



"The voice of local law enforcement"

CODE THREE

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

YEAR END ISSUE 2022

The Ultimate Motorcycle

PBA unveils new memorial motorcycle as an incomparable tribute to Florida's fallen officers



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COVER STORY



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Let It Ride

State Rep John Snyder, the son of Martin County Sheriff William Snyder, knew a couple of local motorcycle aficionados who wanted to custom-build a bike to honor law enforcement. So Snyder hooked them up with PBCPBA President John Kazanjian, and a few months later they rolled out a stunning work of art known as the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle. The bike is inscribed with the names of all Florida law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and will roll throughout the state as a never-ending tribute that will show how the PBA will never forget those who have been lost in the line of duty.

COVER PHOTO BY BILLY GRAY
COVER DESIGN BY GINA CROTCHFELT

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're in for a great ride



JOHN
KAZANJIAN
PBCPBA
PRESIDENT

When law enforcement officers throughout the state see the fallen officers memorial motorcycle we had custom built, they will feel a wow factor like they have never experienced. We unveiled this rolling tribute on Dec. 6 at the Palm Beach County PBA Hall, and I have been getting calls from people who want to see it ever since.

The names of the nearly 1,000 Florida officers who have been lost in the line of duty are inscribed on the bike. It also shows a picture of Florida's fallen officer memorial that is located at the capitol in Tallahassee. I had seen the design, seen the plans and heard all about it. But when the builders – Serge Tokman and Sonny Heflin – unveiled it, I was still blown away.

As soon as officers see that the bike represents the officers killed in the line of duty and how their names will never be forgotten, I think it sends a strong message. The PBA really cares. We care about this profession and the people who were lost doing this job.

Maybe some will do what I did when I first had a chance to see it up close. I looked through all the names. Found James Dickerson. He and I worked together in District 3 at PBSO. After I went to narcotics, Jim was shot and killed.

Every officer will have a similar personal connection to this tribute to our fallen. It's one thing the PBA can do. We can honor the ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

You know, you're always trying to think. May rolls around every year, and I know it's Police Week and that's when we honor them. But in the back of your mind, you're always trying to think, "What else can we do?"

I received a call from State Rep. John Snyder saying that he knew two guys who wanted to build a custom motorcycle to honor law enforcement, donate it, raffle it off and have the proceeds go to the survivors of officers lost in the line of duty. I knew it was personal for John, with his father being the Martin County Sheriff and serving in law enforcement for nearly 50 years.

We realized we could do more than if we just raffled it off and gave the proceeds to survivors. There's just so many of them.

So I told Serge and Sonny, that we'll get this thing sponsored. I said, "You guys develop it, and I'm going to take it around the state to honor the fallen." I knew these two guys had the potential to develop a memorable motorcycle because I had seen their work. I wasn't sure if we could get nearly 1,000 names on it, but they figured it out.

There's even room to add more names. Hopefully, we will not have to, but we all know that as long as this job's still around, this profession, we're going to lose people. So we're going to honor them.

I'd like to take the bike on a tour of all 67 counties. I think we will first bring it to our Angel Run on Jan. 15. We want it to be an attraction. Then, in March and April, we will take it to Tallahassee for the 2023 legislative session.

And I expect the reaction to be just like what we had when we unveiled it on Dec. 6. We had our board meeting, and right after that we went into the lobby. There were more people there than any party we ever had.

Members from the South Florida PBA who helped sponsor the bike came to the unveiling. Members from the Broward County PBA, which also sponsored, were there. I have to take my hat off to the all the sponsors. They pitched in to create something that will be an ongoing tribute to our fallen officers and give them their due.

Changing lanes as we go into the home stretch of 2022, I also want to note that at the December board meeting we had another big event: swearing in our new PBCPBA executive board. You can take a few minutes to meet our new board members by reading the story beginning on page 22.

I'm excited about these members who have stepped up. But I also want to take this opportunity to praise and thank the members who have retired from the board.

Vice President Rick McAfee, Treasurer Lou Penque and Secretary Kevin Igo have been with me for 16 years. I can't say enough about them. They have been a great team and helped me in more ways than they will ever know. We've accomplished a lot, but they know it's now it's time to hand off the baton.

I'm looking forward to the new board with Vice President Greg Allen, Secretary Mike Kennedy, Treasurer Meer Dean and Sergeant-at-Arms Ken Youngblood continuing the legacy. They each have many great individual qualities that will help elevate the PBCPBA to a new level. And they all share something that will mean a ton to members. They are all loyal PBA leaders who will do anything they can for the members.

Finally, as we look ahead to the new year, we look back on another year of successful contract negotiations and gains that our member units have made. This is a credit to our members, who have seen the return on investment of being engaged with their administrations, their elected officials and their communities. I know I keep repeating myself, but you have to stay active in politics. You have to be engaged.

I wish all of our members and their families a happy and healthy New Year. As always, stay safe and let's have our best year ever in 2023.

Kaz

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Effective Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2022

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Several of our members have incorrect information on file with the PBA office. Please check with your fellow officers to see if they receive the magazine and if not, please email angela@pbcdba.org to update your information.



Visit our
website at
www.pbcdba.org

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New Year's laundry list reminders



LARRY
FAGAN

As I celebrate my 19th holiday season at the PBA, as we enter into another holiday season together, and as violent crime and property-related crimes will again rise based on society's moods, some reminders about the job and those things within your own control wouldn't hurt:

1. You are on duty and held to a higher standard 24/7. No exceptions. Always keep it in mind.
2. Always assume there is a camera or a cell phone recording your actions.
3. It is often tempting to go on social media and post. DON'T DO IT. Resist the temptation. No good can come of it for your job. We all existed fine well before all that stuff.
4. Serious mental illnesses, depression and suicides increase exponentially during this time of year. Your sensitivity training skills may be put to work potentially more than other times of the year.
5. Keep your vests and your body-worn cameras on. Both may save you.

6. Write a report. Write a supplement. I've never had anyone get in trouble for writing a report. "When in doubt, scratch it out." Learn it. Live it.
7. There is zero tolerance for untruthfulness across the board at all agencies. As I once heard, "Do not get yourself in a trick bag." And the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission seems more unforgiving than ever on this (and other) issues.
8. You work paramilitary organizations. Follow your chains of command.
9. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their rank. This includes citizens and suspects.
10. Do not send private (personal) e-mails from Department e-mail addresses. They are public record.

These are helpful suggestions based on years of experience. They are basic and should be second nature. And, as always, be safe.

The elements of a hostile work environment and retaliation claims



BRENNAN
KEELER

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination against employees "on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin." *Thompson v. N. Am. Stainless, LP*, 562 U.S. 170, 173 (2011).

To prove hostile work environment under Title VII, "a plaintiff must show that: (1) they suffered intentional discrimination because of their protected class; (2) the discrimination was severe or pervasive; (3) the discrimination detrimentally affected him; (4) the discrimination would detrimentally affect a reasonable person in like circumstance; and (5) *respondeat superior* liability exists." *Bates v. Montgomery Cnty.*, 2021 WL 4243432 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 17, 2021). *Respondeat superior* is the doctrine holding an employer or principal liable for an employee's or agent's wrongful acts committed within the scope of the employment or agency. Hostile work environment

claims are fact-specific.

A plaintiff claiming retaliation under Title VII must prove: "(1) that [they] engaged in protected employee activity; (2) adverse action by the employer either after or contemporaneous with the employee's protected activity; and (3) a causal connection between the employee's protected activity and the employer's adverse action." *Daniels v. Sch. Dist. of Phila.*, 776 F.3d 181, 193 (3d Cir. 2015); see *Carvalho-Grevious v. Delaware State Univ.*, 851 F.3d 249, 257 (3d Cir. 2017).

Moreover, filing an internal discrimination claim with management is a protected activity, as is filing a formal complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. See *Daniels*, 776 F.3d at 193 (even informal complaints of discrimination to management qualify as protected conduct).

If you have any questions regarding a hostile work environment or retaliation, please do not hesitate to call the PBA.

SCAN HERE FOR
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION



MEMBER INFO UPDATE



PBA WEBSITE



PBA APP

Know Your Rights

If you are under investigation, remember, as a law enforcement officer, you have rights.

They include:

- THE RIGHT to have a PBA representative present during an interview
- THE RIGHT to know who's in charge of the investigation
- THE RIGHT to know what the charges are and the name of the person bringing the charges
- THE RIGHT to have the interview at a reasonable time and for a reasonable length of time
- THE RIGHT to have any interview tape-recorded from start to finish
- THE RIGHT not to be threatened or bribed or to have to listen to offensive language
- THE RIGHT not to be forced to resign

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STAY CALM

Have you been ordered to write a statement about an incident that may be investigated?

DON'T FORGET YOUR RIGHTS! CALL THE PBA AT
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: 561-689-3745
After Hours: 561-371-7200

DO NOT TALK to anyone until you have consulted with a PBA ATTORNEY.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

The following statement should be written as the first sentences on any statement, report or memorandum an officer is ordered to write when the officer knows or has a reasonable belief that discipline may result:

It is my understanding that this report is made for administrative, internal police department purposes only. This report is made by me after being ordered to do so by lawful supervisory officers. I have not been permitted a reasonable amount of time to confer with a PBA representative or attorney. It is my understanding that by refusing to obey an order to write this immediately, I can be disciplined for insubordination and that the punishment for insubordination can be up to, and including, termination of employment. This report is made only pursuant to such orders and the potential punishment/discipline that can result for failure to obey that order.

REMINDER

The legal defense policies of the Florida and Palm Beach County PBA have an important provision regarding representation. If a member elects to secure representation by anyone other than the PBA (a private attorney, for example), that member is considered to have waived representation by the PBA. Once this happens, it is the PBA's option whether or not to continue to represent the member in that matter. Please call the PBA office if you have any questions regarding this policy.

[Download PBC PBA Legal Defense Policy](#)

[Download Florida PBA Legal Defense Policy](#)

[Download PBA Bylaws](#)

[Download PBA Constitution](#)

<https://www.pbcdba.org/membership/legal/>

Board of Directors Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022

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John Kazanjian.....X
 Ernest W. George.....X
 Rick McAfee.....X
 Lou PenqueX
 Kevin Igo.....X
 Greg Allen.....X
 Larry FaganX
 Brennan KeelerX
 Katie MendozaX

Boynton Beach

Cory Herny.....X
 Rayner DeLosRios.....X
 Jermaine Jones.....X
 Gladys CannonX
 Brian McDeavitt, Appt'd AltX
 Nasim Davis, Appt'dX
 Aramis Grigorian, Appt'dEXCUSED
 Patrick Malley, Appt'd.....X
 Jason Llopis, Appt'dX

Delray Beach

Meer Deen.....X
 Edward McCabe.....EXCUSED
 Vincent GrayX
 Aaron SiegelEXCUSED
 Brian Cambell, Alt.....X
 Michael Cianciaruli, Alt.....X

FAU

William HernandezX
 Miguel Cardona, Alt.....X

Gulf Stream

Randall WilsonX

Highland Beach

Jeffrey Miller, Appt'dX
 Jeff Kaplan,
 (Interim - Miller out Medical).....X

Juno Beach

John Kenny, Appt'dX

Jupiter

Scott KimbarkEXCUSED
 Jonathan Gentile.....X
 Salvatore MattinoX
 Paul Gundlach, Alt.....X
 Jason Alexandre, Alt.....X

Jupiter Island

Matthew Potsko, Appt'dX

Lake Clarke Shores

Antonio Gerena.....X

Lantana

Shawn JohnsonX
 Troy Schaaf, Alt.X

Linda Mikkelson, Appt'dX

Manalapan

Colbe Hernandez, Appt'd.....X

MCSO - Law Enforcement

Jon HantonX
 Bradley SpencerX
 Michael McMahan.....EXCUSED
 Kenneth Youngblood.....X
 William WeissX
 James Holloran, Alt.....X
 Andrew Porcelli, Appt'd.....X

MCSO - Corrections

Samuel Haidy.....X
 Edward Burke.....X
 William EvansX
 Bikendy Turene, Appt'dEXCUSED
 Michael Joseph, Appt'd.....EXCUSED

North Palm Beach

Edward Ciezak, Jr.EXCUSED
 Louis Pearson, Alt.X

Ocean Ridge

Jimmy Pilon.....X
 Mario Galluscio, Alt.X

School Police (Palm Beach County)

Kevin O'SullivanX
 Alexander LopezX
 Michael Lynch, Appt'dX

PBSO - Law Enforcement

Carlos Ugalde.....X
 Michael Kennedy.....X
 Layford "Brandon" West.....X
 Marlow "Butch" AltonenX
 Kevin LinardosX
 William Gale, Alt.X
 John Kazanjian, II, Alt.....X
 Alex Nunes, Appt'd.....X
 Jason Johnson, Appt'dX
 Cory Gray, Appt'd.....X
 Ruben Cruz, Appt'd.....X
 Michael Sasson, Appt'dX
 John McGuire, Appt'dX
 Anthony Johnson, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
 Matt DeJoy, Appt'dX
 Chris Caris, Appt'dX
 Ryan Mugridge, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
 Jason LaForte, Appt'd.....X
 Gary Chan, Appt'd.....X
 Jackie Garrett, Appt'd.....X
 Nathaniel Krause, Appt'dX
 Cesar Tejada, Appt'dX

PBSO - Corrections

Barry Hilton.....X
 Michael Santoro.....X

Melvin Cribbs.....X
 Thomas JordanX
 Cheryl Melvin.....X
 Gwendolyn Wattlely, Alt.X
 Robert Tozzi, Appt'd, Alt.X

PBSO - Civilians

Sallyann Josef.....X
 John CostelloX
 Kristen KazanjianX
 Amy Cisco.....X
 Heriberto AvilesX
 Janet Zink, Alt.....X
 Tequesta McKinney James, Appt'd Alt...X
 Kayai Graham, Appt'd.....X
 Ray Griffith, Appt'dX
 Y Diane Cale, Appt'dX
 Lori Brillinger, Appt'dX
 Angella Lipinski, Appt'dX
 Mariam Glisson, Appt'd.....X
 Sharon King, Appt'd.....X
 Nichol Fields, Appt'dX
 Kevin Coppin, Appt'dX

Palm Beach Gardens

Randy BuntinX
 Peter ReynoldsX
 Brian Tiyaloglu.....X
 Brian NaussX
 Dorian Hawkins, Alt.X
 Tatsuaki Hayashi, Appt'd Alt.X

Palm Springs

Ralph Fequiere.....X
 Sean Grant, Appt'd Alt.X
 John Gee, Appt'dX
 Kristopher Kubiak, Appt'd.....EXCUSED

Riviera Beach

Jeremy Summers.....X
 Nir MordechayX
 Michael Brown.....X
 Kenneth Jones, Alt.X

Stuart

David Duran, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
 Christopher Ruediger, Appt'd Alt.....X

Tequesta

Raymond Korkowski.....X
 Matthew Muniz, Alt.X

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Welcome, New PBCPBA Members

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CODY DIONNE	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NIGEL PRUITT	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOVEMBER 2022

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RACHEL DAVIS	DELRAY BEACH
JERROD FERGUSON	DELRAY BEACH
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JERMAINE CHAMBERLAIN	BOYNTON BEACH
ZACHARY LEACH	BOYNTON BEACH
JORGEDUQUE-ECHEVERRI	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
ERICA STEWART-CHASTINE	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANDREW ROUSSEL	TEQUESTA
SABRINA HENWOOD	PALM SPRINGS
JARED SIMON	LANTANA

Honoring Retired Members

NAME	RETIREMENT DATE
PATRICK WOODWARD	OCT 1, 2022
ROBERT PEREZ	OCT. 6, 2022
BRIAN FISCHER	OCT. 15, 2022
NESTOR ZARAGOZA JR.	OCT. 15, 2022
JEFFREY FITCH	OCT. 31, 2022
DARRYL STOKES	OCT. 31, 2022
WILLIAM WENSYEL	OCT. 31, 2022
SCOTT PRIVITERA	NOV. 11, 2022

Remembers Sisters and Brothers Who Have Passed

NAME	DATE OF PASSING	DEPARTMENT
LAURIE VAN DEUSEN	OCT. 28, 2022	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DENNIS CASTRO JR.	DEC. 10, 2022	BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

The 4-1-1: Important news and information for PBCPBA members



Jan. 15

Seventh annual Kaitlin's Angel Run

The Angel Run, which continues to grow as one of the PBCPBA's signature fundraising events, has been moved to mid-January to take advantage of the holiday weekend. Runners from across the nation will participate in this 5K run/walk that will take them through downtown Abacoa.

To register, use the QR code here.



Feb. 13

Kaitlin Kazanjia Scholarship Golf Tournament

The nationally renowned PBCPBA golf outing returns to the Trump National Resort this year. The event has been moved back to February so participants can focus on enjoying one of the PBCPBA's most storied experiences. The players' gallery no doubt will once again include some visitors from the north.



April 22

Police Officers' Ball

The annual ball that recognizes the Officers of the Year will once again be held at Trump National in Jupiter. The PBCPBA is already working on inviting political leaders from across the state to attend and honor the way officers in Palm Beach and Martin counties go above and beyond every day.

And don't miss this must-read coming in the Winter 2023 issue of Code Three

With the help of the PBCPBA, units and members in Palm Beach and Martin counties continue to procure new contracts and improved working conditions. Read all about how they are doing it.

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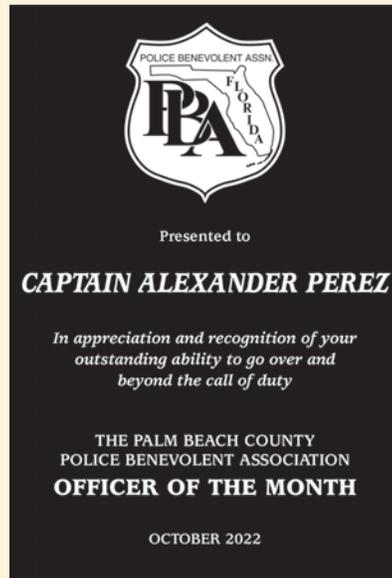
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Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

OCTOBER 2022

Captain Alexander Perez
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

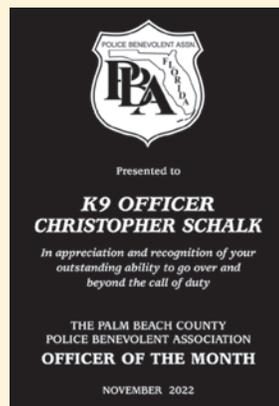
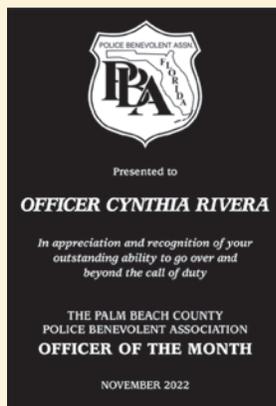
In September 2022, a suspicious person began wandering around a Publix parking lot, waving his gun in the air and pointing the weapon at himself and other people. While deputies responded, the man began firing his firearm, escalating the call to an active shooter situation. Fortunately, the suspect's bullets did not strike anyone, but police could not rule out the man's possible entrance into Publix or the risk of a hostage situation. After deputies arrived, they attempted to obtain compliance and requested multiple times that the man lower his firearm. After the suspect continued to hold his gun in the air and pointed it at the officers, Captain Perez was forced to fire a single shot at the man, ensuring the safety of the many deputies and citizens on scene. His courage prevented a horrible situation from becoming even worse. We commend you.



NOVEMBER 2022

Officer Cynthia Rivera
K-9 Officer Christopher Schalk
Boynton Beach Police Department

Nominated by: Sergeant Cory Herry



Early in the morning of Sept. 5, 2022, Boynton Beach dispatch received a BOLO from West Palm Beach Police Department regarding a shooting that had just occurred, during which at least one victim sustained life-threatening injuries. Boynton Beach Officer Rivera manually researched the suspect shooter's tag in the license plate reader system, knowing the information would not yet be entered for automatic alerts. Almost immediately, she received a HIT notification that the vehicle was on

West Gateway Boulevard.

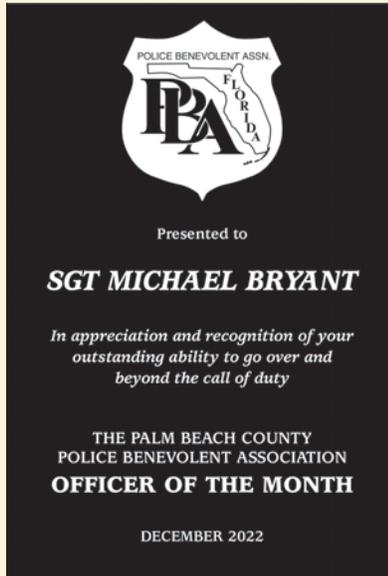
Based on this information, multiple Boynton Beach units located the suspect, and a pursuit ensued. The suspect fled from the car, and a perimeter was established. After a lengthy search, K-9 Officer Schalk and his partner, Argo, located the suspect hiding under a car. Two firearms were recovered, including the one involved in the shooting. The suspect later was charged with three separate counts of first-degree murder. Great job!

Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

DECEMBER 2022

Sergeant Michael Bryant Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Police received reports of a man threatening his family with a knife. Sergeant Bryant arrived on scene, and law enforcement confirmed through another family member that the suspect was inside the home with his mother. Sergeant Bryant and four deputies entered the home and announced their presence. They found the man in a corner room with his mother, holding a sharp, pink knife to her throat. The suspect ignored the officers' multiple commands to drop his weapon, and he resisted his mother's attempts to push away from him. Sergeant Bryant fired a shot at the suspect, hitting him in the upper right side. Sergeant Bryant and the deputies were able to separate the suspect from his mother and secure the scene. Sergeant Bryant attended to the mother's wounds, and both the mother and the suspect were transported for further care. The suspect was charged with multiple felonies and Baker Acted. Outstanding job!



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PBCPBA president John Kazanjian shakes hands with State Rep John Snyder for his help in making the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle come to fruition.



Honor Roll

The Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle is a work of art that will make remembering those lost in the line of duty omnipresent

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY BILLY GRAY

Members, lawmakers and media gathered in the lobby of Palm Beach County PBA headquarters for a moment they had all been waiting for. In the foreground of where the PBA logo glows so majestically, a black veil covered what could have been anything from a custom topless roadster from the Cars of Dreams Museum to a caged animal. Even with all the commotion, it was not hard to hear hearts fluttering.

Everybody who had come to the PBA on Dec. 6 seemed to anticipate viewing the specially designed, custom-built, 1940s-throwback motorcycle extraordinaire that lurked under the veil. Still, the palpitation inside PBCPBA headquarters made it feel like da Vinci was about to pull the curtain to show the "Mona Lisa" for the first time.

Finally, Serge and Sonny, the artists responsible for this masterpiece, lifted the veil to reveal what will be enshrined, revered and treasured as the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle. The blue line flag, the names of all of Florida's officers lost in the line of duty inscribed, the depiction of the state's Fallen Officers' Memorial that stands outside the Capitol in Tallahassee adorning the bike — all ignited a pride-fueling ovation.

"As soon as that thing came off, everybody's eyes just went like, 'Whoa,'" described Serge Tokman, who helped bring the



The names of the nearly 1,000 Florida law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty are inscribed on the bike.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

bike to fruition with his partner, master motorcycle craftsman Sonny Heflin. “That’s what it’s all about. It’s about the memory, man. There’s a lot of brave women and men out there every single day, and this bike is to honor them all.”

Following the unveiling, State Rep John Snyder, who connected Serge and Sonny with the PBA and accelerated the efforts to get this bike built, recognized how much the bike resonated with the people it represents. Accordingly, Serge and Sonny reveled in how after the unveiling, PBA members walked around the motorcycle, looking up names of officers they might have known and taking selfies with it.

Then came the next moment they all had been waiting for.

“I turned the lights on, and that brought a smile to everybody’s face. And then someone said, ‘Fire it up. Let’s hear it sing,’” Heflin expressed. “It was almost like a rallying call. Like, ‘Hey, let’s not forget.’ I think that’s what I’d really like them to see.”

Along for the ride

The artist known as Sonny, who has been building custom motorcycles since he was 18, is the renowned proprietor of Sonny’s Custom Cycle Works in Port St. Lucie. Snyder became a fan and friend when he walked into the shop a few years back, and he has seen how the throw-back style of bikes on display there has become popular.

Heflin relates that he comes from a bit of a law enforcement family. His cousin, Charlie, is a motors officer for the Capitol Police in Washington, D.C.

That influence apparently inspired Heflin to begin building custom bikes and donating them to organizations that would raffle them off as a fundraiser. He even built a tribute bike for House a Vet in Stuart.

The success of that project led Heflin and Tokman to begin working on a tribute bike for law enforcement. They began in 2019, but then COVID hit, so they had to pull the plug. They wound up putting that build on eBay, where Dave Bautista, the pro wrestler-turned-actor who played Drax in “Guardians of the Galaxy,” bought it. Bautista has since bought a couple of builds from Sonny and company.

It all has been a labor of love for Heflin, especially this latest build.

“Me loving motorcycles all my life, it really means a lot to me, especially living in Florida here and having family in law



As Sonny Heflin, center, and Serge Tokman unveil the bike, Rick McAfee (left), recently retired PBCPBA vice president, and Kaz look on.



The bike is adorned with many subtle tributes to law enforcement.

enforcement,” he explained. “To recognize those officers, it’s special, man.”

Tokman shared Heflin’s vision in the virtue of this project. In fact, Heflin credits his partner with being an esteemed visionary when pitching their motorcycle builds.

Serge started his company, Nice Ride Inc., in 2005 by specializing in selling low-mileage Harley-Davidson rides. Their bikes have even been honored as best in class at the heralded Daytona Bike Week.

When they tried to get the Fallen Officers’ Memorial Motorcycle jump-started post-COVID, Serge pitched Snyder to come by Sonny’s shop to talk about

giving it life. They told Snyder how they wanted to give law enforcement honorary recognition when so much of the country was advocating against the profession and so many legislators wanted to defund it.

“John was a blessing, because he made the time to do it,” Tokman declared. “He got us with Kaz and Mac and the PBA. Those guys came to the shop. We talked to them about the idea, and they were just in love. We were like, ‘We’re ready to go if you guys are.’”

Enjoy the ride

PBA President John Kazanjian and Vice President Rick McAfee came to the shop

with some specs for making the bike an unprecedented rolling memorial. They related that the honor roll of those lost in the line of duty dated back to 1948, and nearly 1,000 names would need to be inscribed. Mac also provided pictures of the Fallen Officers' Memorial in Tallahassee and tasked Sonny and Serge with including that image somewhere.

The day before the unveiling, Sonny delivered the bike to the PBA offices in West Palm Beach, where it waited in secrecy. Mac flew back from a trip late that afternoon, and at PBI he was right down the road from the bike. The anticipation of getting a sneak preview made his heart flutter.

"You're like that kid at Christmas and trying to peek into your Christmas present," he described.

Perhaps he wondered whether they had crafted the rolling tribute the PBA wanted that could be displayed across the state and generate fundraising for families of fallen officers? Kaz and Mac had shared the PBA's vision, but could Sonny and Serge make their dream come true?

"I kind of had this idea, but again, it wasn't to the detail in which it came out. It blew my expectations away," McAfee added. "As the crowds left and I'm walking around the bike and I'm looking at different things, Sonny said, 'Did you see the memorial?' And I'm like, 'No, I didn't.' And then when I saw it, I'm like, 'Holy cow.'"

Sonny found a way to engrave the Fallen Officers' Memorial on one side of the oil tank. And that was just a slice of the ingenuity that inspired Heflin's dream-weaving.

From the plate on the front with "Florida Police 1842," every inch of the bike seems to capture the 1948 Harley-Davidson style with a police flavor. The police spotlights on the front express a vintage salute to the history of law enforcement. A panel on the back shows some stars from the Stars and Stripes inside a triangle with the message filling the three sides that reads:

"To Serve and Protect Was Their Oath... To Honor Them Is Our Duty."

And then there is the honor roll of names. Applying even more ingenuity, Heflin enlisted the aid of a local trophy shop to engrave them. But he needed to figure out where to do so. Building in old-time-looking saddlebags made out of artillery boxes created a venue for the names. There's even space to add more, God forbid that it's needed.

The way members perused the names



Sonny Heflin (on bike) and Serge Tokman prepare to start up the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle for the first time during the unveiling ceremony at Palm Beach County PBA headquarters.



From left, Sonny Heflin, PBA Rep Ray Griffith, Rick McAfee, Kaz and Serge Tokman pose with the frame of what would become the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle at Sonny's Custom Cycle Works in Port St. Lucie.

at the unveiling was reminiscent of the way officers and family members take in the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. You know you have a friend, a brother or a sister there. You find the name and it almost brings that officer back to life.

Heflin can confirm that feeling from the bike. St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Gary Morales was a friend of Sonny's. He made a traffic stop in 2013 and was shot and killed by the suspect in the vehicle.

"It's humbling to be able to apply my passion of custom motorcycle building into something as special as this bike," Heflin confided. "Recognizing those who lost their lives in the line of duty is what it's all about. But also to honor those who are out there doing what they do day in and day out. That's the whole meaning of the bike, and I hope the artistry brought that out."

Ride along

When Sonny and Serge started up the bike for the first time, the applause nearly drowned out the sound of the engine throttling. That revving will no doubt stimulate an emotional response from every officer, every family member, every elected official – everybody – who hears it and feels it.

"In that situation, we're saying, 'Thank you. We're not forgetting you,'" Tokman exclaimed. "The other side of it is the fact that it touches the brothers or sisters of anybody who is on that bike in any way. And we hope it's going to bring attention to law enforcement and what they do in such a tasteful way."

The attention is getting there. Local television media has already featured the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle in a couple of reports. McAfee shared that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

he has already received calls from organizations hosting memorials for veterans and first responders, asking if the bike can make an appearance at those events.

The bike has yet to make a real maiden voyage, though Heflin confirmed that it could do major roadwork like making a 500-mile run to a location like Daytona for Bike Week. The PBA is getting the bike licensed and titled, because it is designed to be rolling thunder, a functioning, working motorcycle rather than just a museum piece.

Kaz has planned for the bike to make its public debut at the Kaitlin's Angel Run on Jan. 15 at the Abacoa Town Center. Mac added that Kaz has spoken to Governor DeSantis' staff about bringing the bike to Tallahassee for an appearance and perhaps a ceremony during the 2023 Florida legislative session that begins in March.

"That's exactly the plan. To take it around to events around the state to bring the message of remembering these fallen officers," McAfee noted. "People are drawn to it just because of what it is. And then once you hear the backstory, it can resonate with anybody out there because of what this is

meant to represent."

The inherent beauty of the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle might very well be its omnipresence. Remembering those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice can be an annual honor, often on the anniversary of the day they were lost. Or also in May, when many agencies hold their annual memorial ceremonies and National Police Week takes place in Washington, D.C.

Now, however, the PBA has created a rolling remembrance that will galvanize the entire Florida law enforcement community, members of its families and all those who back the blue. Indeed, the rallying cry that Heflin described will no doubt stir every time the cycle hums.

And that will be a signal to give fallen officers exactly what they deserve.

"It's one of these things where we always say, 'Never forget,' but at times we're human. We do forget certain people and certain things," McAfee emphasized. "But I think here we have a visual reminder with this bike. When officers see this, they will remember those that have come before us."

And it will no doubt make everybody's heart flutter.



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2024	\$5,852	\$1,648	\$6,767	\$648,643
2025	\$5,969	\$1,675	\$6,890	\$668,102
2026	\$6,089	\$1,703	\$7,017	\$688,145
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- ✓ Your Social Security & Pension Information

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Members sworn in by Judge Paul D'Amico as the new PBCPBA Executive Board include, from left, Vice President Greg Allen, Secretary Mike Kennedy, President John Kazanjian, Sergeant-at-Arms Kenneth Youngblood and Treasurer Meer Deen.

Key Board

The new PBCPBA Executive Board is ready and willing to lead the union into a new era

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Batons, torches, legacies, eras and then some transferred with quiet, calm confidence at the PBCPBA meeting on Dec. 6. For the first time in 16 years, a new executive board took the oath of office alongside President John Kazanjian.

As Kaz embarks on another term, re-upping his commitment, dedication and energy, he related the enthusiasm and excitement washing over him as the new board was sworn in. Kaz might not go on forever – though he looks like he could – but the next phase of PBCPBA leadership is unequivocally ready, willing and capable to lead an increasingly prominent union to the next level.

The new Executive Board features Greg Allen from Palm Beach Gardens moving

up to vice president from sergeant-at-arms, PBSO Unit President Mike Kennedy taking over as secretary, Delray Beach rep Meer Deen as treasurer and Kenneth Youngblood from the Martin County Sheriff's Office as sergeant-at-arms.

As Vice President Rick McAfee, Secretary Kevin Igo and Treasurer Lou Penque retired from the executive board following 16 years of sublime and supreme service, Kaz praised his confidants for what they have achieved and how they set up the PBA for continued success.

"We've accomplished a lot, but now it's time to hand off the baton," Kaz commented. "They realized it. Absolutely they did. So listen, I'm looking forward. We're going to train the new board, and they're going to continue our legacy."

McAfee noted how he, Penque and Igo will be on call to help with the transition. And, of course, PBCPBA Executive Director Ernie George, who founded all this, will continue his role to impart all the institutional knowledge and wisdom as the union's hall-of-famer.

"The future is them. We're going to give them the tools, but they are ready to put in the work and take care of their members and take this organization forward," McAfee extolled. They are motivated in what they want to do. I think they've been around with their respective agencies long enough, and they've also been around the executive board, and they understand what is expected of them."

Allen noted how this board will work to perpetuate the standard of doing any-

thing and everything to take care of the members. He has already seen the connection among them that will enable the board to take the baton and navigate the sometimes arduous path to continued prolific leadership.

“There are a lot of times when we spend a lot of hours coordinating an event, setting up the event, breaking down the event, that members don’t see,” Allen related. “And a lot of people are not willing to make those sacrifices. Along with that, the camaraderie we have is what really makes it the best. It’s not only just we’re doing work. You’re working amongst your brothers there for one common cause. I think these guys are devoted to the cause.”

So, without further ado, let’s get to know the members joining Kaz on the new executive board.

Bearing down

Greg Allen’s predecessors have affectionately described him as part teddy bear, part grizzly bear. He is elated by that characterization.

Since coming on with Palm Beach Gardens in 1998 and becoming a unit rep in 2002, Allen has forged his service by being in the trenches, willing to fight the fight. From that vantage point, he has



Vice President Greg Allen

developed an approach to union leadership that has reverberated through the membership.

“A lot of times, you have to be that guy that’s willing to say no to people,” he reasoned. “You’re not always going to agree on everything, but you try to meet everybody halfway to work on things that make not only departments better, but also the union staff and the union members better.”

As part of the executive board the past 16 years, Allen says he has learned a lot about union leadership from Kaz and George. So when Kaz told him he was re-upping as president, Allen said as long as Kaz is there, he wanted to be standing alongside him.

Allen still wants to maintain that position in the trenches, coming out with the PBA Grill Team at 4 a.m. for events if he is called. Kaz said Allen is that loyal soldier who answers whenever he is called. And that’s the legacy Allen wants to continue.

“I was telling the guys from the grill team, “Don’t count me out of getting in there, doing the grunt work,” Allen added. “I’m still doing the same thing as far as fighting for the organization, fighting for the people and constantly trying to improve the services that we provide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Secretary Mike Kennedy

Heart in the right place

Mike Kennedy exemplifies the DNA of this new board and the attributes Kaz knew the PBA needed to continue to improve working conditions for members.

“A lot of people don't have the PBA in

them. A lot of people do it for their own reasons,” Kaz explained. “I look and I say, ‘OK, are they doing it because it's something for them?’ Not with Kennedy. I really believe it's in his heart that he wants to help people out.”

In his 20th year, Kennedy is a lieutenant and the PBSO Warrants Division executive officer. He has also worked his way up in the union, serving as a rep for four years before taking over as PBSO unit president in 2020.

Kennedy has an affinity for getting in the middle of it, but not exactly the way you might think for a union rep.

“I like being involved and trying to fix miscommunication,” he stated. “Sometimes, the bosses don't have time to detail exactly what they're putting down in memos, and things come out wrong. I like to be the guy that can try to fix it, making sure the relationship is still intact.”

He is ready for life to get busier as a member of the executive board, especially with getting more phone calls than he is used to. But Kennedy was attracted to the position because of Kaz's affinity for including all voices in decision-making, and he wants to enhance the value the PBA brings to members.

“I think the PBA helps open doors for people that don't get a voice,” Kennedy

elaborated. “To have the PBA to call and bounce an idea off of, have somebody make a phone call on a member's behalf, share what the problem is that maybe most bosses at the higher levels don't get to see. In my opinion, that's what the PBA's best for.”



Treasurer Meer Deen

Ready for the call

Some 17 years ago, Meer Deen came on with Delray Beach and met Vinnie Gray, who is the PBA's labor relations coordinator. Since becoming a union

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rep eight years ago, Deen has built up a knowledge base to take the baton from Gray.

“He was the guy that we turned to when we needed something, and the guy who was always available,” Deen commented.

Kaz noticed Deen’s impact as a rep, as well as his excellence on Delray’s TAC team. And the PBA president sensed that he was equipped to answer a higher PBA calling.

“Meer’s a very, very intelligent police officer,” Kaz observed. “With Meer being the treasurer, I think the PBA is very, very fortunate, because with losing Lou as the treasurer, I firmly believe Meer can just step right into that role and continue just the way Lou was doing.”

Through his passion for contract negotiations, Deen has developed an understanding of the labor relations nuances, including the financial ones. He said he wanted to join the executive board to help all units find ways to get better benefits as a means to attracting better-qualified candidates to the job.

He knows what that will take.

“You know you got to make yourself available. People will call you and say that they need you there, and they feel comfortable because they know you’ll be

there by their side,” Deen added. “I think members will see that I’m a hard worker and that I’m available to get the job done when needed.”



Sergeant-at-Arms Kenneth “Tater” Youngblood

All in

Those who know and love Kenneth Youngblood call him “Tater.” Which is pretty much everybody.

He has been on with MCSO since 2000 and made such an impression during his past six years as a PBA rep that Kaz

knew how much it would mean to have Tater on the executive board. He noticed Tater’s passion for going all-in to fight for members and make sure their rights are protected.

Tater subscribes to the need for open communication and respect as being the keys to working together to come up with a good plan and a good outcome. He wants to continue the legacy of the board going to bat for members who put it on the line every day and every night.

He also wants to carry the torch for one of the PBA’s most important functions.

“It’s nice for members to know that there’s an organization that if something happens that obviously was a mistake or something like that, then they will have the representation to help them not lose their jobs, not lose their careers,” he submitted.

He has seen how the PBA, through its stellar legal team, has saved careers.

“One of our main things is backing our members legally when things happen,” Tater added. “I’ve seen where people have been terminated, and we’ve gone to arbitration and got people their jobs back. And if they didn’t have an organization like the PBA that knows all the ins and outs of the labor laws, there would be a lot of unjust things going on.”

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Delivering Toys and Joy

PBSO members go above and beyond to bring joy this holiday season to children in their community and families of fallen officers

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Hundreds of shiny new bicycles of every color lined the sidewalk outside the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office correctional facility. Soon, each one would be delivered to a lucky child, just in time for the holidays.

"There's limited opportunity for the people in Corrections to be able to have a positive impact on the community like that," PBSO Civilians Rep Sallyann Josef remarked. "And the bikes that were donated, especially the ones in the Western community, are remaining within the community. So that was an extra special part of this."

A PBSO Aviation Unit helicopter whirled through the air and landed on the grass below. After it landed, Santa appeared with two bright red bags filled with toys that would be hand-delivered to families of fallen officers.



PBSO members collected hundreds of toys for the Fallen Officer Toy Drive.

Toy Stories

PBCPBA members outdid themselves with the gifts they collected for children in Palm Beach and Martin counties. Look here to see the gifts some of the units collected.

Page 29





Participating in the Bikes for Tykes initiative inspired PBSO Corrections members to create contests to see which unit could donate the most bikes.

PBSO Corrections members donated 400 bicycles to Toys for Tots.

“It’s been an absolutely phenomenal impact,” PBSO member John Chapman expressed. “The impact on those families, to know that they haven’t been forgotten and that there’s a couple hundred people that collected donations and collected toys just for their family, it completely blows them away.”

This holiday season, PBSO members displayed passion and unity to remind children in their community and families of fallen officers that they would not be alone during this holiday season. Throughout December, members collected toys and donations to help brighten the holidays for those who need a reminder that PBSO stands behind them.

When one member from PBSO Corrections thought of the idea for the unit to participate in Bikes for Tykes, members immediately went above and beyond to show their support. For the 75th annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots Christmas fundraiser, members created a challenge for each family in Corrections to donate a bicycle. And other units, like the PBSO Inmate Management Division, created contests to see who could bring in the most bikes.

Members came together and donated more than 400 bicycles from October to December for children in their local community.

“It was something that everybody did out of their hearts,” Josef remarked. “And I’m sure the people that participated felt good about it. I know I did.”

As part of another supreme act of giving by PBSO, the rich aroma of barbecue filled the air on Dec. 1 as more than 150 Palm Beach County PBA members gathered at Lake Lytal Park in West Palm Beach for the anticipated PBSO Fallen Officer Toy Drive.

In a drive-through fashion, members of the PBSO Motor Unit led the procession of numerous PBSO specialty units, which included the SWAT team, community policing unit, marine unit and mounted unit. One by one, members offered toys and donations for children of all ages.

“We received everything from sporting goods to electronics, drones and dollhouses,” Chapman explained. “Basically, if you go down the toy aisle in Target or Walmart, you name it, we had that kind of toy donated.”

Hosted by the 9463 Foundation for Florida’s Fallen Officers, the Fallen Officer Toy Drive was founded more than 10 years ago in honor of Broward County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Christopher Reyka, who was killed in the line of duty in 2007. This year, as a special tribute to Reyka’s legacy, members created ornaments to give to each family with their fallen loved one’s badge number.

“I tell the families that this ornament is a token to let them know that every time you look at the tree, PBSO is there and that we’re there to remember you and remember your family,”



The Fallen Officer Toy Drive is hosted by the 9463 Foundation, which supports the families of Florida’s fallen officers.



Members of the PBSO Motors Unit donated toys for the toy drive.

reflected Chapman, who delivered the ornaments to families of fallen officers on Dec. 9. “[One family] actually had us hanging the ornament on the tree while we were at their house, and there wasn’t a dry eye in the room. The impact is just incredible. And it definitely keeps Reyka’s memory alive, too.”

After the drive-through ended, Santa Claus came flying through the air. Not in a sled, but in a PBSO helicopter. And he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



DELIVERING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

appeared with bags of more donations. By the end of the event, members had raised more than \$35,000 for the foundation.

Over the years, Chapman has seen a dramatic increase in participation by PBCPBA members. When PBSO first joined the toy drive 10 years ago, only 35 members participated. Now there are well over 100 members who seem to look forward to the drive every year, Chapman related. And the impact has grown that much more as well.

Chapman related that it was hard to find the words to describe just how incredible the impact is. Because as he delivers hundreds of toys to families all over Florida, each family is just as appreciative as the next.

"They just can't believe it," Chapman explained. "[And I tell them] that we can't bring the whole agency with us, but there's hundreds of people back at home that want them to know that

their loved one has not been forgotten. And we want to show a token of our appreciation of their sacrifice by bringing gifts to their children."

The joy of the season that PBSO members bring to families of fallen officers spreads far beyond Florida. Any extra toys from the toy drive are shipped nationwide by the American Police Hall of Fame & Museum in Titusville, which is dedicated to officers killed in the line of duty.

The impact indeed seems endless, and Chapman eagerly invites all PBCPBA members to mark their calendars for next year's toy drive.

"We always are looking for different ways to help raise funds to make it happen, so we look forward to continued participation," Chapman added. "It's pretty awesome to have an agency and union that can impact children all over the country by what you're doing."



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A PBA Holiday



PBCPBA members spread light and joy to families this holiday season

This holiday season, Palm Beach County PBA members hosted numerous events to bring in gifts and donations for children and families in need. In hopes of making their holidays brighter, members hosted Shop with a Cop, toy drives and more. Here is a look at how members filled the community with joy.



In partnership with Walmart, Boynton Beach PD held a Fill Our SWAT Truck event for residents in the community to bring in toy donations for children in need.



Boynton Beach



Delray Beach

Delray Beach officers sorted thousands of toys from the donations they received at their annual toy drive, saying they looked forward to brightening the holidays for many children.



On Dec. 6, Boynton Beach officers hosted a Shop with a Cop event, in sponsorship with Walmart, to bring holiday joy to some children in the community.



Stuart

In partnership with Walmart, officers from Stuart PD invited 10 children to join them for Shop with a Cop to choose a present.



Jupiter

Jupiter PD officers brought the magic for 20 children during their Shop with a Cop event. Each officer was paired with a child to help them choose a special gift and even took pictures with Santa.



Stuart PD officers invited visually impaired students from several schools in Martin County to join them for a shopping trip at the mall, which included a picture with Santa.

Run On

PBCPBA members express why they love the Kaitlin's Angel Run

BY ESTHER GONZALES

Pausing to reflect on what matters most — holding loved ones close, laughing loudly with family and friends and feeling the exhilaration of crossing the finish line — the beauty of the Kaitlin's Angel Run encompasses all this and more for PBCPBA members.

"You look at why the event's there, what the cause is for and who it's in remembrance of, and I think that just resembles family in itself," observed Martin County Sheriff's Office rep Drew Porcelli, who will participate in the seventh annual event on Jan. 15. "It's meant to make you remember and not take for granted what you have. And just be thankful for every day and share it with the people you want to be around."

As members look forward to the seventh annual Kaitlin's Angel Run, they reflect on how the day has become special to them and a time to look forward to. And with all proceeds benefiting PBCPBA's Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund, members have truly felt the ever-extending support and love of the PBA.

To enable more members to participate, the Angel Run has been moved from its traditional New Year's date to Jan. 15 at Abacoa Town Center in Jupiter.

"When I looked at the calendar and I saw Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, I said, 'You know what? Rather than doing it on New Year's weekend when everybody's busy, let's do it this weekend,'" PBCPBA President John Kazanjian explained. "I think it's going to be a home run."

Beginning with a prayer and words of remembrance for the omnipresent angel, Kaitlin A. Kazanjian, the 5K run and walk is a reflection of family and community. Over the years, the Angel Run has also allowed many members to build stronger relationships with those around them.

"The Angel Run has a good mission statement, the purpose of it. And being a parent myself, it really touches my heart," PBSO civilian rep Mariam Glisson remarked. "Anytime that you can



Martin County Sheriff's Office rep Drew Porcelli recalls the exhilaration of crossing the finish line at the 2022 Angel Run and how much that makes him look forward to the 2023 event.

7th Annual Kaitlin's Angel Run

5K Run and Walk
Jan. 15, 6:30 a.m.

Abacoa Town Center, Jupiter



bring something back to the community and help other students out with scholarships along the way, it always helps.”

Glisson first participated in the Angel Run five years ago with her children, who would ride their bikes alongside their friends. She remarked that each year, the day has served as an opportunity for them to get a respite from the busyness of life.

“Events like this bring us together,” Glisson expressed. “They make us stop. They help us remember what’s important to us and to hold your family safe. It only takes a moment, and it can be gone. So hold them safe and cherish them.”

While walking the three miles of the Angel Run, PBSO Unit President Mike Kennedy often notices how happiness seems to radiate around him. Everyone is smiling and no one is complaining, Kennedy noted. This year, he plans to have his wife and children walk with him to experience the day.

“People really need to get away from that work environment, and sometimes these events are what it takes,” Kennedy explained. “It gets people out of their norm, out of their comfort zone, and puts them with people that they can just have fun with.”

When the Porcelli family first participated in the Angel Run last year, it was their New Year’s resolution. Porcelli still remembers the exhilarating feeling of crossing the finish line with his wife, Erika. And the joy of being surrounded by his law enforcement friends and family. That is what is bringing him back again next year.

“The PBA has done so much for so many people,” related Kennedy, whose own daughters have been Kaitlin A. Kazanjian scholarship recipients. “I’ve been with this agency for about 25 years and it’s nice to be able to get together and show some friendship and stewardship and just have a good day.”



For so many members, the Angel Run has become that much-needed day with the family, a way to honor their angel and a beautiful reflection of the brotherhood.

“I hope the event goes on for many years,” Glisson added. “It’s something that gives back to such a large population of Palm Beach County, and we just hope we can continue doing it. It always has a great turnout. Kaz and his family always are willing to not only show up and host the event, but I know it has to weigh heavy on them that day. So we appreciate his efforts and his continual support to allow us to show honor and cherish his daughter’s memory the way he allows us to.”

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'She would not give up on a case'

BY DAN CAMPANA

After graduating from Riviera Beach High School in 1969, Laurie Van Deusen was working at the local Winn-Dixie when she became the victim of an armed robbery. That incident inspired a career of doing everything possible to help other victims.

So she enrolled in the police academy. And Van Deusen became only the second uniformed female police officer in the history of the West Palm Beach Police Department, beginning a trailblazing and impactful career.

"One thing you can say about Laurie, she was a victim advocate to the end," said Lou Penque, the recently retired Palm Beach County PBA treasurer, who worked with Van Deusen in West Palm Beach for most of his 30-plus years on the job. "I think we lose our focus a lot when it comes to the victims of these crimes we investigate, because we get callous. She was just all about the victim. She worked for them, or the family of a victim of a crime."

In her three decades in law enforcement, Van Deusen impacted the lives of many people, especially Penque, who might not have come on with West Palm without Van Deusen's assistance.

"She was the one who did my polygraph test to get hired," said Penque. "So if it wasn't for her, I never would've got the job."

Known for a big heart, an unmistakable smile and a drive to always help others as much as for her keen work as a police officer and innovator in the use of gun intelligence to solve violent crimes, Van Deusen died unexpectedly on Oct. 29. She was 71.

Van Deusen is survived by her husband of 41 years, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Major Robert Van Reeth, her daughter, Lacey, and a son, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Jeff Van Reeth.

Her journey culminated with working up to the rank of captain before starting a second chapter in law enforcement with Palm Beach Gardens and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office as the special projects coordinator on firearms.



Captain Laurie Van Deusen

West Palm Beach Police Department

End of Watch: Oct. 29, 2022

In that role, she earned recognition as a pioneer in crime gun intelligence, work that also caught the attention of the ATF and Interpol. A detail-oriented approach and unrelenting curiosity made Van Deusen a mainstay in the detective bureau during her time in West Palm Beach.

Her drive to help crime victims stood out among all her admirable characteristics. Penque described Van Deusen's doggedness as he recounted a story from the late 1980s, when an off-duty Van Deusen spotted a murder suspect as she drove around. She called it in, and a chase ensued in multiple jurisdictions before the suspect was captured.

"She would do the extra hours off duty on her own time to make sure that the victim had everything they deserved. She would not give up on a case either," said Penque. "When I was in homicide, she was my captain ... she would be tenacious on a lot of those cases. She would do outside-the-box type stuff to try to solve crimes."

Along with everything that made Van Deusen so good as a cop, she was a beloved, caring person who enjoyed life away from the job. Her obituary highlights the simple pleasure she took from watching the moon rise, smelling jas-



mine and lilac and spending evenings outside listening to oldies music.

"Just one of the kindest people I've ever known. She would do anything to help anyone," Penque said.

A lifetime of doing what she could for others led to a "tremendous" turnout of well-wishers who attended a Dec. 11 celebration of life for Van Deusen at the PBA Banquet Hall, Penque said.

Even after her death, Van Deusen is still helping others. Instead of flowers, her family requested donations in her honor be made to two victim advocate groups: Mothers Against Murders Association of West Palm Beach and Parents of Murdered Children.



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'No job too small for Dennis'

BY DAN CAMPANA

Carrying himself based on his Marine training, Boynton Beach Police Officer Dennis Castro Jr. took every mission seriously across the variety of roles he served with the department.

A member of the SWAT team, a homicide traffic investigator and part of the DUI Task Force, Castro focused on the job at hand, according to Boynton Beach Representative Cory Hery. But Castro wasn't defined by the work he did.

"He genuinely loved to help people. He took his job very seriously, and he wore many hats in the agency. He could have an hour of sleep, be ready to rock and roll, and never show it," Hery explained. "There was no job too small for Dennis. There was no questioning why he's doing it. He just does it with a smile on his face. Dennis was always smiling. He wore so many hats where it could have been very easy for him to just get in the dumps, but he didn't. He was awesome."

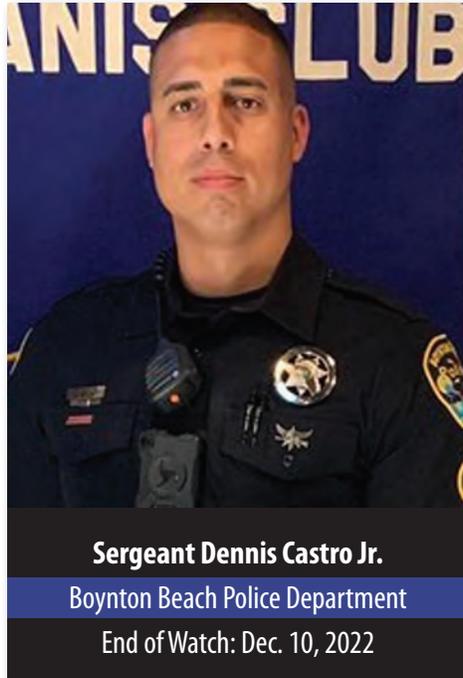
Castro, a 14-year veteran of the department, died in the early morning hours of Dec. 10 after being involved in a single-vehicle crash while off duty. Just 37 years old, Castro is survived by his wife and two children.

Castro's dedication and award-winning work had him on a path toward a promotion to sergeant. Just hours before the crash, Hery and a Boynton Beach captain spoke with Castro after he left a tutoring session as he prepared to test for the new rank.

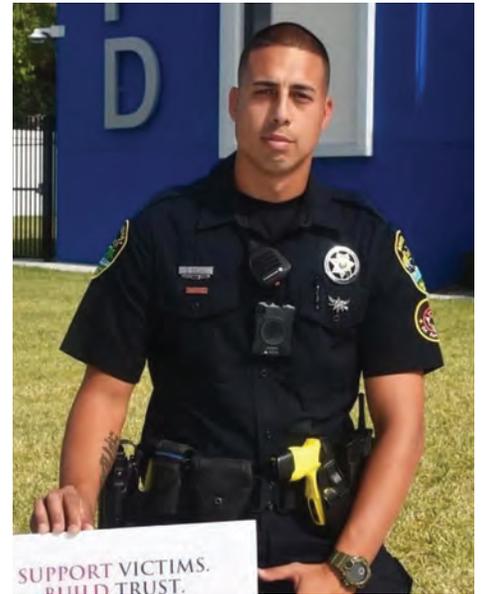
"[We were] talking to him about sergeant scenarios, giving him advice and tips, joking around with him because he was off duty at that point," Hery shared, noting that the crash happened just a few hours later.

Boynton Beach Police Chief Joe DeGiulio, who called Castro's death "his toughest day" as chief, posthumously promoted Castro to sergeant, Hery said.

"That really went a long way with the guys at work. Chief DeGiulio was very proud to be able to do that," Hery added.



Sergeant Dennis Castro Jr.
Boynton Beach Police Department
End of Watch: Dec. 10, 2022



Hery joined the department as a civilian in 2008, the same year Castro began his law enforcement career after spending seven years in the Marines. From the beginning, he knew Castro to be a hardworking, good guy who was "always squared away."

"Pressed uniform, never disheveled, clean-shaven, always in shape ... just the stereotypical traits of a Marine," Hery recalled.

Those traits translated into being a leader who didn't overlook anyone or anything. Castro helped train new officers on working the DUI car, and while the Marine in him would be straight up with rookies, he did it to prepare them for the job.

"And he wouldn't expect anything less," Hery said. "He was great at that. It's funny, because the rookies would almost fear him — 'Oh my gosh, I got to go with Officer Castro' — because they knew he was military, not going to take any crap, but [someone who] is going to set you up for success."

It's that kind of lasting impression on his peers and colleagues that triggered so many emotions within the depart-

ment after Castro died.

"He was just the guy that everyone knew, everyone liked," Hery shared. "That's why I think it hit the agency so hard, because even guys that barely knew him, rookies on the job, you can tell it impacted them. It's been rough."

The outpouring of support for Castro's family and the department was evident at his funeral on Dec. 20, as the law enforcement community turned out in big numbers to pay tribute. Hundreds of donors have also given to a GoFundMe campaign to help Castro's wife and children.

"I just hope people remember him and his legacy as that guy we all knew him to be: positive, didn't let anything get to him, lived life and enjoyed every second of it," Hery said.



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The dangerous game of delaying your estate planning



KEVIN DRUMMOND

We hear all sorts of excuses for not taking advantage of estate planning until it's too late. Here are some of the biggest reasons and why they're not an excuse.

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Attorney Kevin Drummond handles life planning for the Palm Beach County PBA. He founded the Blue Line Law Firm in April 2019. Prior to that, he worked at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which included tenure in the Division of Capitol Police in Tallahassee from 2005 until 2007. He also served as the Compliance Review Trooper Investigator at Florida Highway Patrol until 2012. In 2018 thru 2019, Mr. Drummond worked at the Palm Beach Shores Police Department in various roles, including police officer, accreditation manager and legal advisor. He has also taught as a police legal instructor at Palm Beach State College. You can reach Kevin by calling 888-688-0765 or texting LAWHELP to 31996 for a free consultation to address any concerns you have. You can also reach out by visiting www.tbllf.com.



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Recruit Corrections - (Corrections Academy Sponsorship - PBSC/IRSC)

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(after completing Corrections Academy & pass state exam \$61,080)

- Must be at least 21 years of age (prior to academy graduation).
- High School Diploma or GED.
- Must meet all Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements.
- Must meet all Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) requirements specified in the online assessment.
- Must possess or be able to obtain a valid Florida Driver's License prior to employment.
- Must successfully complete the Basic Abilities Test (BAT) for Corrections Academy.
- Must successfully complete the Physical Abilities Test (PAT) for Corrections Academy.
- Must be willing to travel to and adhere to all Palm Beach State College (PBSC) OR Indian River State College (IRSC)
- Must successfully complete Corrections Academy
- Must successfully complete State Officer Certification Exam

Deputy Sheriff Law Enforcement - Florida Certified

Full-Time

Starting Salary: \$61,080 (3+ years Certified LE experience \$66,720)

Position requires considerable knowledge of modern principles and practices of police work, including:

- Knowledge of first-aid methods
- Ability to act reasonably without direct supervision
- Ability to observe situation analytically and objectively
- Ability to report and record situations clearly and completely
- Ability to react quickly and calmly in emergency situations
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates and demographically diverse public

Must meet all Florida Department Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements

Must meet all PBSO requirements in the online assessment

21 years of age

High school graduate or GED

Able to perform essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodations

Possess a valid driver's license

Deputy Sheriff Corrections – Florida Certified

Full-Time

Starting Salary: \$61,080 (3+ years Certified Corrections experience \$66,720)

- Monitors and surveils inmates
- Prepares legal documentation and reports
- Processes fingerprints with pictures to ensure inmate identification
- Executes emergency plans
- Resolves disputes and performs necessary restraint techniques

High School Diploma or Equivalent

Must meet all Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements

Must meet all PBSO requirements specified in online assessment

Must be 21 years of age and possess a valid driver's license

Shift work may include evenings, nights, weekends and holidays

To Apply

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PBSO Human Resources Contact Information

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Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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2022 inflation implications



STEVE
OLSON

The talk of 2022 has been the spike in inflation and its trickle-down effect on the financial markets. Considering the recent uptick in inflation, the IRS has announced changes to Social Security, Medicare, retirement accounts and taxes.

Social Security

The Social Security Administration announced its annual cost of living adjustment of 8.7 percent, or an average of \$140 per month, to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023. This is the largest increase since 1981 for the approximately 70 million Americans who collect benefits. While a large increase is needed — and much appreciated — by retirees struggling to keep up with inflation, this could spell bad news for the longevity of the Social Security Trust Fund. We previously wrote about the solvency of the trust fund, and the latest projection was for the fund to be fully depleted by 2033. This payment increase could move up that timeframe even further.

The Social Security Administration did not change how much workers are paying into the program, but they did increase the wage base (the maximum earnings that are subject to the Social Security tax) from \$147,000 to \$160,200. This should help offset some of the additional outflows but, as we stated before, the entire system needs to be revamped to ensure the longevity of the program.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal Social Security

accounts. People may create or access their Social Security accounts online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Medicare

Annual premiums for Medicare are going down for 2023. After the 14.5 percent jump from 2021 to 2022, the cost for Part B will decrease by approximately 3 percent for 2023. This will help keep more of the Social Security increase mentioned above in retirees' pockets — the opposite of what happened last year.

Retirement accounts

The IRS also announced an almost 10 percent increase in the maximum contributions that can be made to retirement accounts. Employees can now contribute up to \$22,500 (increased from 20,500 in 2022) to employer plans—such as 401(k), 457(b) and 403(b) — if they are under the age of 50, or \$30,000 (increased from \$27,000 in 2022) if they are age 50 or older.

IRA account contributions increased to \$6,500 (from \$6,000 in 2022) if under 50, or \$7,500 (from \$7,000 in 2022) if 50 or older.

Taxes

Finally, the tax brackets have all been adjusted to account for the recent spike in inflation. The brackets all remain the same, but the income bands all increased by 7 percent. Additionally, the standard deduction increased to \$13,850 (from \$12,950 in 2022) for single filers, and \$27,700 (from \$25,900 in 2022) for married filers.

Steve Olson, founder and managing member of Atlantic Wealth Partners, has more than a decade of experience in focused tax planning, legal strategy interpretation, investment management and advisory services to wealthy individuals and families throughout Florida.

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Members Only Section

Celebrating PBCPBA members and the way they serve every day

An assist from the Kicks

Delray Beach members offer hope to a family in a time of need

BY ESTHER GONZALES

When Delray Beach officer Danny Pacheco Jr. founded Delray Kicks two years ago as an outreach program for underprivileged children, he knew it would bring opportunities to support kids in the community. Two of them were 16-year-old Anthony and his younger brother, Tucker.

In October, Pacheco and a few other officers, who are also coaches, noticed that the boys and their father, who usually dropped them off, had not been showing up for soccer practices. So, the officers decided to visit them to ensure that everything was OK.

When the officers showed up at their house, Anthony relayed the news that his father had passed away from cancer.

The family of five was devastated. They were struggling financially, and Anthony no longer had a ride to soccer practice. Pacheco felt like he could relate to what Anthony was experiencing because he grew up with similar struggles. And he knew they had to do something to help Anthony's family.

"People were immediately willing to help," Pacheco explained. "One of the things that I'm very proud of is the agency that I work for. Creating this type of program, I feel like I have adopted 50 kids. And all of them, whenever they need something, they reach out to me, and I reach out to certain people within the agency. The help was overwhelming."

After raising donations for the family with help of the Delray Beach Community Policing Unit, Pacheco and the other coaches delivered gift cards and bags of groceries to the family. And when Anthony saw what they had done for him, it was a moment that Pacheco said created a special bond.

"They don't just see us as police officers," Pacheco said. "They see us now as someone who can help, so that they feel that they're not being left alone or ignored."

The support that Pacheco and Delray Beach officers Mark Lucas, Michelle Geiger, Kaylee Bolanos, Carlos Penagos and George Castro displayed for Anthony and his family has not



stopped there. Whenever a new need arises, these officers have continued to help in any way they can, like attending school events for Anthony and his three siblings.

"Through the help that we provide to different families in need, we'll be able to create a huge impact on how the community sees police officers," Pacheco added. "We are here to help, we are here to support them, to create a bond and to build that bridge."

Boynton Beach members turn Habitats into homes

Ahead of Veterans Day, Boynton Beach Police assisted Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County with their Veterans Build Project on Nov. 4. Veterans Build brought together local veterans and members of the department to build new homes for other veterans and senior citizens.



Right Time, Right River

MCSO honors local teens who saved lives

On any given Friday night in Martin County, you may see teens hanging out by the St. Lucie River, doing a little fishing. But on Oct. 7, three local teenagers who were having some fun turned out to be in the right place at the right time.

Nash Kennedy, Riley Kirby and Jack Aubuchon noticed a boat carrying six people crash into a channel marker right off the shore of the Snug Harbor community. The boys immediately jumped into action, going toward the victims of the accident.

In the dark, they rescued three people from the water who were suffering from severe injuries. The boys began pulling the victims out of the water, even using their own clothes to wrap around one of the victims who was bleeding. They used their own boat as an emergency transport vehicle, bringing them to shore until Martin County Fire Rescue could get to them.



Kennedy's father was a paramedic and taught the 17-year-old techniques to use in the event of an emergency. It turns out those lessons paid off, because on Oct. 13, the Martin County Sheriff's Office honored the three boys at a meeting for the Stuart Rod and Reel Club.

Chief Deputy John Budensiek presented them with MCSO collectors challenge coins representing courage, teamwork and commitment to service. It was courage, teamwork and service that helped those three young men save lives that night.

Delray Beach members honored for work with homeless

A partnership between the Delray Beach Police Department and several local organizations to support the city's homeless population earned the collective the Community Collaborators Award at the Hats Off Nonprofit Awards in October.

DBPD's Community Outreach Team — along with CROS Ministries' Caring Kitchen Program and Interfaith Committee for Social Services — was recognized for providing social, financial and transportation services, as well as rolling out a new shower truck for the homeless in Delray Beach.



PBSO takes a unique approach to building relationships with kids

Can you remember the smile and the feeling when receiving a Lego set?

Probably the same feeling that students had at Greenacres Elementary in the city of Greenacres on Nov. 17 when PBSO's Lego mentoring program came to school. The goal of the program is to have a positive influence on children in hopes of preventing bullying and gang activity.

It's hard not to feel joy at the expressions on students' faces in the photo. But PBSO deputies also made a significant statement with the signs they brought reading, "Small gestures can change the world" and "One kind word can change everyone's entire day."

Along with the Legos, that's something for all students who go through this program to build on.

PBSO Homeless Intervention Team shines for those in need

Life throws curveballs at people all the time, and sometimes they need a little help to get back on track.

In Palm Beach County, the Sheriff's Office's Homeless Intervention Team has risen to the challenge for some of the community's residents after they've fallen on hard times. Two recent success stories show the team's value.

A week before Thanksgiving, sheriff's deputies encountered a woman named Jessica and her four children living in a van after the single mother became homeless. Recognizing that something needed to be done to help out, the team stepped in to find Jessica and her kids temporary shelter at an area hotel. The team also took the family shopping to ensure that everyone had the basic necessities.

The experience puts smiles on the kids' faces and left Jessica feeling thankful for the team giving her a sense of hope and



a fresh start.

In early December, the team met an elderly woman who had resorted to living in her car after finding herself homeless. With the car in need of maintenance, it stopped running and cut the woman off from traveling around. The woman explained that her failing memory, lack of internet access and a poor understanding of online banking had that put her on a difficult path.



After determining the woman had a brother out of state who didn't realize the hardships his sister faced, the team — in collaboration with Goodwill Industries — purchased a plane ticket for her to reunite with her sibling and be in the presence of family during the holiday season. The woman, grateful for the team's help, encouraged everyone to keep an eye on elders because she doesn't want anyone else to struggle the way she did.

PBSO members remember fallen brothers

On Nov. 28, PBSO officers gathered at the site where Deputy Sheriffs Donta Manuel and Jonathan Wallace were lost 15 years earlier. Friends and family members also gathered at a memorial to these two beloved officers.

At the time of their death, 33-year-old Manuel had been on the job for 13 years, while 23-year-old Wallace had only been with PBSO for 18 months.

On that day 15 years ago, the officers were responding to a report of a stolen vehicle in Belle Glade. While trying to get the vehicle back, both officers were struck by a pursuing patrol car and died instantly.

While nothing can bring these two heroes back, PBSO members and the community can drive down a highway named in the officers' honor, being reminded every day of the sacrifice they made.



Jupiter K-9s a hit during school visit

Jupiter Police Department K-9s Corby and Bandit captivated students at Turtle River Montessori School during a November visit with their partner, Officer Chad Norman. He shared a little about what his furry colleagues do to keep the community safe. The youngsters watched closely throughout the presentation, but the smiles really got big when they had a chance to meet Bandit up close and pet one of their new favorite police dogs.

PBSO 'grows' the distance for good causes

Police officers frequently find themselves in hairy situations, but when it comes to No Shave November, members of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office knew exactly what they were getting themselves into — and they did it to make a difference.

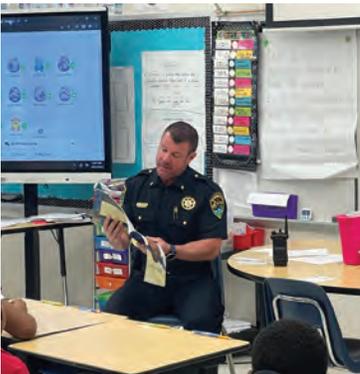
Deputies and members of all divisions wrapped up November by showing off their month's worth of facial growth on social media and reminding followers that this wasn't just to see who could grow a great beard. The sheriff's office was raising money for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Foundation and to promote men's mental health.

The facial hair didn't necessarily disappear when the calendar flipped to December, as everyone kept growing to see who would win the office's annual Best Beard Award, as judged by Ric Bradshaw.



Boynton Beach and Jupiter members read for the record

During the 16th Annual Read for the Record event on Oct. 27, Boynton Beach officers visited several elementary schools to read to students. Jupiter PD officers participated in the event as well and visited First Class Childcare to read the book *Nigel and the Moon*.



A Boynton Beach officer reads to children at an elementary school for the Read for the Record event.



Jupiter PD officers read to children at First Class Childcare.



Delray victorious in softball showdown

Renewing the friendly rivalry between police officers and firefighters, the Delray Beach Police Department came out on top in the 2022 Delray Beach Guns 'N' Hoses Softball Challenge.

The early November game featured plenty of fireworks on offense, as DBPD secured the challenge trophy and a year of bragging rights after the 14-11 win at Miller Park.

The 10th annual installment of the event was put on by the Delray Citizens for Delray Police organization, with the backing of several local sponsors.



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A turkey, some mashed potatoes and a plateful of kindness

While most were sitting around a long table with a turkey and all the fixings this Thanksgiving, some are not as fortunate to be able to afford what we may take for granted. That's why multiple police departments in Palm Beach and Martin counties partnered

with local organizations to make sure those less fortunate could have most, if not all, the trimmings on their Thanksgiving tables.

Here are a few examples of how PBCPBA members helped provide food for those who needed it most:



Delray Beach

Delray Beach police thought it was important to teach some of their youngest recruits the importance of giving back. Students from the Delray Beach Police Department's Criminal Justice Academy at Atlantic Community High School raised money for Thanksgiving meals for 20 local families. On Nov. 22, they had the chance to hand out those meals to the families in person.



It wasn't just the future officers giving back in Delray Beach. The department partnered with CROS Ministries to hand out meals to the homeless population at their shower truck on Nov. 20.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office



Every turkey needs a home, and the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office was there to put turkeys on the table for 900 residents in the Glades region. With the help of the Susan Cilano Foundation, they gave out 450 turkeys at Tanner Park in South Bay and another 450 at MLK Park in Pahokee on Nov. 23.



Martin County Sheriff's Office



No department knows how important it is to partner with community organizations more than the Martin County Sheriff's Office. On Nov. 18, the department gave out more than 5,600 food baskets and more than 1,000 turkeys to families in need with the help of the Elev8 Hope organization.



Jupiter



Jupiter Police was another department that partnered with an outside group to bring Thanksgiving to the community. In partnership with the Jupiter Light Lodge Number 340, officers were able to deliver Thanksgiving meals to families on Nov. 23.



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Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.
- Warren Buffet

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Riviera Beach



Sometimes it's more than just being able to give out food and supplies, it's about sitting down and actually having a meal together. On Nov. 21, Riviera Beach Police joined community members at Wells Recreation for a Thanksgiving dinner with those in need.



The Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association

Presents our 7th Annual

5K Run & Walk



Sunday – January 15, 2023- 6:30 am
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Race Starts: **7:30 am**

Check-In Starts: **6:30 am**



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www.PBCPBA.org

Thank-You Notes TO THE PBA



October 17, 2022

Mr. John Kazanjian, President
PBC Police Benevolent Association Charity Fund, Inc.
2100 N Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Mr. Kazanjian:

Thank you for supporting Bella's Angels 3rd Annual Nine & Dine Golf Tournament. The event was held on October 1, 2022, at Delray Dunes Golf & Country Club. The Buddies and their families are so appreciative of your donation in the amount of \$2,500 which is 100% tax deductible by law.

The \$59,000 we raised will benefit our mission to provide financial assistance to local children who have life-long physical disabilities, beyond what insurance covers. We were so happy to have eight of our Buddy families attend the dinner, as well as six of the parents participate in the golf tournament. These children are the hearts of our organization.

A special thank you goes out to our Sponsors, Attendees, and Volunteers. Without everyone involved, this could not have been possible. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather, impressive buffet, and table settings. We are looking forward to seeing you in the future.

On behalf of the families we serve, we thank you for your support of our organization.

Sincerely,


Dorothy Bradshaw
Chair


Deborah Jaffe
Executive Director
*We are so grateful for your
continued support!*

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www.bellasangels.org

Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association
2100 North Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear John Kazanjian and the Executive Board:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the scholarship I was awarded this summer to help with my college finances. The scholarship helped to ease some of the financial burden of my tuition and housing while attending Florida State University. My mother is currently not able to work due to her illness, so it felt good to be able to apply for the scholarship and help my family out.

Thank you again for the opportunity to apply and be awarded the scholarship.

Regards

Jake Penta

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