Police Depa May 8, 1969

Joseph O. Kephart, Sergeant South Miami Police Department Rolland John Lane II, Officer

Victor Butler, Jr., Officer

Johnny Edward Mitchell, Officer

Robert DeKorte, Officer

Frank Searcy, Officer

Metro-Dade Poli March 27, 1974 Harrison Crenshaw, Jr., Sergeant Metro-Dade Police Department May 18, 1974

Simmons Arrington, Officer

May 21, 1974 Nickolas Fragos, Special Agent

Charles H. Mann, Special Agent

Clark Hamilton Curlette, Detective

Francis Kenneth D'Azevedo, Detective Metro-Dade Police Department April 1, 1976

Thomas Allen Hodges, Jr., Detective

Bradley Steven Glascock, Trooper

Elmer Cecil Barnett, III, Trooper

Feb. 14, 1978 Louis Pena, Officer Coral Gables Police Department

Alvin Vincent Kohler, Trooper

William Coleman Cook, Officer Metro-Dade Police Department May 16, 1979

Nathaniel K. Broom, Officer Miami Police Department Sept. 2, 1981 Edward Russell Young, Officer

Sept. 23, 1981 Cheryl Weiner Seiden, Officer Metro-Dade Police Department

Bjorn Thomas Svenson, Florida Parole

July 31, 1982 Ariel Rios, Special Agent S. Treasury's Bureau bacco & Firearms

Stephen Owen Corbett, Officer

May 28, 1983 Eddie Benitez, Special Agent U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Al Tobacco & Firearms July 12, 1983

Robert L. Zore, Officer

Donald Bernard Kramer, Sergeant

Jose DeLeon, Officer Miami Police Department Dec. 21, 1984

John Koppin, Officer

Robert E. Fitzpatrick, Officer Miami Beach Police Departmen April 3, 1985

John R. Melendez, Officer Bal Harbour Police Department Oct. 17, 1985

Jerry L. Dove, Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation

Benjamin P. Grogan, Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation April 11, 1986

Ephriam Brown, Officer

James Mathis Beasley, Jr., Officer June 25, 1986

David Wayne Herring, Officer Miami Police Department

Richard Allen Boles, Officer

David Henry Strzalkowski, Officer

Jose Teodoro Gonzalez, Officer Metro-Dade Police Department

George Reyes Saenz, Jr., Special Agent

Joseph Preston Martin, Officer

Thomas James Leis, Lieutenant Metro-Dade Police Department

Charles Brian Stafford, Officer

Donald Dante Thornbury, Officer Miccosukee Police Department Miccosukee Po Oct. 26, 1991

Steven Ernest Bauer, Sergeant North Miami Police Departme Jan. 3, 1992 Robert H. Bonnett, Officer

Osvaldo Canalejo, Officer

Pedro Antonio Cainas, Sergeant

Evelyn Gort, Detective Metro-Dade Police Department

Lynette Anita Hodge, Sergeant Nov. 16, 1993

Carmen Gonzalez, Officer Miami-Dade Police Departm Nov. 29, 1993

Leonard Trudeau, Corrections Officer

Carlos Santiago, Officer

Aug 4 1995

Theodore J. Lozada, Corrections Officer Rickey O'Donald, Special Agent Miami-Dade Department of Corrections

Rueben I. Jones, Officer Miami-Dade Police Departs Oct. 5, 1998

Roberto Calderon, Officer Dec. 7,1999

Randall Ross Kugler, Detective

Michael D. McLane, Deputy Sergeant May 15, 2000

Theodore Zorsky, Officer

William Williams, Officer

Nirza Rodriguez, Officer Miami-Dade Police Department

Miami Police Department , 2004 Orestes J. Lorenzo, Officer

Rosa I. Echevarria, Corrections Officer Miami-Dade Department of Corrections June 5, 2007

Jose Lazaro Somohano, Officer Miami-Dade Police Department Sept. 13, 2007

James Walker, Officer

Giovanni L. Gonzalez, Officer

Patrick Ambroise, Trooper

Roger Castillo, Officer Miami-Dade Police Department Amanda Haworth, Officer Miami-Dade Police Department

Jan. 20, 2011 Tony Koga, Officer

March 8, 2011

Henry McAleenan Jr., Officer

Jorge Sanchez, Officer

Federal Bureau of Investigation Feb. 17, 2017

Jermaine Brown, Officer





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\* Excludes promotions, cemetery merchandise and luxury upgrades.



# The Correction's Corner



## By Sgt. Jermaine Lawson

The month of May is designated by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) as Mental Health Awareness Month. I know that as a department, we tend to focus more on the negative stigmas that emanate from incidents that occur within the Mental Health Unit and we very rarely take time to highlight the positive. This does not mean that upper management should brush aside incidents that put us under the microscope with the Department of Justice (DOJ), and I am not advocating against the department for the administration of discipline

if the incident in question calls for that type of action against the employee.

The inmates housed in the Mental Health Treatment Center (MHTC) are severely acute and unpredictable. These inmates have the propensity to inflict harm on themselves, other inmates, or staff. To keep these inmates safe requires constant vigilance and quick thinking which sometimes results in employees being confronted with situations that call for them to put their own safety at stake to stop inmates from harming anyone. With that said, I want to take this time to recognize the outstanding contributions of the employees that are assigned to the MHTC at the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center.

The Mental Health Unit has come a long way from its early inception. Thanks to the hard work of the supervisors and officers, the inmates are no longer allowed to store food unless medically approved. The units are cleaner, and the inmates are provided the opportunity to shower daily. Daily group sessions are provided by the Social Workers to promote social skills and provide support to each inmate. In-cell searches and cleaning are conducted daily to prevent the introduction of contraband. As a result, Response to Resistance (RTR) and other major incidents have reduced significantly. Communication between Medical/Mental Health Staff and Sworn Staff has also improved. This has resulted in a more efficient way to identify inmates requiring priority medical or behavioral health screenings.

Since I am on the topic of mental health, I want to talk about a more disturbing issue, suicide within our law enforcement community. According to the nonprofit organization, Blue H.E.L.P, there were a record 228 officer suicides in 2019. That is more than the number of officers killed in the line of duty. The law enforcement profession can be very stressful at times; therefore, it is important that we find time to decompress after a stressful day.

The American Psychological Association's annual Stress in America Survey has consistently found that work is cited as a significant source of stress by most Americans. Mental illness and substance abuse is a reality that confronts some of the members of our law enforcement Community. There is a stigma that still lingers in our profession, a stigma based on the phobia of being labeled as weak if you call for help. There is no shame in crying out for help. I know that some of us may find it difficult opening up to others about our problems, but if stress persists, it can take a toll on our health and well-being. The Miami-Dade Employee Support Services (ESS) is a benefit designed to provide confidential service to employees whose personal problems are affecting their ability to function on the job, at home, or in society.

Finally, if you are experiencing any type of distress, do not hesitate to call

the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. The number is 1-800-SUICIDE. The lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress. They also provide suicide prevention and crisis resources for you and your loved ones.

In closing, stay safe, pay attention to your health and well-being, and stay informed.



Congratulations to Officer P. Wallace who earned Officer of the Month honors for March.



Left to right: Sgt. J. Lawson, Ofc. M. Cestin, Ofc. M. St. Jour, Ofc. M. Bocquie, Cpl. A. Bannister, and Ofc. T. Williams



Left to right: Sgt. J. Lawson, Ofc. T. Crapp, Ofc. C. Perry, Ofc. J. Gomez, Cpl. K. Kee, Ofc. K. Williams, and Ofc. S. McKinney.



PBA Vice President David Greenwell stands with: Ofc. M. Anderson, Ofc. F. Williams, Ofc. J. Jones, Ofc. S. Hyppolite, Cpl. P. Wallace, Ofc. S. Curry, Ofc. I. Delgado, and Sgt. J. Lawson.



Left to right: Ofc. A. Saint-Paul, Cpl. L. Fertillien, Ofc. T. Spell, Ofc. M. Jones-Young, Sgt. J. Lawson, Ofc. S. Adebaworin, Ofc. S. Francois, and Ofc. M. Falu.

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PBA Vice President David Greenwell stands with: Ofc. M. Anderson, Ofc. F. Williams, Ofc. J. Jones, Ofc. S. Hyppolite, Cpl. P. Wallace, Ofc. S. Curry, Ofc. I. Delgado, and Sgt. J. Lawson.



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    - Florida Super Lawyers
    - Adjunct Law Professor

# Tamatha S. Alvarez

- Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer
- National Board of Trial Advocacy Civil Trial Specialist
  - Former Assistant City Attorney, Hollywood, Florida
    - AV Rated Martindale- Hubbell Adjunct Law Professor

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# **2020 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 March 31, 2020. The PBA legal staff receives many other complaints that are resolved by other means.

			TOTAL GRIEVANCES	24
KEY WEST		1	WEST MIAMI	2
HOMESTEAD		1	SWEETWATER	2
HIALEAH		2	OPA LOCKA	4
FL CITY		1	NORTH MIAMI	1
EL PORTAL		1	NORTH BAY VILLAGE	1
Total		3	MONROE COUNTY DETENTION	1
MWDC	1		MIAMI GARDENS	2
Association TGK	1		Total	2
CORRECTIONS	4		Association 1 Property & Evidence 1	
DEPARTMENT/DIS	STRICT:		MDPD	

# 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.





# Letters & Thanks



Way To Go!

March 9th 2020

Don't even pretend you're not the center of attention.

Congratulations

On being chosen as one of the

Poneld Me Danded House's

Twelve Good Men for 7.5. Jeannett serbs her line.



# KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE STATE ATTORNEY Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida

March 4, 2020

Sgt. Steadman Stahl President Dade County Police Benevolent Association 10680 NW 25th Street Doral, FL 38172

Congratulations on having been selected for the prestigious President's Award by the League of Prosecutors. This speaks volumes of you and is truly well-deserved.

You are a true asset to our law enforcement community, Steadman, especially to your police officer colleagues whom you so unselfishly represent in your position leading the Dade County PBA. This recognition by the very organization that epitomizes the great profession and work of a prosecutor is a true testament to your dedication and commitment to the law and the community you have dedicated your

Thank you for everything you do to help keep our community a safer place to live, work, and raise our families.

Kudos to you. I consider myself very fortunate to have a good working and professional relationship with you and members of the PBA. I hope to be able to join you at the Awards Dinner on March 21st to celebrate with you and your colleagues.

If there is anything my office or I can do for you or your family, please do not hesitate to call me.

Aatherine Fernandez Rundle



# CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

March 18, 2020

Steadman Stahl South Florida PBA, Inc. 10680 PBA Memorial BLVD Miami, FL 33172

Dear Mr. Stahl,

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) would like to sincerely thank you for your donation of \$1,000 as a sponsor for National Police Week 2020. Each contribution you make is a commitment to helping those who have lost a loved one in the line of duty and provides many opportunities to help those families rebuild their shattered lives.

Since 1984, C.O.P.S. has provided healing, love and life renewed for America's surviving law enforcement families. Each year C.O.P.S. continues to advance its mission of giving our survivors hope and encouragement through our programs such as C.O.P.S. Kids Camp, C.O.P.S. Teens Outward Bound® Experience, Spouses Retreat, Parents Retreat, Siblings Retreat, the National Police Survivors' Conference and many more. We have seen lives changed for the better. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission.

Contributions to Concerns of Police Survivors are tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Our EIN number is 52-1354370. Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. did not provide you any goods or services in consideration of your gift.

Again, on behalf of over 52,000 survivors nationwide, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Berha Dianne Bernhard **Executive Director** 

PO Box 3199 - 846 OLD SOUTH 5 - CAMDENTON, MO 65020 OFFICE: 573-346-4911 - FAX: 573-346-1414 - WWW.CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

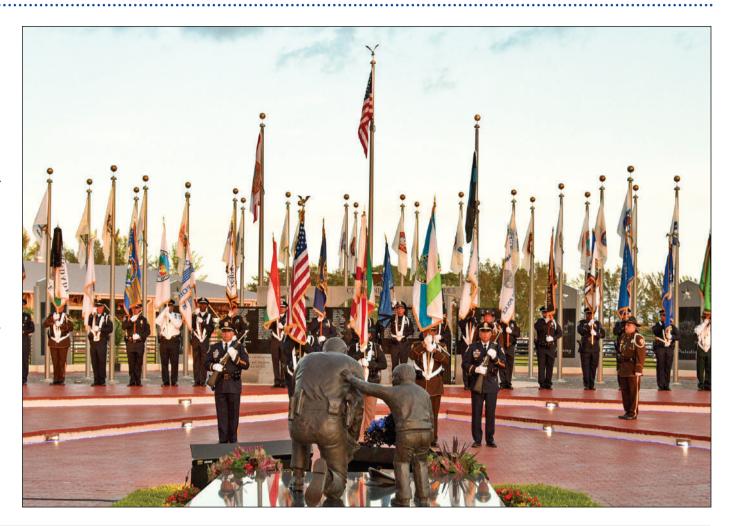
# **POAT News**

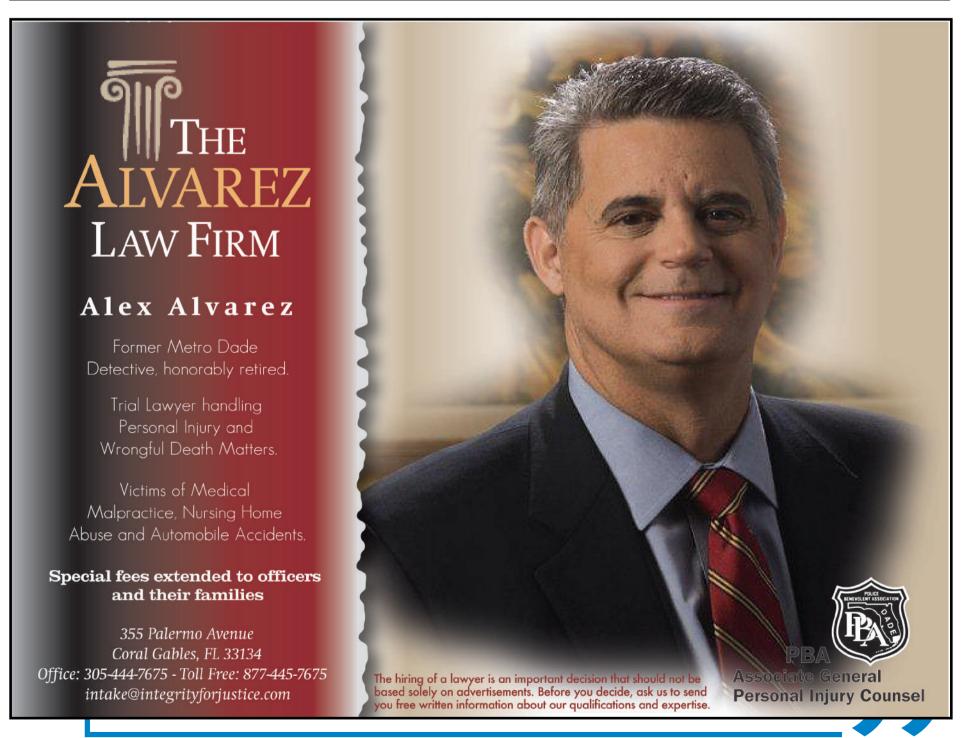
It is with great sadness to announce that our Miami-Annual

**Dade Law Enforcement** Officers Memorial Ceremony, scheduled for May 7th, has been canceled. The decision was difficult, however the health and safety of our survivors, law enforcement officers and their families is most important. We are thinking of different alternatives to honor our fallen Officers. We will keep you posted with any changes on our website

The Annual Remember our Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Outing was postponed to a later date. We are working with Indian Creek in order to determine a future date for the golf outing. Once a date is determined, we will send out and post the information on our website.

Thanks for your support and stay safe.





# **RPOC News**



## By Dennis Bambach, President

There are no words to describe what our world has been through over the last few weeks. The COVID-19 global pandemic has significantly altered and impacted our communities. Our hearts are with our members and their families near and far who've been affected. We have had to take a collec-

tive pause from day-to-day activities, celebrating milestones, and things we've anticipated. We had to cancel our 31st Annual Reunion which I know many of us were looking forward to, but we are already planning the reunion for next year in April.

Refund checks for the reunion have been mailed out to those who requested them. The RPOC Board and I want to thank all the members who so generously donated the registration cost to the Members Assistance Fund and the Otis Chamberlain Scholarship Fund.

The luncheon at the Miccosukee is cancelled for May but we will let you know when they will resume. The next retiree shoot is June 24th at 8:00 a.m. but as changes can occur please check with the training bureau to make sure.

If any member needs assistance in this difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members or me personally. You can e-mail me at, or go on our website or call the RPOC office 1 (866) 954-2848 and leave us a message.

We would like to welcome the following new members: Allen Saleeba, MDPD, Harold Woodside, Corr., Modesto Aponte, MDPD, Tony Ojeda, MDPD, Grace O'Donnell, MDPD, Paul Kuiper, MDPD, William Hladky, MDPD, Antonio Valdes, MDPD.

In closing, the RPOC Board and I hope you stay safe and healthy and abide by the CDC guidelines, "we are not invincible, we are old." You are in our thoughts and prayers.

> Tough times never last, but tough people do.



# May <u>IN MEMORIAM</u>

of our heroes killed in the line of duty

OFFICER FRANK ANGELO CROFF Miami Police Department, FL EOW: May 22, 1921

OFFICER PAUL G. ANDERSON Miami-Dade Police Department, FL EOW: May 7, 1967

OFFICER RONALD F. MCLEOD Miami Police Department, FL EOW: May 8, 1969

OFFICER ROLLAND JOHN LANE II Miami Police Department, FL EOW: May 23, 1970

SERGEANT HARRISON CRENSHAW JR. Miami-Dade Police Department, FL EOW: May 18, 1974

OFFICER SIMMONS ARRINGTON Miami-Dade Police Department, FL EOW: May 21, 1974

OFFICER WILLIAM COLEMAN COOK Miami-Dade Police Department, FL EOW: May 16, 1979

LIEUTENANT EDWARD F. McDERMOTT Miami Police Department, FL EOW: May 18, 1980

OFFICER STEPHEN OWEN CORBETT Miami-Dade Police Department, FL EOW: May 28, 1983

OFFICER CARLOS SANTIAGO Miami Police Department, FL EOW: May 30, 1995







Good leadership is critical in a time like this. Luckily, these guys are up to the job.



# Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

The Voice of Florida's Law Enforcement Officers

March 24, 2020

John Kazanjian
President
Mick Stelsale
Senior Vice President
James Balardi
Vice President for Services
Jeff Marson
Vice President for Charters
Steve Slade
Vice President for Chapters
William Smith
Vice President for Lagislative Affairs
John Rivera
Treasurer
Steadman Stabl
Secretary

Nick Marold Sergeant-at-

Matt Pockett Executive Directs

Stephanie Dobsor

The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor, State of Florida The Capitol 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Our members are contacting us asking that I write to you about an additional emergency executive order granting COVID-19 workers' compensation coverage and procuring personal protective equipment for the personnel in public safety, health care, and emergency response.

Florida's response to this pandemic requires these essential personnel to put aside their own concerns of deadly exposure from the virus in order to fulfill their commitment to our state. Too many employees, particularly law enforcement officers, correctional officers and correctional probation officers, are performing their duties without proper personal protective equipment; thereby, greatly enhancing their chances of contracting the virus. A lack of equipment coupled with the absence of workers' compensation coverage for COVID-19 severely impairs our state's long-term response to the virus.

Our Association asks you to request larger supplies of additional personal protective equipment for all employees in public safety, health care, and emergency response. We also call upon you to issue a waiver through executive order to provide workers' compensation coverage to these same personnel who are assisting with Florida's response to COVID-19. The coverage waiver must mandate that a worker who becomes ill as a result of his or her duties during the outbreak will be granted a presumption that the medical condition or incapacity is work-related.

We know these next few months will be perhaps the most trying times in our state's history. Florida will not be spared. Therefore, no one can refuse to engage. Our men and women are already by your side, but they need the appropriate armor provided by proper medical coverage and equipment. Please consider our sincere requests.

Sincerely. Jeh Kazajian

Dr. David Murrell Building • 300 East Brevard Street • Tallahassee, FL 32301 Phone: (850) 222-3329 • Toll Free: 1-800-733-3722 • Fax: (850) 561-0192 www.flpba.org

For Florida law enforcement, our officers always come first! On March 24th, your Florida Police Benevolent Association—where our President, Steadman Stahl, serves as Secretary—sent a letter to Governor Ron DeSantis requesting more personal protection equipment for all law enforcement in Florida in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is the actual letter! We have always had our Governor's back, and we trust that he will lead us through these uncertain times safely and efficiently.



In the midst of all this chaos—some good news! Congratulations, Governor Ron DeSantis, on the birth of your precious baby girl, Mamie. We couldn't be happier for your bundle of joy!



"We're all relying on our police department to keep our community safe during the coronavirus outbreak. I'm incredibly grateful for their hard work protecting every corner of Miami-Dade during this unprecedented crisis."

- Commissioner Daniella Levine-Cava

# IS YOUR RETIREMENT DATE GOING TO CHANGE?

DATABASE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS IS OPEN, AND WE ARE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER THE RETIREMENT AND FINANCIAL PLANNING QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE!

- Do I understand How the Retirement Option I choose can have Long-Term Consequences on My Retirement Income?
- Do I understand how to utilize Qualified Dollars (i.e. DROP, 457 DEF COMP, IRA's, Thrift Plans & 401k Plans) to supplement my retirement income without IRS penalties?
- Do I understand how to create a Second Defined Benefit Plan for my Family?
- Do I understand the important role of Wills & Family Trusts, Legacy Planning and Life Insurance?

Contact us at 800-210-0263 to request a complimentary Retirement Income Timeline which will provide you a picture of the Economic Impact of Retiring Now or in the near future.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU REGARDING PRE-RETIREMENT AND POST RETIREMENT PLANNING!

DATABASE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC.

1-800-210-0263