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Florida State FOP names Carey Baker Senator of the Year

Eustis, Florida – The Florida State Fraternal Order of Police named State Senator Carey Baker (R-Eustis) their 2009 Legislator of the Year today.

“As President of the Florida State Lodge, I am called upon to make many acknowledgements. This acknowledgment comes easily,” said Florida State Lodge President James W. Preston said in his award letter to Senator Baker. Preston acknowledged Baker’s “unwavering support of the law enforcement officers in this state” and his “commitment, leadership and dedication to public safety” in the State Senate.

Preston also thanked Senator Baker for his 28 years of service to America as a soldier in the Florida Army National Guard. “Your support of legislation that protects those officers that have been injured in the line of duty...only reinforces your patently obvious dedication to your country thru the National Guard. Thank you for serving your country and your state with distinction,” said Preston.

“This is an incredible honor from an outstanding organization,” Senator Baker said in response to the award. “The state FOP represents more than 20,000 brave men and women serving in Florida law enforcement agencies, public servants who deserve our respect and support in the Legislature. I thank the Florida State FOP for their continued efforts in Tallahassee on behalf of our heroes in law enforcement, and I will continue to stand alongside them in those efforts.”

Senator Baker has previously been recognized by the FOP as a “Senate Hero” for the 2009 Legislative Session.

ABOUT CAREY BAKER: Senator Carey Baker has served in the Florida Army National Guard for over 28 years. Most recently, he was deployed for a year in Iraq's Sunni Triangle during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Carey is also the owner of the nation's oldest continuously operating gun shop, the A.W. Peterson Gun Shop in Mount Dora, Florida.

Carey currently represents Florida's 20th District in the State Senate, which includes parts of Lake, Marion, Volusia, Seminole and Sumter Counties. He has announced his candidacy for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, a position that oversees the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and is one of four statewide elected members of the Florida Cabinet.