



# **Fraternal Order of Police**

**Florida State Lodge**

242 Office Plaza

Tallahassee, Florida 32301



Dear Friends and Supporters of the FOP,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable support of the Fraternal Order of Police across Florida. Your professional police officers and sheriff's deputies work very hard to reduce crime and enhance the delivery of police services to our neighborhoods to keep the communities we share a safe place in which to live and raise a family.

The Fraternal Order of Police was founded in 1915 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania by two police officers to promote the welfare of officers in their profession. From that humble beginning, the FOP now embraces over 325,000 members nationwide representing all ranks and retired officers and is recognized as the largest professional organization of law enforcement officers in the United States.

The FOP provides many services and benefits to our members and any law enforcement officer in need of assistance through our many programs. The Fraternal Order of Police actively supports many community and youth organizations. We strive to promote positive law enforcement within the community we serve and working together we can make our cities safer.

Law Enforcement Officers are dedicated to serve and protect their community. It takes a special courage to respond towards the dangers they may be called upon to face daily. The traffic officer who writes you a citation today, may risk his own life to save yours tomorrow without question. Sadly, it may well cost them their life. Such is the nature of police work and each officer knows well the likelihood and peril the next call could bring.

Each year, several officers are killed in the line of duty. The grief and sorrow of losing a friend or partner takes a toll on their fellow officers. A greater toll is exacted from the families. The Fraternal Order of Police recognizes this loss and honors the lives of those who are taken from among us. We support the survivors and families and have vowed to "never forget" these brave young men and women. In May of each year a memorial service is held in Tallahassee, Florida sponsored by the FOP. We bring together thousands of law enforcement officers to demonstrate our support for the families. Survivor grief counseling is offered to help cope with the empty uniform and badge that will never again be worn by their loved ones. We honor the lives of those who have been called upon to give the last measure of sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice. Prayers are said and tears fall on the cheeks of strong men and women of law enforcement. They proudly renew their dedication to their profession and continue to serve the communities in which they both live and work.

The names of our fallen officers are engraved upon the walls of the Law Enforcement Memorial Monument located on the grounds of the Florida Capitol. These names give pause to those who read them. Their memory is kept alive to fulfill our promise to "never forget".

Each year in May we add more names to the wall. Nine brave Florida Law Enforcement officers who died in 2006 while serving Florida's citizens were added, sixteen more remembered in 2007 and already in 2008, three more have given the ultimate sacrifice.

With the help of your generous donations we will assist the survivors and help the healing process while we honor the lives and memories of our brothers and sisters.

As the President of the Fraternal Order of Police Florida State Lodge representing 22,000 members, I consistently encourage all FOP members to support you, our great contributors, and recognize the partnership forged together as we strengthen the ties that are a common bond.

James W. Preston  
James W. Preston, President  
Florida State Lodge