

SOUTH FLORIDA



FOR MEMBERS ONLY

THEAT

THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Representing those brave enough, strong enough, and proud enough to wear the badge

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



One Swine Day

South Florida PBA's Pig Roast Bowl serves up
a heaping helping of succulence to back the blue

GoodGreek.com

\$100 OFF
LOCAL MOVES



\$250 OFF
LONG DISTANCE MOVES

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS ONLY FOR **FLORIDA PBA MEMBERS**



YOU DESERVE A
STRESS-FREE MOVE

EXPERIENCE GOOD GREEK'S TOTAL RELOCATION SOLUTIONS

CALL (561) 944-6926



REALTY
SERVICES



MOVING
SERVICES



SECURE
STORAGE



CONCIERGE
SERVICES



JUNK
REMOVAL



AUTO
TRANSPORT

OFFICIAL



MOVERS





DadeAutoDesk.com

Exclusive Auto-Buying Service



Ready for a new car but don't want to spend hours at the dealership?

Our convenient auto-buying service can help you save time and money on your vehicle purchase.

If you're in the market for a new car but you want to avoid the typically frustrating and time-consuming auto-buying process, look no further than the Dade Auto Desk (D.A.D.).

Our exclusive auto-buying service, available to all DCFCU members, will help you get behind the wheel of your new car quickly, efficiently and at the best possible price.

Schedule a phone consultation with our auto experts today!
Visit dcfcu.org/dad.



dcfcu.org • 305-471-5080



COVER STORY



The Pig Roast Bowl Series on Nov. 19 turned out to be one of the biggest events ever for the South Florida PBA. More than 1,500 people came out to watch members compete to roast the best-tasting pig. It was a day to savor the pig roast that is a magnificent part of the Hispanic culture, bringing so many people together and generating amazing support for the PBA's Love Fund. Several teams took home trophies in their respective categories, but it was a day when everybody who attended was a winner.

COVER PHOTO BY LINDA CARTA * COVER DESIGN BY GINA CROTCHFELT

MESSAGES FROM THE PBA

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • The Pres Says..... | Page 5 | • POAT News..... | Page 13 |
| • Message from the Executive VP .. | Page 8 | • RPOC News | Page 14 |
| • The Dish from Ish..... | Page 9 | • Honoring Retired Members..... | Page 15 |
| • Corrections Corner..... | Page 10 | • Reflections..... | Page 47 |
| • South Florida PBA | | • Members Only Section | Page 48 |
| Legal Corner | Page 12 | • Thank-You Notes to the PBA..... | Page 54 |

INSIDE STORIES



Main Number: 561-757-0464
 Advertising: 201-880-7288
 Editorial: 201-370-4082
 Distribution: 201-880-7288
 Email: cops@PBAHeatMagazine.com

MITCHELL KRUGEL

Publisher/Editor

mitch@PBAHeatMagazine.com

GINA CROTCHFELT

Art Director

gina@PBAHeatMagazine.com

ESTHER GONZALES

Staff Writer

esther@PBAHeatMagazine.com

SYLVIA RIVERA

Director of Operations

sylvia@PBAHeatMagazine.com

KIMBERLY FLYNN

LAUREN PURCELL

Copy Editors

NIZAM "ISH" ISHMAEL

PBA Editor

ish@sflpba.org

VOLUME 40, NO. 6

The Heat is a bimonthly publication dedicated to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals operating in Miami-Dade County, Monroe County and throughout the State of Florida. ©2022 KRURAPP COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Reproduction of any part of this magazine without express written permission is prohibited. Address subscription inquiries and address changes to subs@PBAHeatMagazine.com. Reader comments and editorial submissions are welcome, but neither the Publisher (Kruapp Communications, Inc.) nor the South Florida Police Benevolent Association assumes any responsibility for the return of unsolicited material. The Publisher manages and controls all advertisement relationships and ultimately retains the right to accept or reject any advertisement. The acceptance of advertisements by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised. Neither the Publisher and the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, nor any of their officers and/or employees, make any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product or process included in any written or submitted content or in any advertisement. The views and opinions of any advertiser or third-party article contributor do not necessarily state or reflect those of either the Publisher (Kruapp Communications, Inc.) or the South Florida Police Benevolent Association and are not used for advertising or product endorsement purposes. The Publisher and/or the South Florida Police Benevolent Association assume no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements.

THE PRES SAYS

Front and center for 2023



STEADMAN
STAHL

Heading into the home stretch of 2022 and looking ahead to 2023, we see the future is bright. Maybe brighter than it has ever been.

We are coming off our record-setting Pig Roast Bowl on Nov. 19, which provided further evidence of how much of a presence South Florida PBA members have cultivated. When we began organizing that event, we weren't sure if we were going to have enough participants to make it happen. And then we had enough teams to make it the biggest event in the state.

Our members have responded to the call of coming out for the PBA, of expanding our presence to make us stronger than ever. As we leave 2022 behind and move into 2023, we are focused on our goals and our mission, and we have every reason to be positive.

No matter what challenges are out there in front of us, we're ready to take them on. We're not going to shrug them off, and we will lead from the front.

This past November marked the fifth year under this administration. One of the points we ran on is that the PBA was a great organization that had lost its way five years ago. Our compass was fogged.

I think that we have turned the corner. I think the PBA once again has become a strong, professional organization, and we are now having more events with more members engaged than we've ever had in the past. Whether it's a cigar social, a contract negotiation or a pig roast, members are coming out for the PBA.

Yes, members are showing up. We had more than 1,500 people at the Pig Roast. They are positive, and I think that we have put the PBA back in a position where it started.

We have built our association up from those days of operating out of a trunk of a police car 60 years ago, when the first president was signing people up on index cards. But I think the PBA is stronger than ever with its membership, with its political clout, with its presence.

We have changed our perception, a perception that was once negative toward our profession. We don't draw cartoons of people like we did in the past. You sit down, you roll up your sleeves, and I don't care what the problem is, we'll get through it. We'll figure it out. And, as we come out the other side, we have shown it's going to be better.

I'm so proud of what we've done in just five years, and I look forward to what the future holds. Keeping the PBA front and center is my goal and my New Year's resolution. We're going to be the premier organization when it comes to representing the men and women of law enforcement. Our fight will always be making sure that they are not forgotten, they are not pushed to the side, and that we will be front and center in every conversation.

One of the assets we have established that has kept us front and center is our political presence. You witnessed further evidence of that with the results on Election Day. I can describe them in one word: unprecedented.

Florida came out on top nationally in this past election for a lot of different reasons, but I think public safety and law and order were at the top of the list. Especially right here in Miami-Dade County.

I don't care what network you were watching, Miami-Dade County was being mentioned because it all came together here for all the right reasons. It wasn't necessarily Democrats or Republicans. It was voters who came together for public safety and law and order.

We've been involved in it at all different levels of politics from local city elections to county, state and national elections. Sometimes, it's a rollercoaster ride.

I think one of the toughest challenges is that the officers who are out there working aren't always allowed to speak up. They have to be the blue line standing between good and evil. We see evil pushing against the line and trying to break it, but the devotion we saw in this election to law and order just reinforces the good that comes through.

And so we saw this big shift confirmed on Election Day. In all our local elections, I think the people spoke. I think that we're seeing a change in the atmosphere that, regardless of your party affiliation, public safety is going to be front and center, where it needs to be.

We don't necessarily need to comment on the rest of the country. But in Florida, with the overwhelming vote for Governor DeSantis and his administration, as well as Senator Marco Rubio, it wasn't a red wave or a blue wave. It's a back-the-blue-wave.

I think we hammer that point over and over that we just cannot live in a society where you don't have peace in your home, where you don't feel comfortable going to a store and where you worry that you're not going to be attacked or be a victim of a crime.

That's what it came back around to this election, and why the PBA endorsement carried great

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



SOUTH FLORIDA PBA

EXECUTIVE BOARD

STEADMAN STAHL

President

DAVID GREENWELL

Executive Vice President

NIZAM "ISH" ISHMAEL

Vice President

JENNIFER VALDES

Secretary

JERMAINE LAWSON

Treasurer

ALEX MUÑOZ

Sergeant-at-Arms

ROBIN PINKARD

Chaplain

DIRECTORS

Victor Abbondandolo

Mitzie Brown

Angela Carter

Mike Clifton

Lazaro Cortes

Marcos De Rosa

Alejandro Dominguez

Marjorie Eloi

Deborah Fleites

Eduardo Gaitan

Christopher Hodges

Jorge Interian

Joseph Kelly

Al Lopez

Christine Marte

Sean McVay

Lisa Nesbitt Bell

Angel Posada

Orlando Ramos

Anthony Rodriguez

John Saavedra

Orlando Sosa Jr.

MaryAnn Stahl

Michael Tabernero

Joel Valdes

Jody Wright

REPRESENTATIVES

Nubia Azrak

James Boone

John Childress

Alkibiades Dodge

Ronald Fera

Elizabeth Fernandez

Labrance Fertilen

Phil Ford

Katrina Fuentes

Sean Gordon

Katrina Gregorisch

Ronnie Hufnagel

Devyn Maher

Doug Melendez

Jose Nadal

Rafael "Ralph" Pagan

Frank Pajon

Julio "JP" Priede

Karlos Ramos

Christopher Rodriguez

Alberto Seda

Richard "Smitty" Smith

Brett Underhill

weight in all the races we were involved in. Candidates realized that if they didn't get our endorsement, they need to work harder to represent public safety.

We're seeing it at the city levels, where we are ratifying contracts at a record pace. For the municipalities and counties we represent, we're probably in one of the best positions we've been in for many, many years.

I think that we can tighten up some laws, where you have these agitators trying to engage police on traffic stops, trying to stir up a reaction that's going to draw a negative tone. But paid benefits and working conditions for our members are going to be greatly improved as we move forward into the next year.

So as we go into 2023, the future looks much brighter than it has in the last couple of years. I'm excited about the direction we're going in with our elected officials who are going to stand with us. You saw that in October, when our county commissioners held the Hometown Heroes parade to show their appreciation for first responders, healthcare workers and all those who continue go above and beyond to make everybody's lives better.

It was refreshing to see our mayor and commissioners come together to recognize all the first responders. I don't know any other place where they had an event like

that. It's phenomenal, and it's well earned.

Like I said, it can feel like a rollercoaster at times. But we know how to be in it for the long haul. Our members have shown that. Your leadership certainly is always going to be there to make sure you are front and center. As we look ahead to 2023, we know we are headed in the right direction.

If you will allow me, I would like to share one of my personal highlights from this past year. My youngest son, Jack, just became a U.S. Marine. After graduating high school a few months ago, he went to Paris Island in South Carolina. He completed 84 days of training and received his Marine Eagle, Globe and Anchor. The medallion signifies the commitment to support and defend the Constitution.

He will be at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for the next three or four months, where he will pursue his goal of becoming an embassy guard. Congratulations, son, for your commitment to law and order.

And thank you all for the same.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season.



Steadman Stahl, President
steadman@sflpba.org



Congratulations to Jack Stahl, son of South Florida PBA President Steadman Stahl, on becoming a U.S. Marine.

PBA'S ASSOCIATE PERSONAL INJURY COUNSEL

Martin, Lister & Alvarez, PLC



Specializing in serious personal injury matters, product liability, medical malpractice & wrongful death

1655 N. Commerce Parkway, Suite 102, Weston, FL 33326

PHONE 954.659.9322

FAX 954.659.9909 www.lawmla.com

***Admitted: New York**

For a complete listing of our firm's credentials, please visit us at www.lawmla.com

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

- *Timothy M. Martin**
- Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer
 - National Board of Trial Advocacy Civil Trial Specialist
 - AV Rated Martindale- Hubbell
 - Former MDPD Homicide Detective
 - 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

- David P. Lister**
- Million Dollar Advocates Forum
 - AV Rated Martindale- Hubbell
 - American Bar Association
 - U.S. District Court
 - Dade County Trial Lawyers Association
 - Association of Florida Trial Lawyers
 - Florida Legal Elite

THE
Florida House
EXPERIENCE

Same Great Program, New Look



FHEHealth



*Substance Abuse, Addiction,
Gambling, Mental Health
and PTSD Care*



Sometimes the Helpers Need Help

Have Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling Become Your Solution?

Since 2001, FHE Health has provided the highest quality of care to our First Responders. From medical detox through clinical outpatient support, we provide the opportunity for a better life.

888.353.6152

CALL 24/7

100% CONFIDENTIAL

FHEHealth.com



Hoot Shooting for a good cause



DAVID
GREENWELL
EXECUTIVE
VICE
PRESIDENT

As we are all aware, October is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a campaign that aims to increase awareness and education as it relates to this disease. So it makes sense that we schedule our annual Hoot Shoot during this time.

Because more than 43,000 women die every year of breast cancer in the U.S. — including my mother — this event gives us an opportunity to help support the fight against this horrific disease. This year was our third annual Hoot Shoot, and it was a great success. Congratulations to the following winners:

2022 Top Gun Shooter and Overall Champion:

Monroe County Deputy Addison LaPradd

Winners of their Groups/District:

Officer Henry Roque (SPB/SRT)

Officer Andrew Perez (HSB/PRT)

Sergeant Armando Borrego (MDPSTI)

Officer Yovany Sosa (Robbery/RID)

Officer Pablo SanMiguel (Airport/ICT)

I would like to thank all those who organized the Hoot Shoot, including the Special Patrol Bureau, the Training Bureau and the PBA for sponsoring. In addition, thanks to Major Arnold Palmer, Major Carlos Gonzalez, Sergeant Armando Borrego and Officer Kathy Suarez. I would finally like to thank all those who participated. Hopefully, next year will bring even more participants, and we will earn even more money for this important cause.

On another note, as the holidays are soon upon us, I would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season, as well as a very happy new year. Also, I want to remind everyone during the hustle and bustle of everyday life and work, take the time to count your blessings, whether big or small and take care of yourself, your family and each other!

As always, please stay safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 305-593-0044 or greenwell@sflpba.org.



Monroe Deputy Addison LaPradd.



Monroe County shooting team.



Grading the targets.

The not-so-new trend of quiet quitting



NIZAM "ISH"
ISHMAEL
VICE
PRESIDENT

I want to tell you about this trend at work called "quiet quitting." Quiet quitting is not about quitting your job; it's about refusing to go above and beyond at work. It's about setting your workplace boundaries.

Quiet quitting is essentially employee disengagement. This is where workers stop going above and beyond what's asked, stop completing tasks and projects without compensation, and stop overly participating in workplace hustle culture. The trend has been triggered by widespread employee burnout, the great resignation and new workplace policies following the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, I don't believe that this is a new trend. A trend is something that comes and goes within a short period of time — it could be a few months, or it could be a few years. From my perspective, what we're seeing today with quiet quitting is nothing new. From the employee's perspective, they ideally want to receive the maximum amount of pay and they want to do the least amount of work, calling it fair. So I'm just keeping it real.

Resumebuilder.com surveyed 1,000 working Americans in August. Seventy-four percent of respondents said they go above and beyond their job description. Twenty-one percent (22 percent of men and 20 percent of women) said they are quiet quitting and only doing the bare minimum amount of work. I hope that gives you a sense of how prevalent that this problem is becoming. However, I want you to know that this is what the quiet quitters are saying. They're saying they don't want to overwork themselves because it could lead to burnouts. Going above and beyond at work could compromise their mental health. Work-life balance is a priority, and your work should not define you. You should focus your time and energy on things that you do outside of work.

I worked for some of the best and worst supervisors during my law enforcement career, like many of you. At one of my previous assignments, I loved the work I was doing but was miserable working for a particular individual. This supervisor made the workplace a very toxic environment, treating almost everyone like garbage. Many of us dreaded just going into the office. But we all had to force a smile or pretend to be interested in what was being said by that supervisor. Lucky for me, I was transferred, but I felt very sorry for all the great men and women I had left behind. My work ethic has always been: if

you work hard and you do what's best for the agency, then you can rely on them to take care of you, to reward you properly. Well, that supervisor wrote me the worst performance review that I have ever received. As much as I worked hard for the organization, when I read it, I was in disbelief, I was in shock. I thought immediately that I would have been better off if I was just slacking off, just doing the bare minimum and just collecting a paycheck. All the hard work that I did at this assignment, going above and beyond, being such a good employee — it didn't pay off, and it wasn't worth it to me.

I'm not lazy at all. In fact, I'm a very hardworking person, as many of you are. Now I want to say this to all the quiet quitters:

It is very important that you know that I understand your situation. I know how you feel; I've been there. With that being said, and you knowing where I'm coming from, I want to give you some advice. If you're quiet quitting, you're not going to be the first pick for any specialized units. I think you're clearly aware of that. It's going to be difficult for you to work your way into units, if that's something you're interested in. Often if you don't get picked for certain units, then you're not going to get compensated as much as you could be or as much as you'd like.

But that would go against the whole quiet-quitting trend.

I just want you to have fair warning of the consequences of quiet quitting. These are the trade-offs; these are the realities. You're going to experience some additional stress and anxiety, and you might have to wonder how upset your bosses are with you today. All I'm saying is if you're going to try quiet quitting, if you're going through it right now, just understand the consequences. I don't think quiet quitting is a good long-term solution. If you are going to be employed as a law enforcement professional, you're going to want to be engaged and interested in whatever it is that you're doing. Because of this, it is important for you to find the balance that allows you to be an exemplary employee while enjoying your personal life.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and to those of various faiths: happy Hanukkah/Hanukkah Sameach, happy Kwanzaa/Habari Gani and merry Christmas. Be safe out there, and do not put on too much weight during this time of the year. Please feel free to contact me at ish@sflpba.org or at 305-593-0044.



Supervisors roll in challenging times



JERMAINE
LAWSON
TREASURER

It is never easy to manage employees through a crisis. As disturbing issues continue to unfold, it is understandable that the minds of the people we supervise are elsewhere. As supervisors, what can we do to support our teams right now? How do we balance the need for empathy and compassion with the need to still get work done?

During tough times, leaders need to step up. This can make all the difference. When times get tough or circumstances look dire, you want to work for someone confident, empathetic, who remains calm in the face of adversity and has a game plan. The new mandate (mandatory overtime) is moving staff from euphoria to fear and panic. Smart leaders understand that we are now in dire need of keeping our most experienced staff and will do as much as they can to work and manage their subordinates in a consistent and fair manner. While knowing the ins and outs of the job is important, there is a lot more that goes into being able to effectively lead and manage.

There are legitimate concerns as to how long this shortage is going to last and what the department is doing to stop this massive bleeding of staff. Even though we are seeing an increase in the graduates coming through the academy, we are still losing a large number of our workforce to retirement, transfers to other departments and resignation. As supervisors, we must recognize that our subordinates are under extreme pressure to comply with the workload required by the mandatory overtime mandate and to meet responsibilities in their personal lives at the same time. We must encourage and, when necessary, allow them to put their needs above those of the department.

Work burnout is a real problem today, and it comes at greater risk during times of intense stress and pressure. According to a 2021 Indeed survey of 1,500 U.S. workers on employee burnout, 52 percent of those surveyed were feeling burned out, and 27 percent were unable to unplug from work. Supporting and promoting well-being at work is a critical component to the health and productivity of employees, as well as the long-term success of the department. The department should introduce and practice stress management strategies and create a space where employees know they are valued and heard.

Our department heads must do more to show our staff that they appreciate their sacrifices throughout this very challenging time. Management should consider allowing staffing supervisors to compensate staff for time spent traveling to another facility to satisfy their weekly requirements of mandatory overtime after the completion of their regular shift. This is not too much to ask, since this mandatory overtime was forced upon them. Furthermore, these employees are covered portal to portal (in the event of an accident) and should be fully compensated as such.

The department should encourage each facility administration to carefully scrutinize all discipline drafted in their facilities to ensure that only valid violations are processed. In my opinion, the department is wasting too much time processing disciplines that were generated unnecessarily or frivolously. The administration should encourage supervisors to use other alternatives to resolve minor infractions within their facilities. Disciplines generated unnecessarily can add to increase in turnover, which ultimately leads to decreased productivity.

At this current juncture, morale is at an all-time low, and it is our job as supervisors to lift the spirits of staff to get them back on track. Working with the employees in a reasonable manner will yield better results. Supervisors should consistently put themselves in the employee's place. This includes taking into account the personal lived experiences or perspectives of their employees. Working with the employees in a reasonable manner will yield better results. These simple tactics will lead to a more productive and happy workforce.

**CERTIFIED FINANCIAL
PLANNER™ PROFESSIONALS**

SPECIALIZING IN THE RETIREMENT NEEDS OF WORKING PEOPLE

Because we know how important it is for you to feel secure in your financial future.

House Calls

We meet clients where you feel most comfortable: at your home, at our office, over the phone or video call.

No Account Minimum

The emphasis is not on how much money you have, but rather on making the best use of it, whatever the amount.

Experience

Our team of professionals have over 60 years of combined experience. We are ready to serve as your trusted advisors.

**TONKINSON
FINANCIAL**

2398 S Dixie Hwy, Miami, FL 33133 www.tonkinsonfinancial.com
305-858-1628

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed Insurance products and services offered through CES Insurance Agency.

TRUSTED. VERIFIED.

Experts in managing retirement benefits for law enforcement:

Investment Plan

DROP

Deferred Comp

**We work with active and retired PBA members
across all Police Departments in South Florida.
Call to schedule a complimentary benefit review.**

Nicolas Valdes-Fauli

Founder and CEO

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™



THIN BLUE LINE
— FINANCIAL —



3105 NW 107th Ave Doral FL 33172



/in/NV-F



thinblueline_financial



tblfinancial.com | (305) 798-1842 | nvf@tblfinancial.com

Investment advisory services offered through Main Street Financial Solutions, LLC, a federally registered investment advisor.

Rules to show cause



CRISTINA
ESCOBAR
ASSISTANT
GENERAL
COUNSEL

Author's Note: This is a reprint from the January/February 2022 edition of the Heat. We have noticed a substantial increase in the number of rules to show cause that have been issued lately, and therefore wanted to remind you of the importance of adhering to subpoenas, and when you are unable to, communicating with the issuing party so that they cannot allege you were not responsive. Keep records of all communication as well!

When you receive a subpoena requesting you to appear for trial, deposition or another legal matter, if you fail to appear, a rule to show cause ("rule") may issue against you. A rule to show cause is an order issued by a judge mandating the officer to appear in court to explain (give cause) why he/she should not be held in contempt. A finding of contempt can result in the imposition of criminal penalties, ranging from probation up to a maximum of six months incarceration. Rules to show cause are usually discharged (dismissed or quashed) once a reasonable explanation is provided. However, do not always assume this will be the case. If a rule is not discharged, a contempt hearing will be held. If found guilty, penalties will follow that can negatively impact your job and potentially your FDLE certification.

If you get served and/or receive a rule to show cause, what do you do? If the failure to appear was due to an inadvertent mishap or scheduling conflict, which is usually the case, the first thing to do is to immediately contact the attorney who issued the subpoena and explain the reason(s) for the non-appearance. If the communication occurs prior to the hearing and there is time to reschedule the matter, the attorney will usually agree to reschedule the matter and recommend that the judge discharge the rule at the hearing.

An attorney may tell you that you do not have to appear at the hearing because he or she will be requesting that the rule be discharged. Though this may be well intended to save you a trip to court or a Zoom appearance, we recommend you still make the appearance. Why? Because the rule is issued by the judge, so the attorney does not have the legal authority to excuse you from appearing; only the judge can excuse you. So, for the sake of caution, and in the unlikely event the judge does not adhere to the attorney's request of discharging the rule, which could happen, it is always recommended you follow the judge's order to appear in court.

When you appear in court to address the rule, your name will be called and your presence announced. If the attorney announces that the matter has been worked out and requests that the rule be discharged, it will usually be dis-

2022 Pending Grievances

This list represents the pending grievances filed at the various departments represented by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association as of Oct. 31, 2022. The PBA legal staff receives numerous other complaints that are resolved by other means.

DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT

AVENTURA PD	2
HOMESTEAD - CORRECTIONS	1
HOMESTEAD PD	1
KEY WEST PD	1
MIAMI, CITY OF PD	1
MIAMI-DADE CORRECTIONS	
ASSOCIATION	1
MWDC	1
TOTAL	2
MIAMI-DADE POLICE	4
MIAMI GARDENS	5
MCSO (DETENTION)	1
NORTH MIAMI	1
OPA LOCKA	1
SWEETWATER	3
TOTAL GRIEVANCES	23

charged. If a rule is not discharged, you will be arraigned on the rule and the matter will be scheduled for a contempt hearing. This will allow you to seek legal representation, which you are legally entitled to pursuant to Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure 3.840. Contempt hearings are evidentiary hearings adversarial in nature, and a guilty verdict for contempt can result in serious sanctions with detrimental effects. Therefore, do not proceed without legal representation. Contact the PBA legal department as soon as possible so we can assure you are properly represented.

In conclusion, rules to show cause should not be taken lightly. If you are ever in receipt of one and have any concerns or questions, we encourage you to contact the PBA legal department as soon as possible. I represented two officers who had to go through the contempt hearing ordeal. Thankfully, and rightfully, the judge found the officers not guilty. But it could have sadly turned out otherwise.

Thank you all for that you do, and stay safe!

Helping those who are helping others



SERGEANT
KENNETH
HORGAN
POAT
COMMITTEE
CHAIR

Not since Hurricane Michael came ashore in the Panhandle in 2018 has a hurricane made landfall in the state of Florida. Well, Mother Nature returned with a vengeance. Hurricane Ian made landfall on the southwest coast of Florida on Sept. 28. Taking the brunt of an approximate storm surge of 10 to 15 feet were Fort Myers, Sanibel Island and Pine Island. The storm took out the bridges that connect Pine Island and Sanibel to the mainland, leaving many stranded for several days.

As we have done for many years, POAT offered assistance, which was accepted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The mission was to assist officers and their families whose homes sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Ian by making temporary repairs to homes, removing debris and tarping roofs while the officers were working around the clock, maintaining public safety services.

POAT was given 27 officers from several different units for the mission. We were equipped with a Bobcat, 38 chainsaws, four

pole saws and a trailer full of tools and construction material. Officers spent seven days there away from their families, working for other officers. They spent countless hours on top of roofs in the scorching heat and hauling trees.

Mission accomplished! After seven days, 53 officers' homes were worked on and left a little better than when we arrived. Serving those who serve!

The Cops Ride for Kids Motorcycle Ride to benefit POAT's Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 9 a.m. The ride will begin at the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters Building, 9105 NW 25th Street. Registration for the event is \$20 per bike. Please contact Rudy Gonzalez at poatoffice@msn.com for details.

The Ninth Annual Homerun for Heroes Kickball Tournament will be held at Kendall Indian Hammocks Park on Jan. 20 and 21, 2023. The park is located at 11395 SW 79th St. If you're interested in forming a team, contact Major Thamy Gonzalez at 305-216-6605 for team registration. The team registration fee is \$350, team T-shirts included. The deadline for team registration is Dec. 5.




HOMERUNS FOR HEROES

KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

2023

The Police Officer Assistance Trust invites you to participate in the

Ninth Annual "Homeruns for Heroes" Kickball Tournament

January 20th thru 21st, 2023

Location: Kendall Indian Hammocks Park 11395 SW 79 Street

Team Registration Entry Fee: \$ 350.00

Deadline: December 5, 2022

Team T-Shirts are Included

For further information contact: Major Thamy Gonzalez at 305-216-6605 or U302132@mdpd.com

"Proceeds from this event will go towards the Police Officer Assistance Trust"

Call 305-216-6605 or email u302132@mdpd.com to request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or a sign language interpreter 7 days in advance



Welcoming the newly retired



JOHN FRALEY
RPOC
PRESIDENT

Coming to the end of 2022, we can look forward as the pandemic appears to be drifting away. I want to stay positive, stay the course and grow the RPOC.

In that regard, we are seeing greater interest by new folks who recently retired from law enforcement and corrections professions. Your board of directors is striving to present the membership with events that promote fellowship, camaraderie and awareness. We know that new retirees will have new and useful ideas, and we want them to be an integral part in the continued growth of the RPOC.

We welcome all who are honorably retired from the law enforcement and correction professions. At the present time, most of our members are from MDPD and MDCR, but we are open to those from all departments. I want all of us to work together to grow and preserve the RPOC.

The Otis Chambers Scholarship Fund will resume in January 2023. I urge members of our group to review the documents on our website, www.rpocpba.org, and start the application process. We have had great success with the program and have awarded numerous grants to deserving students seeking to continue their education in various fields of study.

We had our first lunch gathering on Sept. 14 at the Miami Springs Country Club. It was very successful, with 38 members attending. Our second lunch took place there on Nov. 9, and I expected an increased number of attendees. However, the weather hit, and the turnout suffered. Eighteen members braved the weather to enjoy a very nice lunch and a few drinks.

We are changing the venue for the Christmas lunch on Dec. 14 to the Ocean One restaurant in Davie. The drink specials and the quality of the food are exceptional. Additional information will be sent to the entire membership via email.

There is a Thin Blue Cruise in the works for April 2-9, 2023 on MSC Cruise Lines. It is a seven-night cruise to the eastern Caribbean. Prices are reasonable and include the drink package. It is open to our RPOC members, the IPA, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement officers and first responders from around the country.

It is much like the pre-pandemic cruise that Jerry Rudoff and company put together in 2019, Cruising for the Blue. Retired MDPD officer Jon Robert, formally of the South District, is working on this project. Please see below flyer with details.

In closing, remember to stay safe and keep your colleagues in your thoughts and prayers. Getting older is not for the faint of heart. Take care of yourselves, your families and



those close to you. God bless America.

During this upcoming season, your board members would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday regardless of one's religion, ethnicity or culture. With our diverse membership, we realize that many celebrate holidays at different times and in different ways and we recognize and celebrate with each and every one.

Here is a report from Chaplain Reba Miller:

Friends and family, we honor and respect and send our heartfelt sympathies to the families of our LEO brothers who have passed:

- Al Florian: September 2022
- Wayne G. Gaskill: November 2022

We send our encouragement to all our members who are healing, going through rehab and reaching out for health and strength: Jerry Rudoff, Barry and Patty Savage, Gary Gable, Marcy Myrtil, and Dennis and Maggie Bambach.

To all our members, their families, friends and supporters who are repairing, recovering and rebuilding from Hurricane Ian: All of you are amazing and resilient. We want to thank all the agencies and groups of volunteers who provided their services, resources, personal strength, commitment and love to so many others. God bless you and yours.

"May the Lord bless and keep all of you in the palm of his hand. May he provide peace, provision and abiding love, forever and ever. Amen."

Congrats to retired members

The South Florida PBA is proud to honor retired members who have put in long hours and outstanding service for their departments and communities. Join us in honoring these great members and exceptional public servants as they celebrate their retirement.



Janel Ruiz
Miami-Dade Police Department



Michelle Avant
Miami-Dade Corrections
& Rehabilitation



Robert Gonzalez
Miami-Dade Police Department

2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26 Bike Night

February 24 Car Show

March 17 Golf Tournament

May 20 30th Annual PBA
Law Enforcement Awards Gala

June 10 Fishing Tournament

Sept 1-30 Fallen Officer Tribute

Sept 28 Feast Day Celebration of
St. Michael

Nov 18 Pig Cook Off

Dec 9 5K Run

THANK YOU for supporting Law Enforcement

Follow us @southfloridapba



sflpba.org



Be Part of OUR New book - Respond by December 15th!

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 COMMEMORATIVE YEARBOOK

Available to all Members — Sworn & Civilian, Active & Retired

PRINTED IN
FULL-COLOR!

The South Florida PBA is proud to announce that we are developing an all new 2023 Commemorative Yearbook to celebrate the men and women of the Miami-Dade Police Department, past and present. This hardbound commemorative "coffee-table" book will include hundreds of photographs and memories that fully illustrates what it means to be a member of the MDPD family.

Many of you participated in our last yearbook that was produced in 2015-16. Since then, many of our members have retired with hundreds of new faces brought on board, and with so many changes having occurred over the last decade, we decided the time was right for a new yearbook.

What better way to capture MDPD's proud past and promising future than through a collection of pictures and information that, combined, tell the story of this great agency and of the people who made it what it is today? The publisher and the yearbook committee are committed to making our album a comprehensive and professional publication of which all our members, sworn and civilian, active and retired, will be proud to own.

This 9x12-inch, hardbound book will be printed in full-color and contain hundreds of historic and modern photos of civilian and uniformed personnel. It will also include professional portraits of department members, as well as candid and action photos.

We Need Your Help

This is your yearbook! Our goal is to commemorate the many accomplishments and services that you provide to our organization and community. To make it as comprehensive as possible, we are asking you to contribute by sending in stories for consideration.

You can also submit photos from your time with the department – action shots and group photos will be reviewed. Send any stories and photos for consideration to mdpd23book@acclaimpress.com. Watch for additional information on when individual portrait photographs will be scheduled.

Special Book Offer

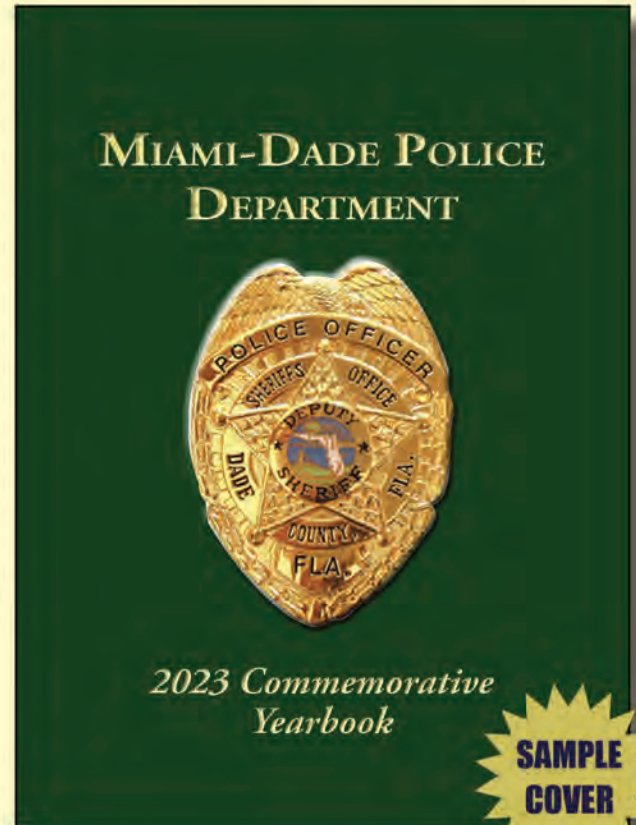
This book is being sold to MDPD employees, their families and retirees. Since this will be a limited edition publication, the number of books printed will be based upon the number of copies ordered in advance. Therefore, you are encouraged to place your order by December 15th!

Sponsored by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

Our commemorative yearbook is being coordinated by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc., and a portion of proceeds will benefit the PBA's Love Fund to assist our members at times of great need.



Please be a part of this historic project and order your copies today!



Pictured is the proposed cover for the Miami-Dade Police 2023 Commemorative Yearbook. Note: the actual cover has not been finalized and will feature the MDPD badge(s) stamped in gold or silver foil.

Questions? Contact the publisher at
mdpd23book@acclaimpress.com, call
Acclaim Press at (573) 472-9800 or visit on
the web: www.acclaimpress.com

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2022





Miami-Dade Police Department 2023 Commemorative Yearbook — A Quality Book! —

Acclaim Press has published commemorative history books for a wide variety of law enforcement agencies across the country, with nearly a century of combined experience in the publishing industry. Each book is painstakingly researched and documented, containing scores of superior, historic photographs and personal experience stories that capture the spirit of each department.

Your book will be printed on number one grade, acid-free, double coated glossy paper to ensure the highest caliber photo reproduction and Smyth-sewn binding for longevity. Your choice of full-color books includes the hardbound Deluxe Edition, bound in a classic leatherette displaying the MDPD badge(s) for \$59.95, or the Leather Collector's Edition, bound in genuine bonded leather with the agency's badge embossed in gold or silver leaf for only \$89.95. Either version may be personalized with your name, or that of a friend or loved one, stamped in silver or gold for an additional \$6.00.

NOTE: This full-color, hardbound 9x12-inch commemorative book will be a limited edition publication and you must order in advance to be assured of receiving a copy. **RESERVE YOUR COPIES TODAY!**

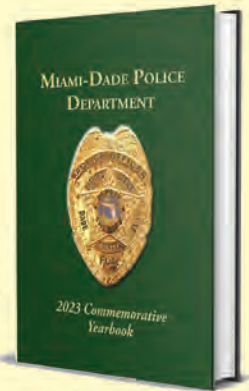


Table of Contents

- Historical overview of the Miami-Dade Police Department from 1836-2023, tools of the trade, and other highlights
- Full-color portraits of current agency personnel, sworn, civilian, & retired
- In Memoriam tribute to Fallen Officers
- Hundreds of photographs showcasing the men and women of MDPD
- Division & Special Unit highlights & group photos
- Special stories from agency members, past & present, plus retiree bios
- Agency Rosters, plus much more!



**OUR BOOK WILL INCLUDE FULL-COLOR PORTRAIT PHOTOS — SWORN, CIVILIAN & RETIRED —
WATCH FOR SCHEDULING INFORMATION!**

**DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 15, 2022**

Miami-Dade PD 2023 Commemorative Yearbook	Qty	Price	Total
Deluxe Edition		\$59.95	
Leather Collector's Edition		\$89.95	
Emboss your name on the book cover - \$6.00		\$6.00	
Shipping & handling: add \$7.60 first book, \$3.50 for each add'l book to the same address			
TOTAL			

Please Check Method of Payment:

☐ Check/Money Order (Payable to Acclaim Press) ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Name on Credit Card _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ / _____

For Office Use Only • MDPD23 RWB1

Stories _____ Photos _____ Books _____ Ck Amt _____ Ck No. _____ Date _____

Mail to:
MDPD 2023 Commemorative Yearbook
Acclaim Press • P.O. Box 238 • Morley, MO 63767
Order by phone: (573) 472-9800
Order online: www.acclaimpress.com
Questions?
Email: mdpd23book@acclaimpress.com

Name (Please Print) _____ Rank/Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

*Name to be embossed on cover (up to 24 spaces per line)



ACD Health U.S. PA

LET US BULLETPROOF YOUR HEART

DID YOU KNOW THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS...:

- ♥ Lifespan is 20 years less than the average civilian?
- ♥ Average age of a first heart attack is 49 versus 67 for the average civilian?
- ♥ Prevalence of cardiovascular disease is 170% greater?
- ♥ Chance of cardiac-related death is 30-70 times greater during a pursuit?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO...:

1

Reduce your risk of dying from an aneurysm by 65%?

2

Decrease your risk of stroke by 75%?

3

Decrease your chance of dying from a heart attack by 300%?

Schedule On-Site Cardiac Testing Today!

CONTACT US

☎ 561-635-7472

🌐 www.acdhealthus.com

📍 7900 Glades Road,
Suite 350
Boca Raton, Florida, 33434

The Roast of the Town

The PBA cooked up one of its tastiest events ever with the Pig Roast Bowl Series, which also brought out some mad love for the Love Fund



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY LINDA CARTA

Smoke rising from Tropical Park at daybreak on Nov. 19 signaled the dawn of Grills Gone Wild. And the Silence of the Hams. And the story of the Four Little Pigs.

By 7 a.m., more than 200 roastmasters had gathered on the infield of the Trop for the first-ever South Florida PBA's Pig Roast Bowl Series. The event needed to combine the titles of the Super Bowl and World Series because it was that spectacular, that ravenous, that tasty.

Where there was smoke, there was a rich barbecue smell that permeated the park. Sixty-five teams made up of law enforcement officers, firefighters, members of the business community and top chefs from throughout Florida roasted 65 pigs. Some of the roastmasters described the aroma as a smoky, garlicky, orangey blend from the mojo the main courses had already been basking in for an hour. Others noted that the charcoal and wood burning added a mouth-watering seduction to the atmosphere.

During the next eight hours or so, the park would become the setting for what will quickly become one of the PBA's signature events. More than 1,500 people attended and filled up on camaraderie, family fun, the competitive spirit of cops matching their expertise and a pig roast so delectable that it's impossible to put into words. You truly had to taste it to get the full effect.

"When I showed up there Saturday morning, I was like, 'Holy smoke,'" described Daniel Santana, who works MDPD IA and participated with fellow officers from homicide and Northwest, as well as a retiree, on the Four Little Pigs team. "I didn't think it was going to be the magnitude it turned out. But when I got there, I realized this is a big game."



Officers from the MDPD Ag Patrol Unit made up the team May The Pork Be With You.



Officers from South Miami who were part of Miami Hog Mafia had some fun dressing up their pig.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



Officers from Hialeah Gardens came up with one of the most ingenious mechanisms for cooking.

THE ROAST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Hog wild

So a quick disclaimer to translate the magnitude of the Pig Roast Bowl Series. As you will read, the accounts here include “pig” references. For purposes of this story, these are not meant to be derogatory terms. In fact, hopefully they will be read as terms of endearment, respect and entertainment as the event intended.

Scanning the roster of team names only begins to capture the caliber of pig tales emanating from the PBA pig roast. Starting with Grills Gone Wild, Silence of the Hams and Four Little Pigs, add such gems as Notorious P.I.G.s, P.I.G. Patrol, Porker Enforcers, Guns N Roasters, Hogs and Robbers, Swine & Dine and the team from the Palmetto Bay Police Department chosen the Best Law Enforcement Tasting Pig Champions, Book ‘Em and Cook ‘Em.

The Pig-A-Holics, which featured members from the Hialeah Gardens PD, showed up with a police car turned into a barbecue pit to cook their pig. And the overall winners, who included two officers from the MDPD Warrants Bureau, went by the handle La Porka Nostra. But in the name department, nothing seemed to top the team from MDPD’s ag patrol that called itself May the Pork Be With You.

The force was strong here on behalf of the PBA’s Love Fund. PBA Rep Julio “JP” Priede, who conceived the idea for the Pig Roast Bowl Series, confided that the greatest outcome of the day might have been the opportunity to tell so many members and residents of the community about the virtues of the Love Fund. Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation Officer Kedson Julmiste, who was injured in the line of duty, attended the pig



The La Porka Nostra team won Best Pig Presentation and Pig Roast Bowl Champions.

roast and stepped up to the microphone to sing the praises of the Love Fund.

“I thought something like this could be fun and bring us all together,” JP explained. “And give everybody a chance to find out about the Love Fund. I felt like the more we put it out there to the community and the members, the more they would want to be involved with it. So I think it opened people’s eyes to that.”

There were so many reasons to be high on the hogs on this day. Pig roasting is such a beautiful part of the Latin, Hispanic and Cuban cultures – and the Miami culture. It is as much a cornerstone of family celebrations as Christmas.

But this pig roast had an effect on members that might not even have come up in the six-plus months of planning Priede and his team put into getting it together.

“The majority of the time when you see such a large amount of police officers as well as the public come together, it is usually to grieve when we have a fallen officer,” observed Palmetto Bay Lieutenant Tony Rodriguez, who led the Book ‘Em and Cook ‘Em team. “So to have that camaraderie and togetherness when we’re actually celebrating something made it very special.”

Pork it over

When Priede first sat down with PBA President Steadman Stahl to present the idea of a pig roast, the boss was a little freaked out. But after hearing more, Stahl figured, stick a pork in me.

They initially planned an event in the PBA headquarters parking lot with hopes of getting up to 15 teams. Priede did not get much of a response from members at first, so he decided to get piggy with it.

He connected with Louis Fonseca Productions, which promotes for restaurants in the Miami-Dade area. Then, Kiko, the famed “Chef Hunter” who has put many a local restaurant on television, came on board, and the roast caught fire.

“Steadman thought it could get a little messy and that if we got 15 teams, we would have to move it to the park,” JP reported. “So we took that as a challenge. Louis found sponsors and I found officers to participate. We said, ‘Man, let’s make this the biggest pig roast in Florida.’”

JP didn’t quite realize how big until the meeting of the teams’ chefs on Nov. 17. He said more than 100 people met at the Farm-House Miami restaurant that night. They brought 65 pigs to distribute, ensuring that every competing team would use equal opportunity swine.

“The 65 pigs went, and we were like, ‘Wow,’” JP added. “The energy was amazing.”

Alejandro Muniz, an officer with the ag patrol unit and leader of May The Pork Be With You, admitted he was blown away by the number of chefs at that pre-game meeting. His pigspertise had come primarily from watching YouTube videos of how to roast, so when he looked around that room and saw some of those chefs from his YouTube tutorials, he thought, “Oh sh--. There were cooks there from teams that had won prizes.”

That, of course, reinforced the magnitude of the Bowl Series even before the first charcoal burned. Priede advised teams to begin setting up at the Trop on Friday, which many did. But, like Muniz, they were all back at 6 a.m. Saturday to start cooking.

“We were there for our unit and Damian, who works in illegal dumping, which is part of our unit,” Muniz added. “It was a great environment. But I did feel a little bit of pressure because it was a competition, and I didn’t want to mess up the pig.”

Pork chopped

Pig prowess spread far and wide, confirmed by the commitment competitors made to achieving maximum succulence. Jose Edreira, who retired out of Cutler Bay after 26 years on MDPD, has cooked for PBA events in the past, and his team entered under the name of his business, Joe the Smoking Pig, which provides catered roasting services.

Edreira arrived on Saturday at 5:40 a.m. and prepped for the 12-hour day. He covered some of the details that are critical to roasting. First is setting up the caja china, the traditional pig roasting box. Some caja chinas are covered grills. Some are over charcoal. Edreira’s was on a rotisserie.

Another competitive edge can come from seasoning or marinating the pig. The traditional mojo, as the dressing is called, includes garlic, sour oranges, oregano and salt. Lots of salt. Edreira tended his first pig with his dad when he was 10 years old, and his mojo came from a sacred family recipe. That set the table for how to cook it to perfection.

“The outer shell, the skin, if it’s cooked incorrectly, it’s rubbery,” Edreira articulated. “So it has to be to that point where the skin becomes like a cracker. And you can’t overcook it, because if you keep pushing heat through there, you drain all the moisture and end with a dry pig. Your goal is to get the fat to melt inside the meat but not drip out. It’s definitely not healthy for you, but we’re not talking about healthy here.”

PBA board member Tony Rodriguez, who works out of Northwest for MDPD, hooked up with Santana, who cooks three or four pigs each year. He knew this would be a great family day, so he brought his 89-year-old father, Daniel, and his mother, Oliva, to enjoy the swinery.

Santana used a secret family recipe that helped his team’s pig reach the desired outcome of falling apart when serving it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Book ‘Em and Cook ‘Em, representing the Palmetto Bay Police Department, was honored as the Best Law Enforcement Tasting Pig Champions.



MDCR Officer Kedson Julmiste, who was seriously injured, spoke to the crowd about the virtues of the PBA Love Fund.



The 20 judges sampled and scored the various pigs.

Roasted

A full plate of the sights and smells from the PBA's Pig Roast Bowl Series

Photos by Linda Carta





THE ROAST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Many other teams saw their pigs fall apart, and that's where the fun really began.

"There was a lot of trash-talking, which my mom thought was the best thing," Santana confessed. "That's the competitive spirit in us. You saw all types and methods of cooking the pig, so that made it interesting and fun."

Fans who bought tickets for the event made an additional donation to take part in tasting the vast spectrum of delicacies. Each team had to prepare 50 plates, some of which went to one of the 20 judges sampling and scoring each entry for one of the five awards. Each fan received a coin to drop in a bucket as a vote for the People's Choice Award.

At the end of the day, there were no losers.

"We all have the same end game, which is to help other people," Edreira submitted. "It didn't matter if it was another team that was competing against you. It was all family, and that's why it didn't matter who won."

Swine tasting

Maximizing the pigspereience was about more than achieving fine swine. Nick Rodriguez, who works in the MDPD Motors Division, participated with a team of officers from his unit called Shiny Side Up. Rodriguez had some chops from smoking brisket, ribs and such but had never really done a whole pig.

He noted how it really became a group effort. His caja china was next to the team from the Pinecrest PD. They helped each other roast. Rodriguez also reveled in bringing his dad, Ulisses, who was on with MDPD for 33 years and actually ran into some old buddies at the pig roast. It was that kind of day.

"Everybody's joking around together, everybody's just hanging out, everybody's just having a good time," Nick related.


Clearly, this was not a thrill-of-victory, agony-of-defeat prop-

osition. It was not hard to see the prevailing attitudes with the way the pigs were dressed up and the people accessorized. Miami Hog Mafia, which included members from South Miami, put a hat on its pig, a cigar in its mouth and had a gas with the photo ops. Some of those on hand saw fit to don pig-ears head-gear.

It was a day full of swine art. The pork was with us all. It was the roast with the most. The swine lines could go on forever, but leave it to PBA board member Rodriguez to capture the impact of this one swine day.

"I think it was the biggest gathering the PBA has had to date," he began. "To see so many officers there together enjoying good food and a good time was even better because they were made more aware of what the Love Fund stands for. It really felt like a family reunion."





**In times like these,
you can't afford to be
without our protection.**

The coverage you need, that only we can provide.

The Admin Duty Policy is unique to Spectrum Advisory Group and is underwritten through Wellfleet. It is a very affordable policy used for officers who are placed on admin duty, admin leave, suspended, or terminated.

Coverage can include: officer involved shooting (OIS), in-custody death, excessive force complaint, or any disciplined action coming from an officer doing their job.

- **Sole provider of Admin Duty coverage**
- **Covers admin duty, admin leave, suspension, or termination**
- **12 months of coverage/30-day elimination period**
- **\$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000 monthly benefit**



SpectrumAdvisoryGroup.net

For a FREE Consultation Contact:
Executive Vice President

Michelle Jotz

TEL (702) 429 - 7202

EMAIL mjotz@spectrumadvisorygroup.net

Our Heroes

Miami-Dade parade creates an unprecedented honor for public safety and public servants



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY LINDA CARTA

Walking alongside other devoted, exalted, esteemed public servants in the county's first-ever Hometown Heroes parade enabled Miami-Dade Police Officer Maguelena Aldophe to savor handshakes, high-fives and waves from young admirers lining Biscayne Boulevard. And to hear kids say "Thank you" and "I want to be a police officer."

As Aldophe walked with other police officers, firefighters and healthcare workers along the route leading from the Continental Hotel to the FTX Arena on that sun-filled Oct. 30 Sunday, she expressed feeling the bliss of appreciation, of camaraderie, of pride washing over her. Alongside the throng of dedicated public servants, she felt like a hometown hero.

"Just to hear somebody say that simple 'thank you' gave me goosebumps," Aldophe raved. "It made me that much more proud, seeing them out there. From the time the parade started, I couldn't stop smiling. I smiled so hard throughout the whole parade that my cheeks were hurting."

Ear-to-ear elation seemed to confirm the intention Miami-Dade County Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins envisioned when she conceived the idea for the Hometown Heroes parade. Her inspiration came from recalling images of the tickertape parades through Times Square in New York City, as well as having witnessed Miami-Dade put on similar celebrations for its professional sports teams when winning championships.

And so the Hometown Heroes parade served as another nationally renowned gesture and statement of how Miami-Dade's elected officials and citizens love their public servants and public safety.

"The way the whole community comes out to celebrate them and holds them in such high regard – I thought our law enforce-



Miami-Dade County Commissioners Danielle Cohen Higgins, top left sponsored the Hometown Heroes parade.

"ment officers, our firefighters, our heroes deserve that recognition, if not more," Commissioner Cohen Higgins explained. "I'm grateful for the community coming together to host our very first Hometown Heroes parade, and hopefully there will be many more to come."

A proclamation of appreciation

The parade concluded with a lap around FTX to a podium where Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Jose "Pepe" Diaz, chairman of the county commission, hosted a ceremony to further honor the heroes. Representatives of law enforcement, firefighters and healthcare workers were awarded proclamations from the office of the mayor and board of county commissioners that read in part:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

- “Miami-Dade County recognizes and honors the many first responders and essential workers who put our community first, day in and day out, throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic.”
- “Their commitment to a safer and healthier Miami-Dade came with much risk and personal sacrifice.”
- “We recognize the labor unions who represent our County’s essential workforce – the true heroes who go above and beyond to serve our community each and every day.”

Cohen Higgins brought the proposition for a parade to the board with the co-sponsorship of Commissioner Oliver Gilbert more than a year ago. With the way the pandemic and the Surfside tragedy hit public servants, she submitted that the Hometown Heroes parade would be a welcome celebratory and healing event.

“It seemed like the moment to have the community come together and celebrate who our true heroes really are,” Cohen Higgins related. “I wanted us to step back, have our first responders step forward and let the community know that today is about our law enforcement officers, our firefighters, our healthcare workers. And what I wanted was for them to feel appreciated.”

Cohen Higgins reached out to South Florida PBA President Steadman Stahl when she first had the notion for the county to create another appreciation event for law enforcement. Stahl was already hearing theme music for an event.

He submitted that with its opening lines, the song “Tub-thumping” by Chumbawamba truly defined why law enforcement officers had earned this recognition:

*I get knocked down, but I get up again.
You are never gonna keep me down.*

Stahl conveyed to the county commission why an unprecedented showing of appreciation – something law enforcement had not experienced anywhere else in the country – would be so substantial.

“Our officers were feeling like there’s so much pressure put on everything they do and how they’re perceived that this event was like being under the water and getting that gasp of air,” he described. “Hats off to our county commissioners and our municipal leaders. In this state, they are backing the blue.”

The Hometown Heroes parade followed the county commission’s declaration of May 13 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and having the inaugural one in 2022. That came in the wake of a pay raise for Miami-Dade police officers and several initiatives and ordinances to help reduce crime, such as the county’s Peace and Prosperity Plan.

Cohen Higgins observed that the county has tried to make sure law enforcement officers are recognized for their efforts not only during times of crisis. Toward that end, perhaps Hometown Heroes will become recognized as an everyday presence in Miami-Dade.

“Pushing and prioritizing public safety needs to be constant,” she added. “It needs to be top of mind always for the residents, so I think the way we all converged, showing that strength and the bond between our law enforcement and our residents, was probably the highlight of the parade.”

As residents hung out after the parade and kids enjoyed some of the family fun available, such as a climbing wall, a zip line and party music rocking from Power96, Cohen Higgins realized the event had achieved another important objective.

“I want Miami-Dade County to be at the forefront of shaping our narrative as it pertains to our first responders,” she declared. “And helping our young people understand who their heroes are and should be.”



Honor guard members from various agencies and the military post colors at a ceremony following the parade.



Officers walk alongside the South Florida PBA’s vintage police car with a familiar MDPD sergeant at the wheel.



Mayor Danielle Levine Cava (center, red pants) and County Commission Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz (to Cava’s left) presented representatives from law enforcement, fire departments and healthcare with proclamations recognizing the commitment to a safer and healthier Miami-Dade County.



On parade

Only the parade Macy's holds on Thanksgiving Day in New York City or the one with the roses in Pasadena, California, on New Year's Day might be more vibrant and symphonic than the Hometown Heroes extravaganza. Every department in the county seemed to bring its latest and most alluring vehicles to run in the parade. Stahl even drove the old-time county police car that is always parked in front of the PBA.

Multiple bands marched and played, including the Million Dollar Band from Miami Senior High School. A double-decker bus sponsored by the Citrus Health Network displayed one of the many banners broadcasting thank-you's to hometown heroes.

"There were so many different community sponsors and supporters that were there to say thank you and people waving during the parade to our officers. It was fantastic," Stahl reported. "It was refreshing to see just so much positive energy com-



Sponsors like Citrus Health Network offered their support in unique ways, including from a double-decker bus.

ing out. I hope it's something we can continue."

Aldophe heard the parade might be so unprecedentedly energetic that she wanted to take her family out to enjoy the day and wave to colleagues from the sidelines. But when she was invited to walk in the parade, well, that turned out to be the unprecedented part.

Seeing Mayor Cava and Miami-Dade Police Department Director Alfredo Ramirez working their way around the groups of officers marching in the parade seemed to make a profound

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



LAW FIRM OF
ALEX DELL
PLLC

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION
DISABILITY RETIREMENT
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS BENEFITS
VETERANS AFFAIRS CLAIMS**

CALL 866-965-2667

FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

WWW.ALEXDELL.COM

OFFICES IN NEW YORK AND FLORIDA

WHO'S PROTECTING YOU?

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

impact on Aldophe. She asserted how officers did not feel like the Hometown Heroes parade needed to be a time for them to receive a pat on the back.

But Cava, Ramirez and many other leaders were interacting with the officers to give them actual pats on the back. Not to mention some handshakes, hugs and their personal thanks.

“What it has done for us – just know that we appreciate it,” professed Adolphe, who has been on for two years. “It does something to us. We see the efforts, and we just want them to know that it doesn’t go unnoticed.”

Even though the afternoon turned hot in the Miami-Dade sun, there was no room to feel those effects. A refreshing breeze blew through most of the day. And if the heroes did get a little warm, they were able to cool down with five-star pineapple popsicles that kids were walking around handing out to them.

When the parade was just about to hit the finish line, an unexpected crescendo came up to add some more momentousness to the occasion. Miami-Dade Police Department helicopters executed a breathtaking flyover that actually stopped the



The Million Dollar Band from Miami Senior High School performed at the parade.

parade in its tracks.

Aldophe, who just moved to the Neighborhood Resource Unit at Northside Station, admitted that caused one last round of goosebumps and gave her yet one more image that she said will remain at the top of her mind. Perhaps the appreciation will wear off for some, but she can easily think back to that day when Miami-Dade celebrated its Hometown Heroes. And she may never stop smiling.

“I was thinking, my gosh, just being at the parade and how much enjoying the good times we were having amongst each other enhanced my pride,” Aldophe proclaimed. “I feel like that’s something, if we could bottle it and sell it, it would be a great thing.”



Officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department show the proclamation they received.



THE ALVAREZ LAW FIRM

Alex Alvarez

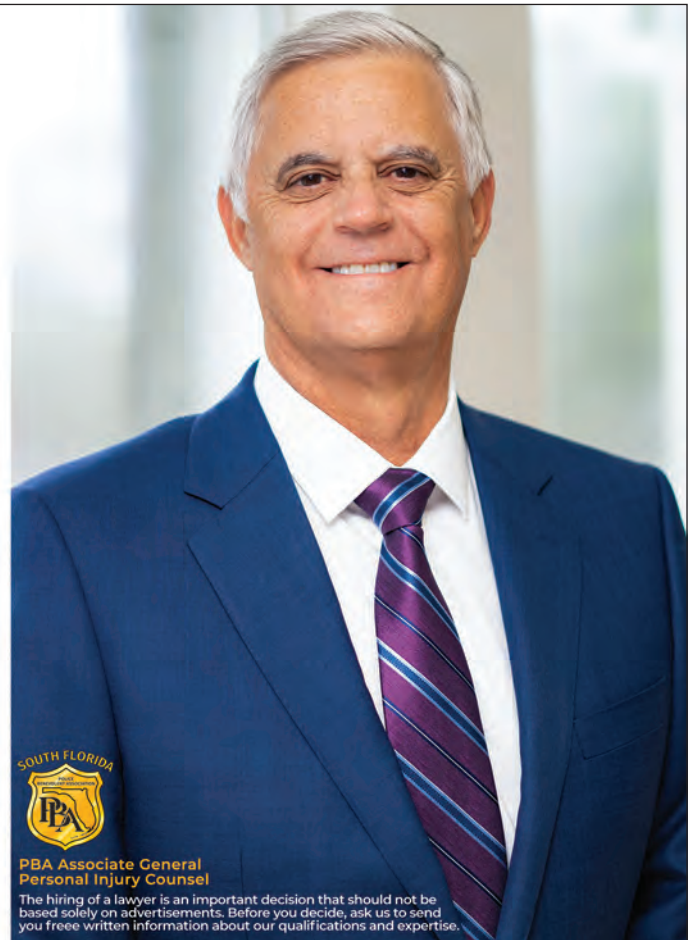
Former Metro Dade Detective,
honorably retired.

Trial Lawyer handling
Personal Injury and
Wrongful Death Matters.

Victims of Medical Malpractice,
Nursing Home Abuse and
Automobile Accidents.

**Special Fees extended to officers
and their families**

3251 Ponce De Leon Blvd. Coral Gables, FL 33134
Office: 305.444.7675 - Toll Free: 877.445.7675
intake@integrityforjustice.com



**PBA Associate General
Personal Injury Counsel**

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and expertise.



The 4-1-1 on MSK (and how you can get back to pain-free living!)

Did you know? More than 50% of Americans suffer from MSK pain. So what is MSK anyway? Your musculoskeletal (MSK) system is made up of bones, muscles, and joints that are connected through tendons, ligaments, and soft tissues. The musculoskeletal system is what helps you move, sit, and stand.

Musculoskeletal or MSK disorders are injuries that affect your muscles, bones, and joints. MSK disorders are sometimes referred to as "MSDs" and can affect any part of the musculoskeletal system, such as the neck, shoulders, back, hips, wrists, legs, knees and elbows.

It makes sense that, when you're healthy, you almost never even think about your joints. When joints bend as they're supposed to, you probably don't even notice them. But when things aren't working correctly, the discomfort can be intense. Pain from an MSK disorder may be acute or chronic, meaning you may feel pain suddenly or your pain could be long-lasting. Chronic pain tends to refer to pain lasting longer than six months.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 1.71 billion people worldwide have an MSK disorder. In the United States, it's estimated that 50% of adults (126.6 million) are affected by MSK conditions.

So what are MSK symptoms? Primarily, this looks like pain, fatigue, achiness, stiffness, pain that worsens with movement, and even sleep disturbances. Some may have back pain that feels worse when getting up from sitting at a desk, or may wake up in the night to the feeling of pain in their back. Of course, your own pain may be associated with long hours at the computer, or looking one way in a patrol car – a literal pain in the neck! MSK disorders of this nature impact work life, mental health, and quality of sleep. To say pain is debilitating is an understatement when it can impact every part of your life.

Unfortunately, as you age, your risk of developing an MSK disorder also increases. Nearly three out of four US adults 65 years and older have an MSK condition. Often people worry and wonder when they hurt their back or twist an ankle, "how long will I be in pain?" MSK disorders can

cause temporary or acute pain and impairment, or have lasting effects. Lasting effects can cause chronic pain and limitations to functioning as well as participation in daily activities.

The silver lining is that, while every work environment poses a risk to employees for developing an MSK disorder – law enforcement officers being no exception – you can take a proactive approach to preventing or treating MSK conditions by taking advantage of Sword Health.

With a mission to free 2 billion people from pain, Sword is a digital physical therapy program that provides treatment for all muscle and joint issues, from head to toe. When you join Sword — it's covered by the Miami-Dade County employee health plan, which means you'll pay nothing out of pocket — you have the chance to overcome pain on your own time, without the hassle of travel time or waiting rooms.

Following a set of questions meant to assess your current physical health and goals, your Sword kit will arrive at your doorstep, and includes everything you need, from motion trackers and chargers to a tablet that's been pre-loaded with your customized exercise plan – specifically created to help you find relief.

Sword is done 100% virtually wherever you're most comfortable, whether that's your office in South Florida, a hotel room, or your own living room. Not to mention, the programs ensure you get to choose your own dedicated Physical Therapist (PT) who will work with you to customize a program based on your personal symptoms and goals. Not only will your PT track your progress and correct your form in real time, but they'll be there to support you any time you need it, from day one until you find relief from pain.



Interested? Want to learn more?

Visit join.swordhealth.com/avmedmdc

Available to Miami-Dade County enrolled employees and their dependents 18 and older at no additional cost as part of your health plan benefits.

© Copyright 2022 Sword Health Technologies, Inc. All rights reserved.

Purposeful H O N O R

Eco-Drive | Purposeful Power

POWERED BY LIGHT. NEVER NEEDS A BATTERY.



CA0291-59E Box Set
SPECIAL \$295*
Reg \$550

CUSTOMIZATION & ENGRAVING AVAILABLE
*Special pricing for Law Enforcement Officers

CITIZENWATCH.COM/FIRSTRESPONDERS

CITIZEN

BETTER STARTS NOW

Calm After the Storm

MPDP's Rapid Deployment Force lends needed support to victims of Hurricane Ian

■ BY HINAA NOOR

A Port Charlotte police officer started pouring tears when Jeff Schmidinger, commander of the Miami-Dade PD Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), and his team stepped inside her house, which had flooded from a leaking roof. Schmidinger and other RDF officers were deployed to the West Coast to provide support and relief after Hurricane Ian left hundreds homeless and in dreadful situations. Including a sister who lived in Port Charlotte.

In the week after Ian hit Florida on Sept. 28, members of the RDF had the opportunity to lend a needed hand and feel the love from residents they helped. At one point, restaurant owners and other residents served up applause and even showered them with a standing ovation for their efforts.

"When we were leaving a restaurant, everyone was clapping for us," MDPD Detective Sean McVay recalled. "I even asked some of the guys that have been in the police for 18 years if they have ever had a standing ovation like this, and they said no."

The RDF has been trained for responses like this, which included using chainsaws and other cutting tools. Most officers that ventured on this journey were certified and selected to participate from among 200 RDF members. They were unaware of where they would be assigned, but most had experience even prior to the training, including tarping roofs and working traffic details.

"We had another situation where there was a huge tree on the shed of a dispatcher's house," Schmidinger remembered. "She had a young child with special needs, and the concern was the child getting hurt. We had to cut up the tree and dismantle the shed because it was falling apart."

The RDF members, who were deployed for seven days, encountered an area of fallen trees, swamped houses and residents who were left with nowhere to go. It was a dark situation for residents, who were fearful of what would come next.

"It was like you could tell a hurricane just came and hit," McVay added.

The 25 members combed through the affected area in cars, working with other officers in Port Charlotte and aiding them in getting back to work. Neighbors, who were relieved to have the help, asked the RDF for assistance in removing trees from driveways and other similar tasks.

Even though most of the houses had electricity restored, the majority had roofs that were blown off, and residents reported their vehicles and boats damaged.

MPDP Lieutenant Jorge Audino, the RDF operations commander, made visits to residential areas Oct. 5–12 and assigned various tasks that mainly included tarping houses and a lot of repair work. Much of the work helped officers in Port Charlotte who couldn't get to their homes to make the necessary repairs.

"It was more of a humanitarian mission than a police mission," Audino stated. "Our platoon stuck together the entire time. We had a group of men and women who would go up on the roofs to start conducting repairs while other people grabbed tools to pass up the materials. Everybody knew their job well. It was a well-oiled machine."

Teamwork proved to be crucial for the RDF members, who spent 12 to 16 hours a day working on relief efforts. During their eight hours of downtime, members made sure all their gear was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Storm Stories

A look at how South Florida departments responded to Hurricane Ian

See Page 32



Members of the Miami-Dade PD Rapid Deployment Force receive some words of instruction before departing for the West Coast to provide relief for victims of Hurricane Ian.



RDF members helped a Port Charlotte officer whose house was flooded by Hurricane Ian.



The RDF convoy gets ready to depart to the West Coast to help Hurricane Ian victims.

Into the Storm

A look at how South Florida PBA members provided assistance and relief to victims of Hurricane Ian

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, which devastated the residents of Florida's West Coast, South Florida PBA members from Miami-Dade and Monroe counties answered the call to provide assistance.

Throughout the month of October, members deployed to the ar-

reas most affected to assist in search and rescue missions, distribute food, clear debris and assist in any way possible.

Here is a look at the South Florida PBA members' Hurricane Ian relief efforts:



Aventura

On Oct. 10, a team of Aventura officers joined the ongoing Hurricane Ian relief efforts. Members were stationed in Fort Myers and Cape Coral to direct traffic and aid residents displaced from their homes.

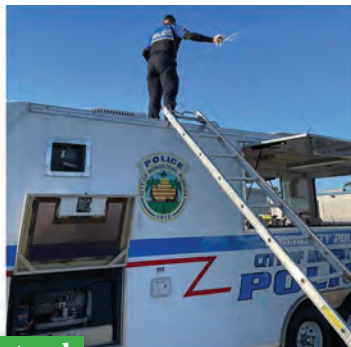


Doral

Doral PD joined fellow South Florida PBA members and first responders in Lee County to assist the victims there.



Homestead



Members of the Homestead Disaster Relief Team provided assistance to the Punta Gorda Police Department to increase police presence, assist citizens in clearing debris and help in search and rescue efforts.



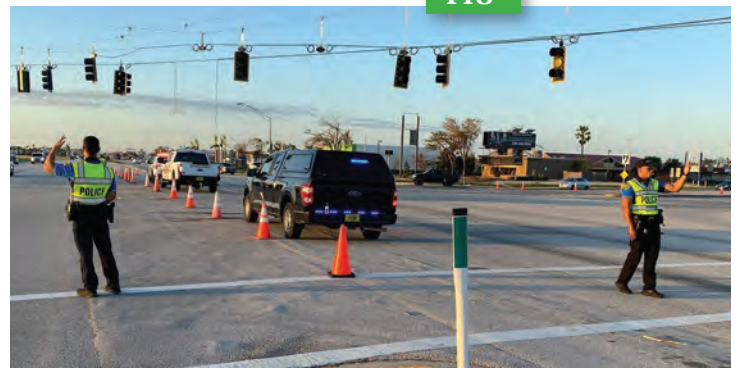
Bay Harbor Islands

Members of Bay Harbor Islands Police gathered on Oct. 1 to prepare for their deployment to assist victims of Hurricane Ian.



FIU

FIU officers assisted the Fort Myers Police Department by directing traffic and spent two weeks aiding victims in the wake of Hurricane Ian.



Medley

Medley officers prepared to deploy alongside numerous agencies from Miami-Dade County to respond to Florida's West Coast.



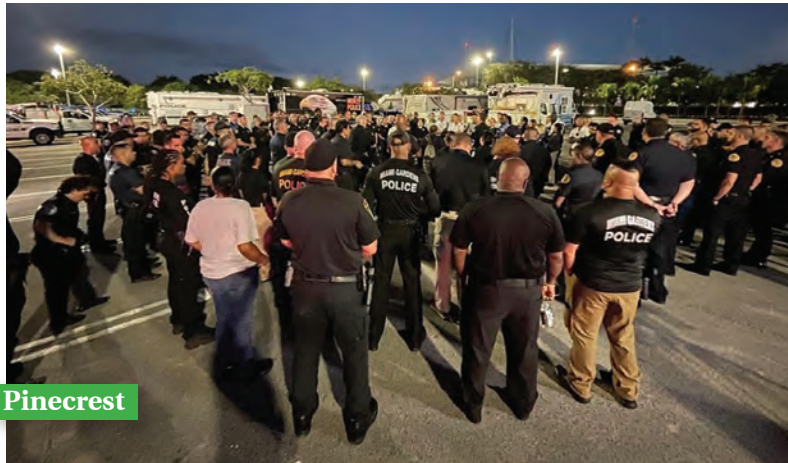
West Miami



North Miami



On Oct. 6, West Miami officers provided hot meals and other food to victims of Hurricane Ian.



Pinecrest

Pinecrest officers prepared to depart on Oct. 1 to join the relief efforts.



Throughout the month of October, North Miami officers deployed to Sanibel Island and Lee County three times to assist victims. On Oct. 11, members partnered with Football Unites at North Fort Myers High School to distribute supplies to residents in need.



Ignacio Alvarez

Former MDPD Major, honorably retired
15-plus years practicing law



Boutique law firm focusing on

Civil and criminal litigation • Corporate law • Business consulting • Crisis Management • Real estate

SPECIAL PRICING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

FOLLOW US ON    @ALGOLAWFIRM

815 PONCE DE LEON BLVD SUITE 101 • CORAL GABLES FL, 33134 • 305-723-1876 • WWW.ALGOFIRM.COM

We got your back

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

At a press conference on Oct. 13 at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis presented a Florida disaster relief fund check to Florida State PBA members. South Florida PBA President Steadman Stahl accepted the check on behalf of members who were impacted by Hurricane Ian.

DeSantis provided the \$500,000 donation with the intent that it would help members who suffered losses in Hurricane Ian get back on their feet as they continue to stand on the front lines to serve devastated communities.

"You lose everything. Houses are all torn apart. Your family's scattered. While you're working, looking to protect the good from evil, there is at back of your mind, what are you going to do when you go home? How's your house going to get fixed?" Stahl commented. "So the money is designed to give out to our members, and that's what we're focusing on."

DeSantis promised members that he is committed to offering more financial resources down the road. Right now, his focus is offering immediate relief. Stahl noted just how significant it would be for members to relieve them of financial stress.



"It gives [members] the opportunities to get back into this game," Stahl added. "It's one less thing you have to have on your mind. And it's very commendable. The governor stepped up to the plate and made sure that public safety, our first responders, are taken care of. He has our back, and we're going to have his back."

CALM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

ready for the next day and chatted to decompress a bit.

The RDF members came prepared with more than just skills. McVay stocked up on peanut butter and jelly and beef jerky. But the members were pleasantly surprised by the living quarters. FEMA provided RDF members with complete accommodations — big tents with hot showers and even laundry facilities, plus three meals a day.

"FEMA actually set up a little city for us," Schmidinger expressed. "I can say that I went through Hurricane Andrew here in 1992, and we have come a long way as far as how we recover. FEMA did a very good job in coordinating."

The efforts by RDF went above and beyond to help residents. The RDF members helped out with service calls coming to Port Charlotte officers. They also transported prisoners and responded to calls. This helped immensely in backing up the officers there.

RDF managed to secure and repair up to 55 homes. They also distributed approximately 1,000 ready-to-eat meals to locals, including children. In the end, a group of children from the area sent each of the RDF officers thank-you notes.

"Working together, especially for those who had never worked a response like this before, was very rewarding," Schmidinger confirmed. "I have been around for 30 years, and it's good to see our young officers carrying on the good work."



MDPD RDF members hold up the thank-you notes they received from children.



Some of the relief RDF members provided included repairing roofs of houses, putting tarps on houses that had roofs blown off, and cutting up and removing fallen trees.



WILL YOUR INCOME LAST?

Many baby boomers can reasonably expect to live to 80 or 85, perhaps longer.
Can you sustain your income and lifestyle for the next 20 or 30 years?
For help in determining if you can, contact me today for a no-cost,
no-obligation appointment.



Richard D. Gerundo
ChFC, CLU, CRPC, LUTCF
Lead Financial Advisor
California Ins. Lic # 4047058
786.845.3183 • Rich.Gerundo@dcfcu.org
The MEMBERS Financial Services Program
Located at:
DADE COUNTY FEDERAL CU
1500 NW 107 Ave, Miami, FL 33172

**We can help
with your DROP or
457 Plan Rollovers**

Here to Help

Attorney General Moody comes to South Florida PBA to make announcement of more support for law enforcement



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY LINDA CARTA

Standing at the podium in the South Florida PBA Hall on Oct. 20, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody found herself in one of those positions that she seems to relish. Forget the television cameras focused on her with those vexing hot lights.

The AG mustered shoulder to shoulder with members from the Miami-Dade Police Department and other agencies like being at a roll call inspection. Election Day loomed in less than three weeks, but apparently Moody needed to find some time to get into a comfort zone.

Her record confirms nearly four years of policy after policy and program after program supporting the law enforcement officers she so proudly leads as Florida's top cop. And here was an occasion to announce yet another initiative that also combined with one of her other priorities: battling the opioid crisis.

The AG hand-picked the South Florida PBA to host the press conference for this announcement. And the room was filled with first responders.

"What amazed me about that was that you were what, two weeks away from an election. And not one time did she say anything political," reported South Florida PBA Executive Vice President David Greenwell, who served as the union's host for this event. "She was in there helping cops out. Most politicians would've been, 'Look, let's get a picture of this. The election is in two weeks, I've got to make sure I'm getting reelected.' She never, as God as my witness, never said anything about the election. She's just there to help law enforcement."

The latest care package of help came in the form of an announcement Attorney General Moody made about a statewide agreement with Walmart to dispense naloxone – known by the brand name NARCAN – to first responders across Florida. Walmart has agreed to dispense 672,000 NARCAN kits that the



Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody stood with members at the South Florida PBA to announce her latest program supporting law enforcement. state procured as part of an earlier agreement with law enforcement and first responders across the state. Walmart will also be paying the state of Florida \$215 million in funds to fight the opioid crisis.

"From the beginning of my administration, I have been working to end the opioid crisis and help Florida communities recover," Moody announced at the press conference. "I'm grateful for Walmart stepping up and agreeing to partner with the state to provide law enforcement and first responders with much-needed Naloxone. This will greatly help in our continuing mission to end the opioid crisis and save lives."

Naloxone acts as an antidote to opioid drugs by helping a person who has opioids in his or her body wake up and keep breathing. An overdose death may happen hours after taking opioids. If a bystander acts when it is first noticed that a person's breathing has slowed, or when the user cannot be awakened, there is time to call 911, start rescue breathing if needed and give naloxone.

Naloxone reverses an opioid overdose. It works by blocking the effects of opiates on the brain and by restoring breathing.

A NARCAN kit contains two vials of naloxone, ampule split-



Attorney General Moody meets with South Florida PBA Executive Vice President David Greenwell (left, white shirt) and other union and MDPD leaders prior to the press conference.

ters, syringes, gloves, alcohol wipes and a face shield for CPR purposes. A select group of officers in each MDPD district have been, or will be, trained to use a kit and administer NARCAN.

"The specially trained officers are going to be able to deploy it because they get on the scene first, usually before Fire and Rescue," Greenwell observed. "When somebody might be overdosing on opioids, every second counts. And that's why they're giving it to the cops, because cops usually get there first."

So the elation visible on the faces of officers in the PBA Hall when the AG made her announcement seemed to be about more than just another substantial show of support.

"Look, if you save one life, it's worth it," Greenwell emphasized.

This agreement with Walmart is the latest in years of negotiations and litigation work by Attorney General Moody, who has been holding major opioid distributors, manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in fueling the opioid crisis. She has secured more than \$870 million for



Attorney General Moody took time after the press conference to chat with officers who attended.

opioid abatement from CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd. and Allergan PLC. A portion of the funds have been sent directly to Florida's cities and counties to be used for prevention efforts, treatment and recovery services.

The attorney general wanted to ensure an emphatic statement about providing resources to deal with opioid-related issues was made at the press conference. So even before she stood with members on the podium, she met with PBA and MDPD leaders in the union offices two floors above the hall to review the specifics of the announcement.

"She has fantastic energy. She's always nice, always wanting to help and she's a very smart person," Greenwell emphasized. "She is very responsive to us. Whenever we're in Tallahassee, and we tell our attorneys, 'We'd like to go in and see the attorney general,' they say, 'Well, it doesn't work that way.' But then we call, and she says, 'Come on in.' So it's a great relationship."



SAFE RIDE FIRST RESPONDERS LLC

**HIRING RIDE-SHARE DRIVERS NOW
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
AND FIRE RESCUE ONLY**

Unlimited Earning Potential

- ✓ Work when you want
- ✓ \$30 per ride (automatically earned once ride begins/unlimited rides per hour)
- ✓ Earn per mile fee of \$2/\$3/\$4 depending on your vehicle
- ✓ And best of all - TIPS

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE OR ON OUR SAFE RIDE APP IN THE APP-STORE
For More Information call Ken Goldberg at 561-601-4040

Safe Ride First Responders LLC retains 25% of all fees earned outside of tips

WWW. SAFERIDEFR.COM

It's a Girl!

When he found a vehicle stopped on the side of the road, Miami-Dade PD Lieutenant Miguel Reyes stepped in to deliver a baby

■ BY HINA NOOR

On a late afternoon amid heavy traffic on Biscayne Boulevard, MDPD Lieutenant Miguel Reyes encountered a miracle on his way home after his shift. He noticed a vehicle in his rear-view mirror on the side of the road with high beams flashing and hazards blinking. Upon approaching the vehicle, Reyes activated his police sirens and witnessed frantic activity in the backseat.

Reyes instructed the driver to move aside. As he slid open the door of the vehicle, he thought maybe it could be a case of a choking child. But he found a woman whose water had just broken. She was in labor and ready to give birth.

The next 12 minutes would be life-changing for everybody, especially baby Sophia.

Reyes immediately asked the woman in the backseat about the details of her labor. But she was unable to speak at that moment, due to her contractions. After Officer Reyes waited for her contraction to pass, he started to ask her some questions with regards to childbirth.

"Based on her answers, I said that this is something that seems imminent," he said. "At that point, I started timing the contractions, then she started going through another one and it was within about a minute and 15 seconds. Based on this information, I called my dispatch and Fire Rescue while I prepared the mom for the birth."

While helping the woman with her contractions and making sure she was doing OK, Reyes engaged her in a conversation to calm her down. He shared that the woman felt a bit at ease knowing that the officer has four children of his own. He also asked her several questions and assured her of his training to handle the delivery.

One of the proficiencies that Reyes developed from his annual first responder first aid is childbirth. During these classes, he learned about complications during birth, including breech birth or prolapsed cords. Reyes's training came in handy at one of the most unexpected events of his career.



Miami-Dade Police Lieutenant Miguel Reyes helped deliver baby Sophia.

"I wouldn't say I was nervous, but of course there's a lot of unknown," Reyes admitted. "I didn't know the status of the baby up to that point. I wasn't even sure if she was expecting a normal birth or if there were any complications that would present themselves in the moment."

Everything happened quicker than Reyes had anticipated. He was successful in bringing Sophia into the world when she started crying. Reyes said that everything turned out to be ideal, that the mother did most of the work while he mainly just guided her.

Reyes saw tears of joy roll down the parents' faces, and he felt relieved lifting Sophia up to make sure all the fluids were expelled out of the lungs. Reyes was all smiles when he heard Sophia cry. Fire Rescue arrived to help Reyes clean up Sophia and cut the umbilical cord.

After that harrowing Oct. 16 afternoon, Officer Reyes has remained in contact with Sophia's family. Sophia's mother shares pictures of her newborn, who is



now more than a month old. The family has even asked Reyes to be Sophia's godfather, which he feels is an honor.

"I am the lucky one who was in the right place at the right time," Reyes said. "I know there are a bunch of other officers who are more than willing to take upon something of that nature. I really don't feel that was anything special, other than I was doing what I signed up to do."

Reyes also says that even though officers face several incidents, they also get to wear different hats in the job. From teachers to mentors to organizing events, officers play all types of roles in the community.

"One morning we are writing traffic tickets, and then the next moment we are talking somebody out of self-harm," Reyes explained. "It's a lot of different roles that we are constantly asked to take on. This is just one of them that at any given time we should always expect we might have to take on."



Our Pharmacy Network

HELPING THE INJURED

- Did you know that the **Heart and Lung Bill** was passed to protect first responders; **police, correction, probation officers**, and **firefighters**.
- Did you know that **High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)** and most **Heart related diseases** are covered conditions under the Heart and Lung Bill?
- Did you know that **ALL** of your **medical treatments** and **medications** are covered for these conditions under the **Heart and Lung Bill** for the rest of your **LIFE**!
- Did you know that **OPN** is a specialty pharmacy that caters to our first responders and **delivers your medications** directly to your home or office **at no cost**?



OPN is a Florida-based workers' comp pharmacy that specializes in personal injury, auto accident, slip and fall, and workers' compensation, as well as, first responders covered by the Heart and Lung Bill.

Enroll Today!

844-238-9313

OurPharmacyNetwork.com

Save and Protect

Three officers jump right in to rescue a father and son from drowning

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Homestead Officer Salvador Lopez and Miami-Dade School Board Police Officer Sabrina Bayona were working a traffic detail near East Palm Drive directing traffic on Oct. 22 when they heard a sudden, piercing scream. Turning toward the canal bank across the street, Lopez and Bayona raced toward the distress call.

When Lopez reached the guardrail by the canal, he saw two small hands splashing above the water. It was an eight-year-old boy, completely submerged. The boy's father had jumped into the water in an attempt to save him.

"They can't swim! They can't swim!" shouted a bystander.

Without hesitation, Lopez jumped over the guardrail, threw his radio aside and dove into the water. Bayona leapt over the railing and stood by the shore to assist Lopez, who began pushing the father and son toward the bank.

"My main concern was the little boy, because he had been in there a lot longer than the father," Lopez said. "I was trying to get him out first. And it was difficult in my duty gear."

But Lopez had trained for this moment.

"I've done it in the academy," he continued. "We've had training on water-related stuff like that, but we never really do it at work. So, when it happened, I was just thinking when I was in the water, 'I could possibly drown, too.'"

Lopez's quick actions, and the help of two other officers who rushed to aid him, saved the lives of this father and son who were drowning. Despite putting his own life in danger, Lopez was convinced that they were in the right place at the right time.

Hearing the screams and seeing Lopez and Bayona run toward the canal, Homestead Lieutenant Maykel Acosta, who was the supervisor for that day, rushed after them. And just as Lopez reached the ledge where he saw the little boy, Acosta appeared to help.

"It was like a relief that I had an extra backup there," Lopez said. "Because in the beginning, I didn't even know he was there. I was surprised at how he got there."

In only a few short minutes that the father said felt like forever, the officers pulled him out of the water. And he expressed his immense gratitude for the officers saving his life and his son's. He added that he didn't know what the outcome would have been if the officers weren't there at that moment.

Bayona, who has been on the job three years, first met Lopez in the academy and briefly worked with him on the job before he joined Homestead PD. When she first saw him that day, she was walking toward him to greet him. That's when they heard the scream.

At first, Lopez and Bayona thought maybe someone had caught a fish. But when they saw there was a struggle, they sprang into action.

"That's what we're trained for, to react quickly to everything," Bayona said. "Working with that department was amazing. Lopez has always been an officer to react to everything. He is an amazing officer. I can work with Lopez anytime."



Homestead Officer Salvador Lopez dove into a canal to save a father and son from drowning.



Homestead Officer Salvador Lopez, left, was assisted in the rescue by Miami-Dade School Board Police Officer Sabrina Bayona and Homestead Lieutenant Maykel Acosta (not pictured).

With only a year and a half with Homestead, Lopez noted that it's not every day he faces a life-or-death situation like this. And he still doesn't know how Acosta showed up when he needed him most. But he felt grateful to know his brothers and sisters in law enforcement will always have his back.

"It feels good to know that whenever there's something going on police related that I do have somebody right there, down the street or right behind me ready to support me," Lopez said. "We're all there whenever we need each other."

The events unfolded so fast, Bayona said. But she would run into the face of danger again if she had the chance to save someone.

"I'm very happy that we were there at that moment to be able to save their lives," Bayona added. "And that if it happens ever again, I won't hesitate to do it again."



We are proud to announce our affiliation
with the PBA by honoring all PBA members
& their immediate families with a

50% DISCOUNT

On all Cemetery Property*

For over 60 years, Vista Memorial Gardens has afforded comfort,
support and peace-of-mind to the residents of our community.

Whether the family of a police officer, or a family in need, every life matters.

Each time an alarm sounds, or a call comes in over the radio, your career
choice places you at risk. If you are prepared, diligence always lessens risk.

For information, or to participate in our 50% pre-need opportunity
for PBA members, contact us.

* Excludes promotions, cemetery merchandise and luxury upgrades.

www.vistamemorial.net • 305.821.1421



Vista Memorial
GARDENS

Talk to an Angel

Miami-Dade Officers Carla and Rick Garcia have founded the Blue Line Angels to help members confirm their faith in the calling

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

A group of law enforcement officers from Hialeah Police Department huddle together. Wrapping their arms around one another's shoulders, they stand with members of the Blue Line Angels to say a prayer for law enforcement officers and their families.

Stepping into the Tamiami warehouse district in Kendall, where tents lined the street, members of the Blue Line Angels carry hot meals for the homeless individuals who have found refuge there. Their calling is simple: to offer a glimpse of the hope and redemption in which they so deeply believe.

Surrounded by PBA members struggling with their marriages, going through divorce or simply seeking out a deeper purpose for their lives, Miami-Dade Officers Carla and Rick Garcia call on their seemingly endless supply of faith to spread a message: You are not alone.

These are a few glimpses of the community that the Garcias have fostered since they founded their faith-based organization, the Blue Line Angels, in October 2013.

"Cops are very difficult people to get into their hearts and get them to open up," explains Rick, who has been on the job since 2002. "They're extremely guarded, so it's always an uphill battle. But cops need people to talk to and an outlet. They need a stable home and a stable faith."

With a mission to specifically reach law enforcement officers and their families in the Kendall community, the Blue Line Angels offer a haven for members to gather together, find a common faith and bring that hope to the community.

Carla and Rick first began the Blue Line Angels when they were members of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO), an organization that teaches its members biblical truths and a Christian worldview. After realizing she was one of the few women in attendance, Carla, who has been on the job since 2001, felt a spark igniting her to be the one to change that occurrence.

Beginning as a way to mentor women in law enforcement and the wives of police officers, the Blue Line Angels quickly expanded to reach other first responders, including military personnel and healthcare workers.

And after undergoing extensive training in Christian ministry and organizational leadership and completing a chaplaincy course, Carla and Rick gained a deeper perspective as to how to help their fellow officers spiritually and emotionally.

"Doing this and bringing it within the law enforcement community is very refreshing," Carla relates. "We respond when people are in crisis. But how do we perform this duty of being in law enforcement and at the same time bring peace? If there is turmoil inside of us, it's a storm, and we can't."

Recognizing there's a need

When the Angels began, South Florida PBA President Steadman Stahl opened the doors to welcome Carla and Rick to host their meetings at the PBA Hall. The couple met Stahl when he was executive vice president and had often seen him at FCPO meetings.



Hialeah PD officers pray with the Blue Line Angels at recent meeting.



Miami-Dade PD Officers Rick and Carla Garcia founded the Blue Line Angels to bring faith to PBA members and the community.



Members of the Blue Line Angels with Miami-Dade PD.

"It's good to see that everybody recognizes the need for it," Rick expresses. "You don't always have to be supportive of it. You don't have to be a believer, and you don't have to be a Christian. But recognizing that there's a need and not hindering that is very important. And that's good that he was always very supportive of it."

As they grew their organization, Carla and Rick networked with PBA members to offer a belief that God offers unconditional love and unwavering strength in times of need. Carla would



Miami-Dade Officer Carla Garcia and her daughter Catrina blow shofars during the Feast of Trumpets celebration that is part of the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

often sit for hours with women and listen to the challenges they encountered on the job and in their personal lives. And what began as a monthly meeting at the PBA blossomed into weekly meetings.

Now, during bi-weekly women's Bible study groups and weekly men's Bible study groups, Carla and Rick see more than 50 members, who have expressed interest in using this platform to help transform their community. And the Garcias often see more than 120 members in attendance during their large out-reach programs.

"Being a police officer is not just a job; it's a calling," Carla notes. "And when you are part of a community of faith, and you start reaching out into your community, you're doing something greater for your community."

Bringing faith to the community

Members of the Blue Line Angels live by the mission to go wherever they are needed. Often, that has brought them to high-crime and low-income areas.

They often partner with other organizations that share the same vision for the community, including one pastor who houses homeless individuals for up to a year. As he currently works with eight men and women to find more permanent housing and employment opportunities, members of the Blue Line Angels build relationships with them by offering catered meals and hosting Bible studies.

This past September, members also focused on children. In partnership with a local church, the Blue Line Angels hosted a backpack giveaway and donated school supplies to children in Goulds, a high-crime area where Rick noted many shootings occurring. Last year, during the holidays, members partnered with Walmart to host a Toys for Tots Toy Drive for children in the same area.

Over the years, Carla has seen members extend their law enforcement calling by offering additional support such as connecting residents with organizations that combat sex trafficking or aid children in the foster care system. And that has been one of the greatest ways they are able to branch out to the community.

But the Blue Line Angels' involvement does not stop there.

Once a month, Carla and Rick partner with Hialeah PD for an interfaith meeting, where they bring food and simply lend an ear to listen. This has opened the door for members to share their faith.

Next year, Carla and Rick are planning to host a law enforce-



Miami-Dade Officer Rick Garcia, second from right, and members of his weekly men's Bible study.



ment couples retreat and launch a children's ministry for their ever-growing faith community.

"It's not just being in a squad together and doing line-of-duty work — it's walking together," Carla adds. "We live as a family of faith. When we see a need somewhere, we go and just give love."



LAKEVIEW HEALTH

Addiction Treatment and Recovery

FIRST RESPONDER PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

For over 20 years, we have
provided evidence-based care
for first responders suffering
with substance use and
co-occurring disorders.

We treat the whole person
by offering trauma-informed
care combined with a focus
on pain management.



888.746.1814

LakeviewHealth.com/firstresponder

Enjoying the Rides

South Florida PBA members display their support at the second annual PBA Classic Car and Truck Show

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES
■ PHOTOS BY LINDA CARTA

The parking lot outside South Florida PBA headquarters bustled with excitement as members gathered for the second annual PBA Classic Car and Truck Show on Oct. 22. Colorful vintage and remodeled cars filled the lot and overflowed into the street. And members stopped by the various displays, with their hoods or doors propped open, to admire their beauty.

And although there were two other car shows in the area that day, PBA board member Tony Rodriguez, who helped organize the event, noted that there was still a great rally of support.

"We have so many officers who have different type of hobbies," Rodriguez said. "Some like motorcycles, and some like to have cars. So we get them all together from different groups. That way, they can come out and show off their beautiful cars, or bikes, or their skills. And get them together as a law enforcement company."

The car show indeed served as a day for members to come together. And as a way for members to support The Love Fund, which helps the families of officers killed in the line of duty.

Highlights of the show included a bright yellow Chevrolet SSR retro-styled convertible pickup truck, a dark teal classic Volkswagen 1965 Beetle and a hot pink Lamborghini.

"My favorite one was a '59 black Corvette," Rodriguez said. "I think it was the restoration, but it was done like the original. And it was a beautiful car."

Among the many displays was a dedication to fallen Miami-Dade Detective Cesar "Echy" Echaverry, who was lost in the line of duty in August. A folded American flag lay on the windshield of his vehicle, which was covered with a black tarp featuring his badge number.

And at the end of the event, the overall winner was presented with a trophy for his orange-and-cream 1956 Ford Fairlane. And perhaps members shared a few secrets for next year's show.

"We had a good turnout," Rodriguez added. "I saw members talking to each other about cars. [And even though] a lot of them are friends, they still looked at others' cars to get ideas."



'I didn't want to tell anybody about what my kid was going through'

A PBA brother who has been on the job for many years had a personal experience of his daughter enduring a horrible disease. He felt sharing with fellow members would be of help.

Here is the story:

Our daughter had a friend come over for a couple hours one day. The friend had left, and my daughter did not want to change in her room. We didn't understand why. She told us later she thought her friend had put in a camera in her room.

We checked her room. There was nothing there.

The next day, she didn't want to shower in her shower. Then she didn't want to go in the car because that girl had been in that car. About a week or two later, we didn't really notice anything because she's a very strong girl.

But one day she was sitting in the middle of the living room on my leather chair, and all of a sudden, she did not want to get out of the chair. She screamed for mom. And then she couldn't walk to the shower because she said there were cameras all over the floor.

Of course, mom was saying, "There are no cameras." But she said, "No mom, you have to vacuum the whole floor. There are cameras all over the floor. I can't even walk."

Of course, we freak out. We call the pediatrician. The pediatrician said, "You've got to take her to the psych ward." Me being a cop, I'm not going to have her labeled, well, you know what I mean.

We followed up with a psychologist, who said her behavior was a kind of paranoia or schizophrenia. Then we went to a psychiatrist. Like a light switch, the paranoia turned off and another light switch turned on, which was OCD.

And now she has to wash her hands to open a drawer, wash her hands to get clothes out, wash her hands to put clothes on. Finally, she lays in bed and she's happy. Mom sits next to her to give her a hug. She realizes mom didn't take a shower, and then she has to go through the whole thing again.

I'm giving you the Cliffs Notes. One day when the OCD was starting, she went to the shower, she went to her room, she went to the shower, she went to her room, she went to the shower. Mom Googles it, and one of the articles she reads advises, "You have to stop the OCD. You cannot let them do that behavior."

So mom stopped her. But she broke down screaming and curled up on the floor, which I've never seen in my life. I'm crying. My wife's crying.

We call the pediatrician, who said, "You have to take her to Miami Children's Hospital now."

I literally had to pick up my daughter, throw her into the car and drive to Miami Children's. Thank God we did.

After being in the psych department for two hours, a doctor said, "She has no psychological issues. This is something else that's going on. You're meeting with your psychiatrist tomorrow for the first time. Let's let her go home and let him figure it out."

My daughter was fine that night. But same thing with the OCD.

We get the psychiatrist on the phone the next day. We go A through Z. Told him everything that she has gone through, and he said, "Let me ask you a question. Has she ever had strep throat?"

I'm like, "What?" My wife's looking at me like, "What?" We go



back through all our notes and, sure enough, a month before, she had strep throat. She got treated at the ER, they gave her antibiotics, and she was sent home.

He told us, "Everything's fine. You don't have to worry about it. She's got PANDAS."

PANDAS is the acronym for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections. It is a subset of disorders triggered by Group A strep infections. Children with PANDAS typically have a history of strep throat or positive strep test.

The psychiatrist told us we needed to see an infectious disease doctor. We made a ton of telephone calls, and finally I was able to get in to see one. He put her on antibiotics for three months straight. And I'm telling you, it was like a light switch turned off.

We're in the eighth month now, and she is 99 percent better. She does have a little bit of anxiety. I mean, if you had paranoia and schizophrenic activity from one day to the next, you would have a little PTSD, too.

But what we ended up learning from this was that when you get strep, they give you the antibiotics, you go home, and you never get tested to see if the strep is still inside you. What happens is the antibodies are still fighting that strep to the point where the strep turns on the antibodies and make the antibodies attack the brain. That's where you get that reaction on and off so quickly, because the antibodies are turning on the brain.

I think more people out there have PANDAS than we think, because I didn't want to tell anybody about what my kid was going through. But if somebody had told me about it at month two after she first had that first paranoia episode, she could have been on the antibiotics right away. It would've killed the strep, and we wouldn't have to go through the OCD and all the other issues.

So if one parent out there is going through the same exact thing and is scared to tell any of his coworkers or scared to tell his family, as we were totally just scared to tell our family, maybe they can read this, and it can help.

As parents, we go through, "How am I supposed to treat my daughter? How am I supposed to be around my daughter?" It was like constantly walking on eggshells. Hearing my daughter cry in the room with mom, it was horrible. Like I said, if I could just get out there and say something to somebody where they're too scared to ask a friend or ask a family member, and they read this and they go, "Oh, maybe I can go this route."

Be a friendly face for our traveling servicemembers



LIEUTENANT
MIGUEL
MALDONADO

In July 1998, a group of military veterans got together and formed a nonprofit corporation and named it the “Armed Forces Service Center,” which is better known as the Military Hospitality Lounge, at Miami International Airport (MIA). This center replaced the United Service Organization (USO), which had to close its doors due to fundraising issues.

The Military Hospitality Lounge has been hosting our military personnel, veterans and their families as they travel through MIA. The Military Lounge is located on the second level of concourse E. It provides a comfortable, familiar and quiet sanctuary, away from the noises and crowds of the terminal. While at the lounge, our guests have access to complimentary snacks, Wi-Fi, large screen TVs, computers, printers, charging stations and friendly faces.

The Military Hospitality Lounge at MIA is looking for a few good men and women volunteers to host the lounge. Host duties consist of checking military and veteran IDs, replenishing the snack areas and keeping the lounges clean and tidy. Volunteers will be required to do two to three four-hour shifts a month. A volunteer's most important duty is welcoming and thanking our guests for their service to this great nation. Prior to the pandemic, the lounge averaged 1,400 guests a month. As of late, the lounge is being visited by 1,200 guests a month. The need for volunteers is great, so please join us or tell a friend who is retired from law enforcement and is looking for something to do.

MIA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) require volunteers to fill out an application, which will include a background check. Volunteers will be required to attend a (super-easy) security training course conducted by MIA staff. Upon completion of the course, volunteers will be issued credentials that will allow them to work the lounge. All volunteers will be trained on the duties associated with hosting at the lounge. Interested personnel can go to our website (www.afsc-miami.com) and fill out the application. While on the site, click Volunteer on top right of page. Click on “Volunteer At Lounge.” You can also call Angel M. Rodriguez, executive director of the Armed Forces Service Center, at 305-409-2207. Mr. Rodriguez is a USMC veteran who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1973. Semper fidelis! Honor, courage, commitment.

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America, for an unknown amount, but up to, and including, their life.

I remember decades ago, while serving this great nation of ours and traveling through one of our international airports, feeling hungry, alone and missing home. While fresh out of bootcamp, and for the first time away from home, the military lounge was like a home away from home. A friendly place to take refuge from the outside, a cup of hot chocolate and a fresh



donut, the lounge was more than a place to satisfy hunger and thirst. It was a friendly, warm place that became a happy memory. The lounge and the volunteer there offering a warm smile and a snack made this former servicemember feel like I was sitting in my parents' living room.

So, if you can, please volunteer, or tell a friend. The lounge needs you. Our veterans and service folks need you. Please become that warm memory.

Lieutenant Miguel Maldonado has been in law enforcement for nearly 30 years. He is a veteran of both the U.S. Navy and the Florida Army National Guard. He has been an instructor and mentor to many MDPD officers and is the proud father of four boys.

REFLECTIONS

Catching up with a renowned South Florida PBA Member

Partners for Life

Tommy and Tina Hixon fortified each other while serving MDPD together

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Retired Miami-Dade Sergeant Tommy Hixon remembers April 27, 1990 vividly. It was the day that shaped his entire law enforcement career.

Tommy and several other officers responded to a call that Metro-Dade Officer Joseph Martin had been shot. They were the first to arrive on scene.

When Tommy saw Martin fatally wounded, after he had been shot in the throat stopping a suspicious vehicle, he recalled feeling a tidal wave of emotions. Only a year on the job, he had never experienced anything like what he called the worst of humanity.

That day is still like a moment frozen in time.

"I carry that to this day, because I think about the significance of the job that we do," Tommy explained. "It could be the simple helping of a citizen to actually sacrificing your life. And it made me always want to be the absolute best that I could be, because I often put myself in the position of his family, of his colleagues. That, to me, really was so powerful and so painful. I made a determination that day to fight to survive."

The events of that day solidified Tommy's calling as a law enforcement officer, as he also experienced the way members came together to support one another during this immense tragedy. And it prompted him to work his way up to the homicide bureau, which he retired from in 2013.

It was also in the homicide bureau where he served jointly with his wife, retired Miami-Dade Sergeant Alice "Tina" Hixon.

Tommy recalled when he first met his wife in 1997. He was investigating a series of burglaries that led him to the middle school where she was working as a school resource officer with the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department.

Tina helped him establish a fact pattern and identify the suspects, which eventually led to arrests and successful prosecutions. Two years later, Tina joined the MDPD. They began dating and have now been married for 17 years.



During her time with MDPD, Tina served in the public corruption investigations bureau, the professional compliance bureau and the internal affairs section, which she retired from in 2014. And although she had come to MDPD 10 years into her law enforcement career, Tina accomplished one of the greatest highlights of her career: becoming a sergeant.

"That was my biggest accomplishment, to be in a position where I could guide younger officers," Tina explained. "[I taught] the younger officers to not be afraid of following the standard operating procedures. And to carry [themselves] professionally at all times because the public depends on their integrity and honesty."

Often, Tommy and Tina were both called to the job simultaneously. And they eventually found that the key to success was understanding.

"We both understood what the job entailed and the responsibility," Tina related. "I understood his long hours when he worked homicide. I understood when he came home, he was tired. I understood when he got calls in the middle of the night, whether it was a hostage negotiation call or a homicide call. We just understood what the other one had to deal with or handle."

They recalled being present during



Tommy and Tina Hixon's record:

- Tommy Hixon served 25 with Miami-Dade Police Department and became a PBA member in 1988.
- Tina Hixon served 15 years with Miami-Dade Police Department and became a PBA member in 2002.
- Tommy worked in the MDPD public housing police bureau, HUD task force, robbery bureau, hostage negotiations bureau and homicide bureau.
- Tina worked in the public corruption investigations bureau, the professional compliance bureau and the internal affairs section.
- Both Tommy and Tina retired as sergeants.

some of the hardest times their colleagues faced, like when an officer was injured or killed in the line of duty. But they also celebrated the good times, like weddings, birthdays and graduations.

Being a part of that support system and creating a welcoming atmosphere was paramount to finding their balance.

"We really tried to approach our public service as holistically as we could," Tommy added. "We had a great career. We reflect back now, and if we had to do it again, we would do it all again."



Members Only Section

Celebrating South Florida PBA members and the way they serve every day

Bal Harbour and North Miami hang out with heroes

For many kids, hanging out with a police officer means hanging out with a hero. But on Sept. 17, Bal Harbour Police and several other departments had the chance to attend a “heroes hangout” with some pretty incredible children, who are also battling cancer.

That’s where members met Penelope, the superhero with swag. She may look like the average six-year-old celebrating her “Encanto”-themed birthday party. But Penelope isn’t like every other kid, because she is battling cancer.

Because of her disease, the Mystic Force Foundation wanted to give Penelope the party of her dreams and a chance to hang out with some real-life heroes from the Bal Harbour, North Miami and

Miami-Dade police departments.

On that day, Bal Harbour Officer Maylin Dorado happened to be working and got the invitation from her lieutenant to attend Penelope’s party. She arrived at the party in style, bringing the department’s special Childhood Cancer Awareness vehicle.

There were a lot of things at the party that could keep any six-year-old entertained — arts and crafts, food, costumes. But when Dorado and the other officers walked in, it seemed like everything stopped.

“They love to see the presence of officers. They love it,” she recalled. “Once they walk in and they see us, they want to take pictures and dance with us.”

But for Dorado, it’s not just about the pictures or the chance to show Penelope what a police vehicle looks like. It’s about putting a smile on this extraordinary six-year-old’s face.

“They’re going through so much and they’re so little,” she added. “For me...especially with anything from childhood, I just want to see them happy.”

Battling cancer isn’t a feat anyone should have to go through, much less a six-year-old. But Dorado says despite her illness, Penelope was just like any other happy-go-lucky child, calling her “a trip” as she lit up the room with her dance moves.



Silver lining in West Miami PD Gold Ribbon Parade

Childhood cancer is a battle no family should have to fight alone. That’s why members from the West Miami Police knew they had to support the kids.

On Sept. 10, the department participated in the fifth annual Gold Ribbon Parade, which brings awareness to supporting treatment for childhood cancer.

Young patients from Nicklaus and Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital waved and cheered as West Miami’s police cars drove by. Members posted on Facebook how there was nothing like seeing those smiles and waves from those brave boys and girls.



Members answer the call to be role models

Police officers are protectors of the community, heroes and, most importantly, role models.

On Nov. 2, officers from across South Florida showed the community what a role model looks like at the “5,000 Role Models of Excellence Project” Police and Youth Conference at Hard Rock Stadium.

Members from the MDPD, Pinecrest PD and Miami Gardens PD were all in attendance. The event promotes positive interactions between local police and at-risk young men in an effort to put them on the right path and provide them with alternatives that will lead them away from a life of crime and violence.

The program was founded in 1993 by Congressman Federica Wilson and was put into place by the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Both students and law enforcement had the chance to learn from each other

at the conference. Representatives from 5,000 Role Models of Excellence says they plan to host another conference at FTX Arena for schools down south soon.

Miami Gardens Chief Delma Noel-Pratt was an honorary guest panelist. Captain Edison Cruz and Officer Jonathan Carrasco represented Pinecrest at the conference.



Pinecrest



Miami-Dade

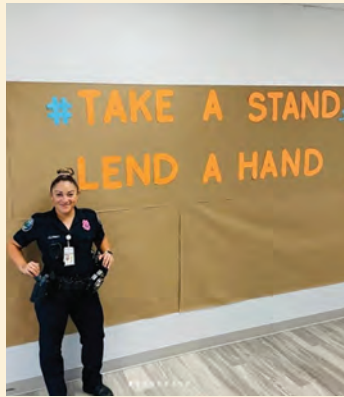


Miami Gardens



Take a stand, lend a hand

Students at Bridge Preparatory Academy of Doral joined with members from the Doral Police Department in taking a stand against bullying for Anti-Bullying Week on Oct. 17. With the help of School Resource Officer Lauren Perez, students created a mural with their handprints symbolizing the importance of taking a stand against bullying.



Bal Harbour's yellow ribbon ride

Bal Harbour Police are riding in style, and all for a worthy cause.

Officer Maylin Dorado had a hand in decking out one of the department's vehicles in yellow ribbons for Childhood Cancer Awareness. As a post recognized, it looks like her artwork will catch the eyes of thousands in the Bal Harbour community.

Pink Power

South Florida PBA members show solidarity for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

During the month of October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, South Florida PBA members joined the fight against cancer in numerous ways. These included attending events to spread awareness and engaging the community in meaningful conversations,

wearing pink on the job and wrapping their vehicles in new artwork to spread public awareness.

Here is a look of what members did throughout October in honor of all those who have fought or continue to fight breast cancer.



Aventura

On Oct. 12, Aventura PD unveiled its first breast cancer awareness vehicle, which was assigned to one of their own who is a survivor, Officer Teresa Williams.



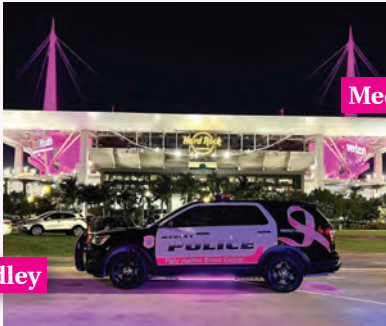
Miami-Dade

Throughout the month of October, Miami-Dade PD members displayed their support for those who are fighting breast cancer by wearing pink.



Medley

This year, Medley PD joined many other agencies across Miami-Dade for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and displayed their solidarity in spreading awareness for breast cancer.



Medley



On Oct. 8, members of the Medley PD participated in the Walk with a Purpose event that was sponsored by Miami Country Day School. Members joined other officers from Pinecrest to take a stand against cancer.



North Miami

The North Miami Mounted Unit included one of its horses, Titan, in the fight against breast cancer this year. They gave him a new saddle blanket, outlined in pink, to continue spreading public awareness during October.



Miami Gardens

The Miami Gardens PD joined many other agencies for the annual pink vehicle photo, hosted by the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police. And in honor of breast cancer awareness, this photo served as a reminder to make an appointment to get checked.



Pinecrest

On Oct. 9, Pinecrest officers attended the Le Boulangerie Boul'Mich event for breast cancer awareness. The Pinecrest PD Resource Team helped spread awareness to the community about the benefits of preventative care examinations as well as crime trends and crime prevention initiatives.

Sunny Isles Beach members let the dogs out

It wasn't just another day at school for the students at Norman S. Edelcup Sunny Isles Beach K-8. As part of Florida City Government Week, police officers from the Sunny Isles Beach Department provided a special presentation for the fifth graders. Students had a chance to watch a demonstration by K-9 Vino and took a tour of the department.



Spooky Season Vibes

South Florida PBA members participated in several spooky events for Halloween celebrations. The members attended Halloween attractions with kids and local residents. Here are some of the events that members were a part of:



MDCR South and North District



Miami-Dade Police Department and MDCR officers held a fingerprinting event for kids safety event, where tables were set up in Naranja Park at South District and in the Northside District, celebrating with the community. Officers were seen with spooky movie characters like Freddie Krueger and helped kids paint with their hands.



North Miami



"Trick or treat, bags of sweets, skeletons rolling down the street," was the motto for the North Miami PD. The members were spotted rolling down the streets of North Miami in pink uniform sweatshirts with "Peace Officer" logos on the back. The officers rode on bikes with prop skeletons in the back or front. During their bicycle ride in October, they visited local schools, surprising children with small gifts.



Pinecrest



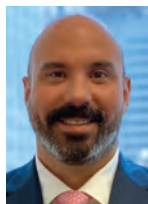
MDCR Gwen Cherry Park



The MDCR officers got the chance to serve the community by participating with Little Angels Special Care and Gwen Cherry Park in November. Officers helped gave out small candy bags to children dressed in Halloween costumes and visited haunted sites at the event.

The Pinecrest Police Department Community Resource Team (CRT) members were all smiles at this year's Halloween Costume Party and BBQ at Legacy Apartments. Residents of all ages got dressed up, enjoying the spooky vibes. Captain Edison Cruz and Sergeant Mayra Oliva were at the helm leading the CRT as they engaged the community with positivity and excitement.

Midterms and the markets



NICOLÁS
VALDÉS-FAULI
CERTIFIED
FINANCIAL
PLANNER™

Clients often ask me what's better for the stock market, a Republican or a Democratic win? At the risk of offending everyone, the answer is simple: It doesn't really matter. The reason is because historically, the market performs incredibly well after a midterm election, red or blue.

Traditionally, the midterms command less attention than a presidential election, but the impact on laws, domestic policy and foreign relations is meaningful. Who wins means a great deal in these arenas, but when it comes to the stock market, the best approach is to put the election cycle behind us.

How can it not matter?

Here's the deal: Good or bad, all the market wants is news. If there is one thing Wall Street hates, it is being in the dark. Remember when the market completely fell off a cliff during COVID? That was principally because no one knew what was going on.

As soon as it was apparent the world was not going to end and it was clear the government was going to unleash unfathomable amounts of stimulus into every crevasse of the economy, the market was shot out of a cannon.

Historically, the stock market has lagged going into a midterm election and has performed very well thereafter. See the chart on this page for a look at what has happened to the market following the midterms in the past.

History does not always repeat itself, but it gets awfully close. With the turmoil and poor economic conditions we have faced this year, there is a strong argument that the worst is past us.

Investing or not investing based on your political beliefs is more of an emotional decision. Successful investing is buttressed by removing the emotional component from the decision-making process.

Nicolás Valdés-Fauli is the founder and CEO of Thin Blue Line Financial (www.tblfinancial.com). Call or text 917-428-9629 or email nvf@tblfinancial.com. Nicolás has

	S&P 12 Months Before	S&P 12 Months After
JFK	-17.80%	30.90%
Lyndon Johnson	-13.20%	17.10%
Nixon	-14.40%	13.00%
Ford	-31.80%	20.50%
Carter	0.90%	9.30%
Reagan	9.70%	22.30%
Reagan	28.50%	3.20%
Bush	-10.70%	29.10%
Clinton	1%	23.10%
Clinton	20.10%	24.10%
Bush	-16.40%	18.60%
Bush	14.20%	12.40%
Obama	14.20%	5.90%
Obama	14.90%	3.00%
Trump	5.30%	12.00%
Biden	-20.60%	???
Average:	-1.00%	16.30%

Source: Bloomberg Data Oct 1961-Sept 30th 2022

served the LEO community in South Florida for 20 years and is dedicated to helping his clients make sound decisions before and during retirement. He is an expert in all matters related to the FRS, deferred compensation and local municipal retirement plans.



Credit & Debt Relief Solutions For First Responders

Overwhelmed by credit card debt? Keep things simple with one, affordable monthly payment. No longer worry about high interest rates, multiple payments and the possible need to file bankruptcy.

AmeriCor can help you settle your debt in just 20-48 months with no fees until each debt is resolved.

CONTACT US TODAY
for your free savings estimate:

866-333-8686

or email: info@americor.com



What you can expect from AmeriCor:

- ✓ Free, No-Obligation Debt Analysis
- ✓ One Affordable Monthly Payment
- ✓ Absolutely No Up-front Fees
- ✓ Resolve Your Debt in 20-48 Months



Homes for hometown heroes

Making your path to purchase easier

We are proud to offer the Florida Hometown Heroes Program to eligible community heroes, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, educators, healthcare professionals, childcare workers, Active Military and Veterans.

AS A PARTICIPATING LENDER WE PROVIDE:

- Down payment and closing cost assistance (DPA) up to 5% of the first mortgage amount - max \$25,000
- Lower-than-market rates on an FHA, VA, USDA, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac first mortgage, plus other savings
- DPA as a 0% non-amortizing, 30-year deferred second mortgage

Learn more! Contact me today.

Funding provided by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation



**Call 866.929.6024 or email
union@myccmortgage.com**



41 Pinelawn Road, Suite GL-2 | Melville, NY 11747 | NMLS3029 NMLS1681501

Equal Housing Opportunity. All loans subject to underwriting approval. Certain restrictions apply. Call for details. All borrowers must meet minimum credit score, loan-to-value, debt-to-income, and other requirements to qualify for any mortgage program. CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC NMLS3029 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Licensed by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. Licensed Mortgage Banker New York State Banking Department. this office is licensed and examined by the Office of the Consumer Credit Commissioner of the State of Texas. CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC is an FHA Approved Lending Institution and is not acting on behalf of or at the direction of HUD/FHA or the Federal government. Subject property and borrower income and credit must qualify to USDA guidelines. CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC is not affiliated with or acting on behalf of or at the direction of the Veteran Affairs Office or any government agency. Certificate of Eligibility required for VA loans.



Thank-You Notes TO THE PBA

ALINA
GARCIA
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

October 12, 2022

Mr. Steadman Stahl
Dade County Police Benevolent Association
10680 N.W. 25 Street
Suite 300
Doral, FL 33172

*Steadman
Thank you for all you
do. I am a big fan.*

Dear Mr. Stahl,

I would like to thank you for your contribution to my State House campaign. I am very humbled to have your support.

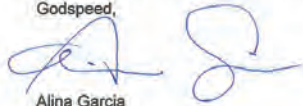
Our House seat goes from SW 8 Street to 216 Street, from 67 Avenue to 87 Avenue, and when it gets to Kendall, it will go further east to 57 Avenue and West to 117 Avenue. Our District includes Cutler Bay, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, Kendall, unincorporated South Miami, and Westchester.

My candidacy will be based on conservative principles, lower taxes, parental rights, and fiscal responsibility. I will strongly support our police and fire fighters as well as supporting small businesses.

I will always be available to listen to your ideas and concerns. There are many challenges up ahead, and I will work very hard to ensure Victory in November.

Once again, Thank you for your support.

Godspeed,



Alina Garcia
Candidate
Florida State House, District 115

Paid for and approved by Alina Garcia, Republican, for State House Representative, District 115.

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S



Rick Staly
Sheriff

Steadman
Dear Mr. Stahl,

It was great meeting you at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office at the Governors Event.

Please find enclosed my Challenge Coin.

Please do not hesitate to call upon our agency whenever we may be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Rick Staly
Sheriff Rick Staly

WILLIAMSON IS MIAMI

Treating You Like Family Has Made Us #1

GMC

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE



*W*ILLIAMSON
BUICK GMC

Williamson Automotive
7815 SW 104TH St.
Miami, FL
WilliamsonAutomotiveGroup.com

Sales
1-877-228-6093
Mon.-Fri. 9am - 8pm
Sat. 9am - 6pm
Sun. 11am - 5pm

Service
1-866-597-6015
Mon.-Fri. 7:30am - 7pm
Sat. 8am - 5pm
Sun. Closed



Happy Holidays!



***Database Financial Solutions
Wishes All of Florida's Emergency
Responders, Public Employees &
Their Families a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season.***



"YOUR RETIREMENT PLANNING COMPANY SINCE 1995"

**Database Financial Solutions
999 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 200, Naples FL 34108
877-624-DROP (3767)**