

FOP FLORIDA ON PATROL

Fall/Winter 2006



From the President

In this issue:

President's
Message

FOP Foundation
Gets Grant

News From the
Grand Lodge

Hero Needs
Our Help

November
General Election

National Law
Enforcement
Museum

Heart Bill

We are well into the first 4 months of the new administration. Following the June Conference, the Executive Board held a long and productive transition meeting planning for the future of the Florida State Lodge. New officers and returning officers worked together presenting bright ideas and forward looking visions. Committees were staffed. The Legislative Committee has been realigned for more involvement and given the added responsibility for screening political candidates, combining these two committees. Edgar Burroughs, Nelson Cuba and Armando Aguilar are strong influences in this important area. We have been very active in the political arena during this mid-term election cycle. The Florida State Lodge has made dozens of endorsements in local and state races. The list is posted on our web site and I encourage you to support our candidates.

The Florida State Lodge web site has been improved and updated with more current and relevant information. The Breaking News section has articles and press releases from across Florida showing the very active role the FOP plays in Florida's law enforcement. If you have information you would like to share with the members, our web site is a forum that is available.

The web site also provides the ability for direct email communication from the state lodge to all members statewide. Sign on and provide your email address to receive important messages. Our webmaster has 6,000 addresses so far. We are gathering email addresses from all local lodge State Trustees in order to receive their input in a timely manner rather than waiting months trying to conduct business at one of the 3 Board Meetings. We have held several online votes to test the system.

Our Training Committee has been active providing a class to 28 members on "How to Represent Your Members" in Tampa during September. The class will be repeated during the October Board Meeting and is open to any law enforcement member. We are continuing to schedule classes on subjects that the members want.

The October Board Meeting is dedicated to the Memory of

Henry L. Marchman

1939—2006

Florida On Patrol

Fall 2006

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The Florida State Lodge fund raising efforts are being handled from our new Call Center in Tallahassee. Brother John Beeman accepted the position as Director of Fund Raising. He is doing a great job in monitoring and organizing the office to present a positive message to the public and be productive in our efforts to raise the funds necessary to operate your Florida State Lodge.

I am pleased to announce we have chartered a new lodge and welcome our newest brothers and sisters of Tampa Bay Federal Law Enforcement Lodge 4. Thanks to Brother Harold Hartford for his able assistance in forming this new lodge. When you meet some of these new members, hold out your hand and welcome them to our fraternity.

Robert E. Lister Lodge 66 presented a resolution to support our fellow officers serving in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency. Our National Trustee Pete Fire took this resolution to the National Board Meeting where it was adopted unanimously. These agents do a very important job for our country and deserve our support.

At the National Board Meeting I was updated by the New York State Lodge of the medical problems that many of the 911 rescue workers suffer. Over 70% of those who worked at Ground Zero had reported respiratory problems after being in the toxic atmosphere. The incubation period for some lung diseases can be 5 to 10 years following the event. New York has lost some officers who responded heroically to the disaster site, doing their duty. The terrorist act continues to claim victims. New York City has provided \$22 million for aid and research for these victims. I know many officers from Florida traveled to Ground Zero. You should continue to monitor your health if you are encountering respiratory problems. Florida Congressman Clay Shaw has introduced a bill to provide up to \$75 million in resources to provide free lung screenings for "first responders" who volunteered at the Trade Center site.

At the recent State Presidents Meeting issues were discussed and reported on from each State Lodge across the country. Florida is fifth in membership and light years ahead of many in the services we provide for our members. I was very proud to report on Florida.

At the State Lodge office, our very able staff is working hard to support our local lodges and members. We now have an overdue state of the art alarm system in place to protect the office and data.

Past President Bob Spiegel is recovering from heart surgery and we wish him well. Contact Bob, he would like to hear from you. Sadly, we lost a very good friend and long time member, Henry Marchman. Henry died unexpectedly after attending an FOP meeting. His contributions to the FOP, smiling face and positive outlook will be missed. Without objection, I would like to dedicate the October Board Meeting to the life and memory of Henry Marchman.

Polk County Deputy Sheriff Matt Williams and his K-9 partner Diogi were fatally gunned down on duty in Lakeland. Deputy Williams is the latest casualty and was honored by over 4,500 officers attending the remembrance service.

I hope to see many of you at the October Board Meeting. Please "Be Safe" out there.

Jim Preston

2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2nd Vice President

Lonnie Miller

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the state of Florida.



This year in St. Pete, Florida was the 57th Annual Fraternal Order of Police State Conference and election year. I placed my name in the election ring for the 2nd Vice President's position. And with your support and your votes and your confident in me, that

enabled me to be elected as your next state 2nd Vice President for the year June 2006 to June 2008. Thank you very much and that's not enough. The hours that each of you gave toward the election were many and the final result was a victory for the members in the state of Florida. I can only say Thank you again and again and that's not enough.

I can assure each of you, I will continue to up hold the standards of excellence that you have set for the position that I now hold. I will continue to labor to improve working conditions, wages and health care issues for all the members in the state of Florida.

I will continue to maintain the standards of Dare (Dependable, Accountable, Responsible and Experience) to assist me in my duties as your state 2nd vice president.

As a member of your newly elected state Executive board, I am looking forward to the coming new year with expectation of great success as I look a head.

With the coming year, I will be looking to you the members to embark on a new found participation in your state committees and activities, so your ideas can be address.

I am committed to attending one lodge meeting per month to hear the concerns that you want address. In July I traveled to the district 3 meeting in St. Pete, Fl. and in August I was at Lodge 5-30 meeting.

I traveled to Gainesville, Fl. to assist District Director #2, Jeff McAdams and the legislation committee with

the information meeting so the Fop again be at the leadership front with the A.S.O.

I will continue to maintain my presence in Tallahassee, Fl. to speak with our local and state officials from Jacksonville and from around the state about supporting law enforcement legislation that will assist each of our members in our duties.

I can sit here and write what I'll be doing all day, but action means more to me then words and that's what I'm about, action !!

These next few months will be watchful, due to the hurricane season heading our way, so be prepare so your family can be safe.

To each district director, please don't forget to have your members from your district assigned to their committees so all the committee assigned members can be assigned by October board meeting. Thank you for your assistance in this.

I am looking forward to working with the incoming E-board members who will be ushering in the coming year.

I can be reached at anytime by phone or e-mail.

Hm# 904-757-6016

Cel # 904-614-6016

Pg # 904-390-5355

[E-mail-Lonniejr@Comcast.net](mailto:Lonniejr@Comcast.net)

As I look to the exciting days a head, we need your support and ideas. This is your state lodge and only you can make it better.



FOP FOUNDATION GETS GRANT TO DEVELOP MODEL POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILIES DURING CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, announced that the National FOP Foundation has been awarded a grant to develop the Law Enforcement Families Readiness Initiative.

“It is fitting that the Foundation received this news at the start of National Preparedness Month, because what we hope to develop with this grant will help law enforcement officers and their families be better prepared for large scale critical incidents,” Canterbury said.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, which is a component of the Office of Justice Program at the U.S. Department of Justice, has awarded a two-year, \$750,000 grant to the National FOP Foundation to develop the Law Enforcement Families Readiness Initiative— a comprehensive model policy or best practices guide for use by local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies to design and implement a law enforcement family readiness plan.

“In the event of a critical incident which calls for an extended deployment or the evacuation of a widespread area, law enforcement officers are sworn to answer the call of duty,” Canterbury explained. “But these officers have families which may also be in harm’s way during a natural disaster, a large scale

terrorist attack, or a pandemic outbreak. In such a situation, the officer must find way to resolve the conflict between duty to his job and duty to see his family safe.

The National FOP Foundation will develop guidelines and model policies which can be implemented by law enforcement agencies to ensure a great state of readiness of the families of law enforcement officers in the event of critical incident. Readiness will entail sharing with law enforcement families current response scenarios as appropriate, briefing them on evacuation plans, and preparing them for situations in which their family member may be on duty for an extended period or time or separated from that family member because of an evacuation or quarantine.

“The officer, having the peace of mind that his family is informed and accepting of the role he must perform in these circumstances, will be able to wholly devote himself to his duty,” said Canterbury. “It will improve the readiness, the morale, and the effectiveness of the law enforcement officer and his agency as a whole.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the nation’s largest law enforcement labor organization, with more than 325,000 members. Visit the new Grand Lodge web site at www.fop.net. ■

BREAKFAST WITH CHARLIE CRIST

The Florida State Lodge is actively involved in the political process during the mid-term elections. We have selected those candidates whom we believe will work together with the FOP on issues important to our 22,000 members. Our Legislative Committee is actively preparing our agenda for the 2007 Legislative Session. We encourage you to become involved. Help with local campaigns and vote.

Jacksonville Lodge 5/30 President Nelson Cuba hosted a Breakfast with Gubernatorial Candidate Charlie Crist on Labor Day. Many lodge members and community friends gathered early on a holiday morning to meet and support Charlie. Jacksonville President Cuba will host a candidate’s forum and luncheon at the lodge. President Preston has invited Charlie Crist, Skip Campbell, Alex Sink and Charles Bronson to the October Board Meeting. ■



(l-r) Nelson Cuba, Charlie Crist, James Preston

NEWS FROM THE GRAND LODGE

Pension Reform Bill Eliminates DROP Provision and Includes HELPS Retirees Act

The F.O.P. scored a major legislative victory when the Senate passed H.R. 4, the "Pension Protection Act of 2006," by a 93-5 vote. This came after the House approved the bill 279-130 last week. The bill eliminates the Deferred Retirement Option Plans (DROP) provision, and includes the "Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act," both of which the F.O.P. had been lobbying for quite some time now.

"The bill is a major victory for our officers, many of whom are hurt by the DROP provision and have trouble affording decent health insurance," National President Chuck Canterbury stated. "Many of our officers are forced to retire earlier than the rest of the general population and are unfairly penalized because of this. This bill will help end this and save many of our officers a great deal of money."

The DROP provision, which is included in section 828 of H.R. 4, would eliminate the ten percent (10%) early withdrawal penalty from a government defined benefit plan for public safety officers participating in Deferred Retirement Option Plans (DROP). Under current law, a law enforcement officer who leaves active service before the age of 55 and opts to receive a lump-sum payment under DROP before the age of 59 ½ is subject to an early withdrawal penalty of ten percent (10%).

The HELPS provision, which is included in Section 845 of H.R. 4, would provide a modest tax benefit to help retired public safety officers afford health insurance by allowing the use, on a pretax basis, of up to \$3,000 annually from their pension funds (including defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans) to pay for premiums on health care and long-term care insurance.

The act is not retroactive and as such may not effect any individuals who have already separated from service. It is always best to check with your financial advisor. ■

The Federal Legislative Process

By Tim Ingold

"All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Congress of the United States, which shall consist of the Senate and House of Representatives."

Isn't that the way it always is, just when you think you have figured out all the idiosyncrasies in the State of Florida with regard to the state legislature, now there is another system of laws that begs our attention, The U. S. Congress. I'll admit up front, I've never been able to figure out how they accomplish anything on the federal level but a quick study has given me a glimmer of hope that we, the Florida State Lodge FOP, can make a difference for our members here at home.

Let's look at the Congress. The Senate is composed of 100 members, two from each state. In the State of Florida we have Sen. Bill Nelson and Sen. Mel Martinez. Their term of office is 6 years and one third of the total senate membership is elected every second year. The terms of each state senator is arranged so that they do not terminate at the same time. The House of Representatives is composed of 435 members elected every two years from among the 50 states, apportioned to their total populations. In Florida, we have 25 members in the House of Representatives. Under law, Congress must assemble at least once every year at noon of the 3rd day of January. A congress lasts for two years, divided into two sessions. The current congress, the 109th, ends its second session this year so that means the 110th Congress, and with possibly some new faces, will be taking office soon.

The chief function of the Congress is of course, making laws. An example of the various forms of congressional action is as follows. A "Bill" is the form used for most legislation. A bill originating in the House is designated by the letter "H.R." Bills are presented to the President for action when approved in identical form by both the House and Senate. Joint Resolutions may originate in either the

continued on page 6

House or Senate and there is little practical difference between a bill and a joint resolution. Joint Resolutions become law in the same manner as bills. During the 105th Congress, 1997-1998, 7,529 bills were introduced in both Houses.

Any member in the House may introduce a bill at anytime while the House is in session by simply placing it in the “hopper” provided for on the Clerk’s desk. The sponsor’s signature must appear on the bill and the bill may have an unlimited number of co-sponsors. The bill is assigned a number and referred to the appropriate committee by the Speaker. Committees study the bills, hear public testimony, amendments may be offered and members vote to accept or reject these changes. The bill then proceeds to the floor of the House in what may be a simple or very complex operation, depending upon debate, how much time will be allowed to hear the bill and whether amendments may be again offered. If the bill passes, it proceeds to the Senate for consideration where it must pass both bodies in the same form before it can be submitted to the President for signature into law. If the Senate changes the language of the bill, it must return to the House for concurrence or additional changes. This back and forth negotiation may occur on the House floor or in a conference committee where difference are often ironed out. After a measure has been passed in identical form by both the House and Senate, it is considered “enrolled” and then sent to the President who may sign the measure into law, or veto it and return it to Congress, let it become law without his/her signature or at the end of the session. This of course is a very simplistic explanation of a system limited by the size of this newsletter. You may of visit the internet and spend hours reading of the many twists and turns that a bill may take before we ever see it to fruition, but the point is made, there is nonetheless a system in place which we, the FOP can take advantage of to further our ultimate goal of securing benefits for our members here at home.

The Grand Lodge FOP is currently tracking some numerous bills that require our attention. They have identified four (4) such bills of critical importance to rank and file law enforcement officer during the 108th Congress. The Grand Lodge website is outstanding with regard to up to date information on the status of federal legislation. These bills can do much for our

membership and it is equally important that we do as much as possible to see that they pass from the House and Senate where they can be signed into law by our President. You can help today by investing a few minutes to see that your respective House member has co-sponsored an FOP priority bill. When the November elections are over, take a minute to schedule a meeting in their local legislative office to introduce yourself and your lodge to them. Tell them of the importance of our legislation and how they can help us, and equally as important how we can help them in their next campaign which is always right around the corner. ■

HERO NEEDS OUR HELP

There is no doubt that you have all heard the story, which was the cover article of the last National Journal entitled:

Handicapped Hero Saves the Day

For those of you who haven’t I’ll give you a quick recap.

On February 17, 2006 Officer Brian Harrison of the Baton Rouge Police Department and a member of Lodge 1 in Louisiana, was escorting a funeral procession. He came into contact with a traffic violator and approached him with intentions of issuing a citation. Officer Harrison was attacked, overpowered, and beaten badly.

As the violator and the officer struggled over the patrolman’s weapon momentum appeared to be shifting in the attacker’s favor. Several shots rang out; the violator fell limp. A bystander, a man with a gun in one hand and a walking cane in the other had intervened and saved Officer Harrison’s life.

Police reports state that Perry Stevens was walking outside an auto parts store when he happened upon the incident. Steven, who has a permit to carry a concealed weapon, recognized immediately that the patrolman was in trouble. He retrieved a .45 caliber pistol from his car and verbally addressed the assailant who ignored Steven’s commands. Stevens fired four shots into the assailant’s torso and again ordered the attacker to cease. The brave citizen is credited with saving Officer Brian Harrison’s life.

Continued on page 10

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release 09/20/2006

The Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police proudly announces our political endorsements to be recommended to our over 22,000 law enforcement FOP members in Florida for the November General Election.

CHARLIE CRIST for GOVERNOR

Charlie Crist continues to be a long time friend of the FOP and a strong advocate for public safety issues in Florida. He is an effective supporter of the Fraternal Order of Police and our goals of providing the highest level of law enforcement service to our communities while securing the benefits, training, equipment and rights our professional law enforcement officers require and deserve. Charlie is a strong, effective leader with the qualities and vision the citizens of Florida can trust. As our Attorney General, Charlie Crist has always been accessible and willing to listen to our issues. As a Senator, he sponsored the STOP (Stop turning out Prisoners Act) which required criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentences. Charlie was the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee, a strong advocate for criminal justice and victim's rights. At our annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service in Tallahassee last May, he remembered our fallen heroes and offered kind words of comfort to the survivor families. He knows the law enforcement profession, the risks and inherent dangers that Florida's thin blue line face daily while serving and protecting in Florida's communities against crime and terrorism. We are proud to reconfirm our endorsement of CHARLIE CRIST for GOVERNOR. He is the next Governor for Florida's future.

WALTER "SKIP" CAMPBELL for ATTORNEY GENERAL

Senator Skip Campbell has served the law enforcement profession and the citizens of Florida well in Tallahassee. Skip has worked tirelessly on legislative issues for law enforcement and criminal justice. As a 3 term Senator, Skip provided real insight and political efforts towards improving the Florida Retirement System for Special Risk members. The FOP recognized Senator Campbell with an "A+" and an Appreciation Award for Outstanding Legislative efforts during the 2006 Legislative Session. He

has been recognized by his legal peers as an effective and accomplished lawyer during his long career as an advocate for the rights of Florida's citizens. Senator Campbell's ability to reach across the aisle and work with a bi-partisan view point that gets the job done is an outstanding trait that we admire. As Attorney General, Skip Campbell will continue

his strong support of law enforcement issues that affect our membership serving on the front lines every day.

We believe Walter "Skip" Campbell will serve Florida and the Law Enforcement community with dedication and honor. The FOP is proud to endorse SKIP CAMPBELL for ATTORNEY GENERAL.

ALEX SINK for CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Alex Sink is a fresh new face with outstanding credentials and qualifications to serve as the next Chief Financial Officer for Florida. She has more than 25 years of financial leadership and business experience to bring to this job. Her experience as president of one of Florida's premier banking institutions means that Alex Sink has the fiscal responsibility to ensure the business of Florida is held to the highest standard. We have met with Alex Sink and believe she has a sincere and positive outlook that will contribute to her success as an advocate for all of Florida citizens and to hold insurance companies accountable to our homeowners. She is very concerned about insurance fraud and the effect it has on our citizens and the skyrocketing rates Florida now faces. She has the knowledge, experience and credentials this important job requires, and she understands the needs of our law enforcement personnel.

Continued on page 8

The FOP believes that Florida needs a strong Chief Financial Officer with the right experience to help deal with pressing issues in the state's finances and the Florida Retirement System. Alex Sink is that person. We are encouraged by her bright and intelligent viewpoint. The FOP is proud to endorse ALEX SINK for CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

CHARLIE BRONSON for COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

The Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police reconfirms our endorsement for Charlie Bronson as Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He is a strong ally. Having served in law enforcement, he knows and understands the issues our members face. Charlie Bronson is a good friend. We stand by him and the great job he is doing protecting Florida's agriculture industry and advocating for our consumers.

The Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police represents over 22,000 of Florida's finest active and retired professional law enforcement officers. The National FOP is the largest organization of law enforcement officers in the nation with over 325,000 members nationwide. For inquiries or questions contact the Florida State Lodge.

James W. Preston
President

ENCORE—GOVERNOR'S , MEDAL OF HEROISM AWARD

by Philip Cameron



I wanted to remind all of our members about the importance of this very prestigious award. Thus far this year , we have received additional nominations and hope to make those qualifying for the award presentations this year. That's where you come in. It is imperative that you go to the FSL/FOP website and by using this website, make nominations for deserving Public Safety Officers/Firefighters.

Above is a photograph of the original recipients pictured along with the Florida Cabinet. Please submit prospective candidates to the FSL/FOP office. ■

BEHIND THE EXHIBITS AT THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM:

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Exhibits

“History of Law Enforcement”, “Reel to Real” and the “Hall of Remembrance”

by Craig W. Floyd

In the “History of Law Enforcement,” visitors will learn about the evolving role of women in law enforcement. This interactive lesson will certainly include the fact that nearly 200 female officers have been killed in the line of duty, including some of the earliest: Anna Hart, who in 1916 was beaten to death in an attempted jail break in Hamilton County, Ohio; and Matron Mary T. Davis, who in 1924 was 67 years old when she was beaten to death by a woman prisoner at the Wilmington, Delaware, Jail.

The “History of Law Enforcement” section will look at the taming of the Wild West, the violent gangster era of the 1930s, the bloody battles against drug traffickers and now the war against terrorism—and the many police lives that were lost along the way.

The “History of Law Enforcement” part of the Museum will also devote considerable attention to the changing modes of transportation used in policing throughout history. Visitors will find that motorcycles were the main mode of transportation for police officers from about 1910 until 1940. This fact will be reinforced by highlighting the shocking number of officers killed in motorcycle accidents during that period of time—532—compared to 333 officers who died in automobile accidents during that same time-frame.

The perils of high-speed pursuits, which date back to at least 1922 when New York City Patrolman Frank S. Mondo was killed while chasing a speeding vehicle, will also be discussed. Airborne law enforcement has also played a crucial role in preserving public safety, and while the dangers may not be apparent, visitors will learn that more than 300 officers have been killed while patrolling in planes or helicopters.

Curving across the entrance of Reel to Real, a large filmstrip attracts visitors into the gallery and draws them through it. Here visitors will learn about the variety of sources and media from which we form our perceptions of law enforcement. As visitors approach this gallery, they will glimpse the muted light

of a movie playing through a perforated metal wall. They will enter the Cop Critique Theater and enjoy a lighthearted but accurate assessment by real law enforcement officers of their portrayal in movies and television shows.

The Cop Critique Theater will give visitors a chance to see more of their favorite fictional cops. After watching their favorite law enforcement show, the best police car chase, etc. They can then learn how their vote compares to that of other visitors and to law enforcement

The Reel to Real will also feature the Motorola Dial 911 Emergency Call Center. Here visitors will step into the real-life intensity of a 911 Call Center. To call 911 and know that help is on the way is the heart of our relationship with law enforcement.

The “Hall of Remembrance” is the heart of the Museum, both in terms of its prominent location and its compelling content. Displayed here will be the thousands of personal mementos that have been left at the Memorial over the years—powerful reminders that the loss of an officer is about much more than just names and numbers. Six multi-media stations will be available for family members, friends and colleagues to record audio and video reflections about a fallen officer. Those tributes will serve as

important oral histories that future generations of Museum visitors can access.

Interactive video systems will also allow visitors to see the photographs of fallen officers and learn their stories. Visitors will be introduced to the first officer killed in the line of duty, a New York City deputy sheriff named Isaac Smith, who made the ultimate sacrifice on May 17, 1792 while making an arrest. They might be surprised to learn that the oldest officer ever to be killed in the line of duty was Pulaski County (MO) Night Marshal Dotson “Pop” Sutton, who at the age of 80 in 1952 was struck and killed by an automobile.

Continued on page 10

Museum continued from page 9

Other unique characters from history will also be featured, like Robert Forsyth, a Revolutionary War hero appointed by President George Washington in 1789 to be one of the 13 original U.S. Marshals. On January 11, 1794, Marshal Forsyth was shot and killed in Augusta, Georgia, making him the first federal law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty.

Other stories of incredible heroism and selfless sacrifice will also be highlighted to demonstrate that no challenge is too difficult and no risk is too great for our officers. Examples might include the 72 officers who died on September 11, 2001, while rescuing thousands of innocent victims.

While the “Hall of Remembrance” focuses exclusively on the more than 17,000 officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice, the other three major exhibit areas will also highlight this theme.

There will be four light screens filled with images of the fallen officers whose names have been inscribed on the memorial in the past year. As part of the memorial ceremonies, these images will be changed every year and images of the newly fallen will take their place.

It's Your Museum: Help Tell Your Story

We also owe all law enforcement officers—past, present, and future—a commitment to building the National Law Enforcement Museum. To tell your story

properly, we need your help. That's why we've launched A Matter of Honor: The Campaign to Build the National Law Enforcement Museum. This \$80 million campaign--\$10 million of which we hope to raise from the law enforcement community—is a historic philanthropic initiative.

As a law enforcement professional, you are in a perfect position to help build the Museum. Two of the most important things you can do right now are:

Become a Law Enforcement Ambassador (LEA). LEA's help raise awareness and funds for the Museum, and share with their colleagues their commitment and support. In return, LEA's get exclusive benefits. For more information, call 202-737-3400 or email lea@nleomf.com.

Invest in A Matter of Honor: Give a gift to help build the Museum. Send your check, payable to: The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 400 7th Street (NW), Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Contributions for the capital campaign will be used to pay the costs of developing, building, equipping and operating the Museum. These costs may include pre-development work, planning, fundraising and other activities involved in building and operating the Museum. For more information, please contact the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund at

202-737-3400 or access the website at www.nleomf.com. ■

Hero, con't from page 6

Now Perry Stevens needs our help!

His current injuries and the neck brace are the results of a re-injury in 2004. He was struck by an uninsured motorist in a car crash and has disc injuries now. Due to these previous injuries doctors have told him that the only FDA approved surgery in the U.S. will be a fusion procedure. He will not have full movement in his neck, will lose 50% of swallowing capability, windpipe damage and a hole in his trachea. The use of a voice box on his throat would be necessary.

Instead he is trying to get \$40K to go to Bern, Switzerland where another procedure, artificial disc replacement vs. the disc fusion can be preformed. He would be 85% pain free and have movement in his neck. The \$40K will cover travel and follow up visits in the U.S.

An account in his name has been opened. Donations may be made at any Chase bank. Donations may also be made by sending them to Pamela Stephens PO Box 1343 Baton Rouge, La 70821. ■

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHY WE NEED THE “MALCOLM THOMPSON ACT”

A Heart Bill Story

Reprinted from Pinellas County FOP Lodge 43

President Tim Ingold

Dilated non-ischemic cardiomyopathy, that’s the diagnosis Dep. Charlie Vickers, got after nearly a week of hospitalization and testing after experiencing chest pains back in early June. Where do you go from here, the doctors weren’t necessarily offering an even chance of a cure either through surgery or medication. Charlie’s heart was operating at 17% of its normal capacity. The prognosis the doctors did offer is that if you do everything they tell you to do, take your medication and follow their strict guidelines then at best you have an opportunity for a “reduced lifetime expectancy.” Of course, a heart transplant may be a viable option in a few years, and the better you respond to treatment you can perhaps stave that off, but that option is certainly no stroll through a rose garden either.

Since that fateful day, Charlie and his wife Debbie have spoken to countless practitioners, worker’s compensation specialists, representatives from the Florida State Retirement System, attorneys, disability insurance vendors and social security disability representatives. Each having their own independent spin on what their respective area of expertise will or will not do for you. It’s troubling indeed to speak with one and not have all the answers, or for that matter any answers on how the other will react or for that matter even care about your overall disabling illness. At a time when stress is the last thing anyone needs on their plate, they have created an inordinate bureaucratic process that must be confronted by one person – Charlie Vickers.

One particular problem is the overall newness of the program in general. Although firefighters have had the benefit of the Heart Bill for over 26 years, they too to this day still experience the very same problems that we see. Clearwater Firefighters have filed several heart bill/worker’s compensation claims and at every turn the city has fought them. And this is true across the state. John Lee, President of the

Clearwater Fire Union, long ago referred our questions on the matter to their attorney, Nancy Cavey of St. Petersburg. Nancy you may remember put together a short program for our members at a monthly general membership meeting in 2002 shortly after the passage of the legislation. The Heart Bill, FSS 112.18, provides that any condition or impairment of health of any law enforcement officer caused by tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension resulting in total or partial disability or death shall be presumed to have been accidental and to have suffered in the line of duty. As such they are subject to worker’s compensation reporting and coverage.

Charlie’s initial experience with worker’s compensation was favorable. They paid his medical bills, co-pays, cost of prescriptions and 66.66% of his salary while he has been out of work. However, most recently Worker’s Comp specialists from the County working under Risk Management have themselves ruled that Charlie could return to duty, duty such as answering a telephone because obviously he is able to answer the phone at his house. And although Charlie’s primary care physician and cardiologist report that Charlie should never work as a law enforcement officer again and should under no circumstances work in any position creating stress, Risk Management has chosen to turn off Charlie’s worker’s comp benefits further citing he is “unwilling” to return to work. Could there be any doubt in anyone’s mind that a return to work will most certainly result in a premature death for our career Marine and brother law enforcement officer. This is not simply a matter of your fit return to work, any work, this is a financial decision that Risk Management has made in order to get Charlie off the worker’s compensation payroll books and reduce their future liability, plain and simple. Charlie is addressing this through the proper channels and we will monitor the progress of his appeal.

Continued on page 12

Several issues remain for Charlie and every law enforcement officer to follow up upon. Foremost is the passage of legislation that provides that a law enforcement officer who is unable to return to duty as a law enforcement officer, shall receive an FRS disability pension. This year the Florida State FOP made that their priority for the 2007 legislative session. For those who are able to return to work in another capacity, legislation that would provide a "Once High Risk – Always High Risk" pension that would ensure that if a law enforcement officer were in fact able to return to a civilian position, they would remain on their high risk retirement, 3% per year retiring after 25 years of service or at age 55. At this time, when offered another position in an agency, you forfeit your right to a high risk retirement and must work 30 years or age 62 to receive retirement benefits of 1.6% per year. These issues have been sought every year in the legislature and unfortunately, the League of Cities and Association of Counties often make these issues their #1 priority to defeat. This past year, Senate President Tom Lee refused to hear any FRS legislation, thus please remember to forget him at the ballot box in November. We need to send a strong message that those who do not support our heroes do not enjoy our support as well. We need your involvement in the legislative process to make these important issues happen, we need your support at monthly general membership meetings demonstrating to local elected officials that these issues are important to us.

One other issue that Charlie spoke of is the need for a local, educated, experienced and dedicated advocate who can speak and act for those affected tying together all the agencies, programs and benefits thereby reducing the confusion and lack of information available on the subject. In addition, this would reduce the mistrust between member and risk management officials. I would surmise that someone could be brought up to speed on these issues rather quickly and could work exclusively for the members benefit rather than the employer or risk manager. I have asked 2 of our FOP Reps, Kevin Judd and XXX to attend any and all upcoming training programs on FRS, long term disability, SSI and worker's compensation areas so that we have some in-house expertise, assistance and support for those who have the need for same. I have further asked the Sheriff to accommodate their training through use of FOP union pool time.

My thanks to Charlie for allowing me to share his story with you. We offer our prayers along with our desire to work to ensure that the next law enforcement officer who faces a hardship such as this will have benefited by the groundwork laid out by Charlie and Debbie Vickers.

Contact your State Representative and State Senator. Tell them Charlie's story. Together, let's make 2007 the year they pass the "Malcolm Thompson Act" for all officers in Florida. Tell them to stop stalling and 'do the right thing'. ■

J.L. PEGGS FINANCIAL



J.L. "Larry Peggs, R.F.C.

Larry Peggs is widely known throughout the State of Florida in Municipalities and Law Enforcement Circles as a specialist in Retirement, Investment, Insurance, and Tax Planning. As an independent financial professional, he has met with large and small groups, as well as with individuals, regarding the education and implementation of various retirement and estate plans. Mr. Peggs is registered with the National Association of Securities Dealers, and is a registered representative of Woodbury Financial Services, Inc., a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, 500 Bielenberg Dr., Woodbury, MN., 800-800-2000. Woodbury is a member of the Hartford Financial Services Group, one of the largest financial services companies in North America. He was admitted to the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants as a Registered Financial Consultant (RFC), in 1998 Larry Peggs is a licensed registered Representative in AZ, FL, IN, MI, NC, NY, OH, and is a Florida resident.

*Securities offered through Woodbury Financial Services, Inc., P.O. Box 64284, St. Paul, MN 55164, (800) 293-6784, Member NASD, SIPC. ■



Fraternal Order of Police

FLORIDA STATE LODGE



September 16, 2006

The Florida State Lodge is actively involved in the current political process at the national, state and local levels. Our Legislative Committee has been expanded and revitalized with a goal of being more assertive, aggressive and active through our endorsements in the campaigns and elections of officials supporting the FOP. Our legislative agenda of priority bills for the 2007 Legislature session is being finalized and sponsors are being secured. We will again be pursuing enhancements in Health Insurance Subsidies, redefining the definition of “disabled” for full pension purposes and improvements in the Florida Retirement System. We will be seeking additional funds for educational incentives. We are looking for additional safeguards in collective bargaining, arbitration and officer’s rights.

The Florida State Lodge and our members are strongly supporting our current Attorney General Charlie Crist (R) for Governor, to succeed Governor Jeb Bush who has served us well during his two terms as Florida’s Governor. Charlie has been a good friend to the FOP, and we look forward to a continuing favorable relationship.

Florida is a right to work state. We have collective bargaining and an Officer’s Bill of Rights. Our Labor Council represents 87 bargaining units with over 5500 members. Many of our larger counties and municipalities are represented by local FOP bargaining units as well, such as Pinellas County Lodge 43, Jacksonville Lodge 5/30 and Miami Lodge 20. These are strong, well functioning collective bargaining units serving our FOP brothers and sisters by securing increased benefits and working conditions while protecting their rights in the work place.

As everyone is aware, Florida has been impacted by natural disasters, along with many other coastal states. Eight major hurricanes in the last three years have left our state with many members affected or displaced by damaging winds and flooding. The roofing material of choice, the blue tarp, can still be seen across the state as we are recovering and repairing the damages. The Florida State Lodge Disaster Response Teams and Disaster Relief Fund has worked hard to assist our first responders immediately following a hurricane to stabilize their homes to reduce the stress and enable the officers to continue their important recovery work in their communities. Each of our 7 State Districts play an important role in the delivery of materials and supplies, generators and water and a labor force of volunteers working together to begin the recovery process. We have become proactive in securing funds and pre-positioning our resources to respond rather than taking a reactive stance. I urge every state lodge to have a disaster plan in place. Make preparations for natural or manmade disasters and be ready to respond to your members.

Communications through our web site have been greatly improved. We are capturing email addresses and developed web mailers to send our important information out in a timely and effective manner to keep the members informed. Additional improvements, as technology permits, are being planned. Our newsletter online has cut down on expensive printing and mailing costs, yet we are revisiting methods to provide relevant, interesting and important information to keep the membership informed.

The FOP Training Committee has been tasked with developing a training curriculum in conjunction with recruitment, public relations and expansion. At our last conference, a course on Officer Safety and Tactical Street Awareness was attended by 53 students many of whom were not FOP members. The Vice President of Taser International attended and provided valuable information to the students. The class included a section on Internal Affairs issues. It was well received and we plan to continue our educational services program. The next class will be “How to Represent you Members” in held in both Tampa and West Palm Beach.

Each year in May, the week proceeding National Police Memorial Week, the Florida State Lodge holds our state memorial service in Tallahassee with an evening candlelight vigil, followed the next morning with a parade to the grounds of the State Capitol. Several thousand officers gather with the survivors and families of our fallen heroes to honor their lives and renew our commitment to “never forget” their sacrifice.

A 5 year strategic plan is a major goal this year for each of our 21 committees. The financial health of the Florida State Lodge is paramount to running an effective operation and providing the benefits our members deserve and expect. Florida is fiscally sound and building upon our current resources. We are constantly looking to provide additional benefits and for funding sources. Florida is moving forward.

Fraternally,

James W. Preston

President

Fraternal Order of Police

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS



Past Florida State Lodge President Bob Spiegel is pictured with his wife Jackie recuperating at Tampa General Hospital following a heart operation. Bob is back at home now resting but must travel for treatment often back to Tampa. He would welcome your calls or cards. We wish him a speedy recovery.

2007 NATIONAL FOP CONFERENCE



The 2007 National Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, August 10 through 17, 2007. The Florida Delegation will use the Holiday Inn at 120 West Broadway. Our rate is \$121.00 per night with free parking. For Reservations call 800—626-1558 and be sure to mention the Florida State Lodge room block.



Fraternal Order of Police FLORIDA STATE LODGE



September 10, 2006

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

Salt Lake City, Utah

September 8-9, 2006

The Florida State Lodge was represented at the Grand Lodge National Board Meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah by our National Trustee Peter Fire. President Preston, Labor Counsel General Staff George Hachigian and Atlantic Beach President J.J. Faro attended. First, let me congratulate brother Fire for his excellent representation of our Florida interests before the Grand Lodge and the National Board of Trustees. Pete did a fine job for us. J.J. Faro serves on the Federal Officers Committee and George Hachigian is the Chairman of the Educational Services Committee. I serve on the Disaster Relief Fund Committee and presented the committee report to the National Board.

The hot issue before the board came in the form of an 87 page report by the National Labor Services Committee by Tim Mullaney, Chairman. The Grand Lodge Labor Program is endeavoring to provide assistance with labor services that is to include:

1. Contract Negotiation Assistance
2. Assistance in attaining collective bargaining rights
3. Legislative/Lobbying Assistance
4. Research
5. Legal Assistance
6. Training
7. Contract Enforcement and Grievance Programs
8. Healthcare
9. Financial Advice
10. Information Exchange
11. Contract Administration Training
12. Organizing Assistance
13. Marketing
14. Pensions
15. E-mail Labor Updates

The stated goal of the National FOP Labor Services Program is to ensure that every law enforcement officer in our nation has the right to collectively bargain with their employer and that an FOP Labor entity is the bargaining agent.

Continued on page 16

At the Spring 2006 Board of Directors meeting, the Board passed a motion: “The Future Planning Task Force Committee recommends that the Board direct the Labor Committee to develop a National Labor Program, including the costs associated to implement it, and a time frame to make it operational and to present its report to this body at the 2006 Fall Board Meeting”.

Some or a combination of these services would be available to the States and Local lodges. Several States with established Labor Councils and Labor Programs, like Florida, Illinois, Ohio and others currently have labor services and programs in place. “The Committee recommended that the NFOP not compete with FOP lodges in FOP labor entities who are labor service providers. If the NFOP is contacted by members who are unhappy with their current FOP labor services, the NFOP should contact the entity with the problem and work with them to resolve the problem”. The NFOP will not compete with the Florida Labor Council and will contact the Florida State Lodge upon receipt of any inquires from a Florida unit. The Florida Labor Council currently has 87 bargaining units in place and actively seeking to expand services. The NFOP would not compete with already established units/lodges (i.e. Jacksonville or Miami)

The Federal Officers in Florida seeking labor services in Florida will be able to avail themselves of the NFOP labor services and legal defense programs due to the complexities involved in representation on a Federal level.

This is a new program being offered by the NFOP. The Board of Trustees voted to fund two Staff Reps and one Legal Counsel at this time to begin the formation and establish the programs. A copy of the report will be available.

There was much discussion and debate on the Labor Services and Legal Defense issues. A forum was held to speak openly and frankly about the National Legal Defense Plan, coordinated by the Hylant Group. Michael Yon of the Hylant Group was present to respond to complaints, issues and suggestions on how to improve the plan and make it more attractive to members. Costs and limitations in coverage will be studied for future improvements. We will closely monitor and follow the success of the NFOP Labor Services Program.

Educational Services in the labor arena continues with our own George Hachigian as the Chairman of this committee. George has planned several new seminars and classes including the “Blue Print for Success”. Check the Grand Lodge web site for class dates and locations. George also reported on FOP University. A program offering a 20% discount in tuition at 10 different universities.

President Canterbury provided a lengthy report and comprehensive report to the Trustees. In the Legislative area, the FOP in both Georgia and D.C. worked very hard to secure the defeat of Representative Cynthia McKinney of Georgia. McKinney had struck a Capitol Police Officer, FOP member. After a long and protracted presentation to the DC Grand Jury which resulted in a vote against indictment, a campaign was begun to assist in helping Hank Johnson with his bid to unseat Representative McKinney. The DC Lodge 1, Georgia State Lodge and Georgia Dekalb County FOP Lodge joined forces and working together made this a reality. The local and state lodges endorsed Hank Johnson in his race. They worked hard on his campaign, conducting dozens of interviews with local media. Hank Johnson recognized them and the National Lodge PAC fund donation as playing a major role in his victory in the primary.

The FOP scored a major victory when the Senate passed H.R.4, the pension Protection Act of 2006 which will eliminate the ten percent early withdrawal penalty from a government defined benefit plan for public safety officers. The bill also included the HELPS provision which provides a tax benefit to help retired officers afford health insurance by allowing the use on a pre-tax basis of up to \$3,000 annually from their pension funds to pay for premiums on health care. The NFOP worked hard on this bill. It was a bill drafted and proposed by the FOP.

Continued on page 17

The Grand Lodge has moved into their permanent headquarters building in Nashville Tennessee. The new office is located at 701 Marriott Drive, Nashville, TN. A good feature about the new building is it is PAID for.

At this meeting, I learned of the untimely death of Palm Beach member Henry Marchman. I directed Pete to report the information to the National Board and a moment of silence was observed in his honor.

A resolution presented at the request of Lodge 66 was presented to the Board and was passed unanimously recognizing the work and efforts of the Customs and Border Protection Agents an officers and offering them our moral support.

The National Treasurer Tom Penozza reported on the financial position of the Grand Lodge which was favorable. National Secretary Pat Yoes reported on attempts to control and protect the emblem/trademark of the National symbol of the FOP. E-bay has reduced the number of items for sale to the public but refused to prohibit the offerings for sale completely. The NFOP is very protective of the FOP emblem.

The National Associates Lodge has designated the National Disaster Relief Fund and their “Charity of Choice”.

The National Disaster Relief Fund reported that \$848,000.00 was paid out following Hurricane Katrina to affected areas damaged by the storm. Many members in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana were affected and received assistance from the National Lodge. The fund currently has approximately \$95,000 in reserve. A grant from the DOJ in the amount of \$375,000 has been made for the purpose of assisting the families of officers who must continue to work. These funds will be earmarked to assist their families and to study how best to deliver services to them. The National Disaster Relief Fund responded early this summer to flooding in Bloomberg, Pa. with donations of cash and received a donation of 35 sets of BDU’s for the officers from Gall’s. The committee is continually looking for additional funding sources on a national level and urges all states to adopt a proactive approach to disaster preparedness. The state of New Jersey Lodge 148 presented an S.O.P. for Disaster Assistance.

Of interest to many members, was a report from New York City. Following the 9/11 disaster over 40,000 volunteers and workers participated in the rescue and recovery efforts. Many came from across the country to help. Mount Sinai Medical Center recently presented their findings on the persistent health crisis afflicting Ground Zero rescue and recovery workers. Finding that almost 70% of the workers suffered respiratory symptoms during or after their time at Ground Zero and more than 60% remained ill long after the cleanup, these men and

women became ill because they did their duty. The incubation period for serious lung and respiratory illnesses can be from 5 to 10 years. This information comes to light on the 5th anniversary of the attack. Mayor Bloomberg has set aside \$22 million to the Health Department unit that will monitor the WTC epidemic and another \$16 million will go to Bellevue Hospital clinic to help treat a range of people who were exposed to the dust and toxins that were in the air. Members from across the country who traveled to New York and worked at the WTC may now be able to relate any respiratory illness to their service at Ground Zero and should be aware of the potential for problems.

The minutes of the National Board meeting will be found on the National web site shortly. I will have a copy of the Trustees and Officers reports available. At the conclusion of the meeting both Boston and Salt Lake presented their bids to host the National Conference in 2011.

Fraternally,

James W. Preston, President

Florida State Lodge

AN OPEN LETTER TO ATTORNEY GRADY IRVIN

I had the opportunity to see your appearance on local television indicating your concerns over the death of Angilo Freeland and your apparent confusion over what to tell his children about their father. I am a simple man, I do not have a law degree, I do however pride myself on having some measure of common sense so let me give you some suggestions what to tell the Freeland children when they are at the age where they can understand and comprehend the demon that was their father.

Tell them that somewhere long ago Mr. Freeland's family failed to instill in him a sense of decency, a sense of respect for his fellow man and the ability to hold himself accountable for his own actions.

Tell them that their father made a conscious decision to be a common street criminal who apparently could not live under his own name out of fear of the consequences.

Tell them that their father apparently started making bad decisions long ago; decisions that led him to run from the law and his parental obligations; decisions that would forever change for the worse the lives of hundreds of decent, hard working friends and family members who shared DS Williams' desire to make this world a safer place.

Tell them their father made a conscious decision to kill an honorable man in cold blood for no other reason than he did not want to spend time in jail. Be sure and tell them that this was no desperate physical struggle to escape, but rather a calculated decision to execute two deputies and a patrol dog leaving them to die in dark woods far from their homes. Tell them but by the grace of God one of those deputies survived his physical wounds only to be forced to live forever with the memories of his friend's death.

Tell them of DS Williams', tell them of how, unlike their father he was a devoted family man and friend to many. Tell them of a wife without a husband and children without the father who loved them and took pride in being a part of their lives. Tell them of the void that can never be filled, dreams that can never be realized, and the grief and sorrow that will last hundreds of lifetimes.

Tell them that their father made a conscious decision to meet his end on his terms. He lay in wait almost 24 hours to ambush the next searcher when he could have at anytime during the night walked the hundred yards out to the road and surrendered. When they ask if the cops would have shot him if he surrendered, remind them that during the hours of the search many persons matching their father's description were contacted and released when their identity was confirmed, none were shot.

Tell them of the grief and soul searching the officers that shot their father will have to endure because of the bad decisions he made. Contrary to the popular beliefs of attorneys and conspiracy theorists, even the most justifiable shootings take a tremendous toll on the officers involved. The media scrutiny, the legal reviews and the threats of lawsuits make it a nightmare for those involved and all are never the same as before the incident. Ask a soldier who has experienced combat how easy it is to live with death.

Tell them there is an ancient and honorable book that proclaims that those that live by the sword, so shall they die by it, and so it was.

As to an inquiry, I hope you get all of them you ask for although I don't believe you will accept any results you don't agree with. Maybe you will get an answer as to how many wounds are acceptable, obviously by your statements eight is not a problem for one person if that person is a cop, but sixty-eight is too many if you are the person that shot the cop.

Mr. Irvin, your motives are translucent, you know that anyone can lodge a complaint with any of the many agencies that investigate alleged police misconduct and none of them require an attorney to do so. Your attempt at fifteen minutes of fame at the expense of grieving family and friends is sad, but not surprising. Good luck explaining the actions of Mr. Freeland and add me to the list, because I for one can't begin to understand them.

Sincerely,

Brian Garrett



Fraternal Order of Police FLORIDA STATE LODGE



LEGAL DEFENSE PLAN APPLICATION

Lodge Name and Number _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Social Security # _____

Number of Lodge members _____

Number of LDP members in your Lodge _____

I hereby apply for enrollment in the FOP-FL Labor Council Committee Legal Defense Plan (LDP), and agree to abide by all terms and conditions thereof. I understand that no coverage is in effect until this application is approved. To my knowledge I am not presently named in any suits, action or proceeding or under investigation for a duty-related incident with the following exception.

Signature _____ Date _____

All members should complete and sign an application. Please send all completed applications to:

Fraternal Order of Police
FL Labor Council Committee
242 Office Plaza
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Individual members cannot join the Legal Defense Plan. Membership must be through local Lodges. All payments to the FL Labor Council Committee are the responsibility of the Lodge on behalf of its individuals.