



Florida Police Chiefs Association

Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

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FLORIDA POLICE CHIEFS HONOR OFFICERS, AGENCIES FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) today announced the recipients of numerous awards honoring law enforcement officers and agencies for outstanding service and acts of bravery. The officers and agencies received their awards last night during the FPCA's 63rd Annual Installation and Awards Banquet, held in conjunction with the association's Summer Training Conference. The FPCA presented a total of 12 awards, including the Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Awards, the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Awards, the Wall of Honor Awards, the FPCA President's Choice Award and the FPCA Director's Choice Award.

"The FPCA is proud to recognize these outstanding men, women and entire departments for their exceptional service to each other and to their communities," said Winter Park Chief of Police Brett Railey, the 2015-2016 President of the FPCA. "These winners have demonstrated that Florida's law enforcement community is second to none."

The first awards presented were the President's Choice Award and the Director's Choice Award, each of which recognizes an individual for exceptional performance and/or his or her support or service to the President, the Association and the advancement of the law enforcement profession. The 2015 President's Choice Award recipient was Chief Brian J. Smith of the Juno Beach Police Department. Chief Smith was honored for his continued support of Chief Frank Kitzerow and his initiatives during his 2014/2015 presidency of the FPCA.

"This past year was an exciting year for the FPCA and our members, and I greatly appreciate Chief Smith's steadfast support, excellent guidance and thoughtful feedback," said Chief Kitzerow, of the Jupiter Beach Police Department.

The 2015 Director's Choice Award was presented to Chief Chris Nelson of the Auburndale Police Department. Chief Nelson was recognized for his hard work on updating the FPCA Bylaws and for enhancing the FPCA's training programs.

"Chief Nelson's leadership was immensely helpful to our organization this year," said Amy Mercer, Executive Director of the FPCA. "Our members will benefit greatly from our enhanced training programs that he oversaw."

The Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Award was established in 1998 to recognize police officers who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and shown a genuine commitment to their profession, their agencies and the public they serve. The Rocky Pomerance Awards recognize excellence in policing and encourage the sharing of best practices and programs developed to address community problems, enhancing the agencies in the eyes of their respective communities. Both awards are bestowed in categories for small, medium and large agencies.

For small agencies of 30 or fewer sworn officers, the Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Award was given to Sergeant Anthony Kelly of the Mexico Beach Police Department. Sergeant Kelly was recognized for assisting two Bay County Sheriff's deputies with the evacuation of a building on fire, even though he had just completed a 12-hour shift and was off duty. The Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award was given to the Fellsmere Police Department for the department's efforts to initiate a partner institution policing model, where law enforcement proactively works with other institutions, including faith-based organizations and families, to better serve their community.

The Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Award for medium-sized agencies, with 31-75 sworn officers, recognized several members of the Florida State University Police Department for their involvement in an active shooter situation on campus. Officers Daniel Cutchins, Oma Nations, Orenthya Sloan, Parise Adams and Sergeant Roy Wiley were the first officers on the scene and through their engagement with the shooter, they were able to protect hundreds of students

studying in the library during the event. In this same category, the Pinecrest Police Department won the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award for instituting a digital format for sharing Be On the Look Out fliers. The new system was created in partnership with Florida International University and has dramatically increased the speed with which a flier may be shared across a region.

For large agencies with more than 75 sworn officers, the Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Award was awarded to Officer Mark Lewis and Investigator Scott Angulo of the Tallahassee Police Department. These men entered a gun battle in which a shooter was actively targeting law enforcement officers and, placing themselves between the shooter and wounded or fallen Sheriff's deputies, returned fire and ended the lethal confrontation. The Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policy Award went to the St. Cloud Police Department for their development of the St. Cloud Senior Watch in coordination with the Osceola Council on Aging. The program helps senior citizens, primarily those who live alone, by providing crime prevention services and improving information available for first responders.

The FPCA also presented two Wall of Honor awards, intended to recognize people who have contributed greatly to the FPCA. The recipients are recommended by current or past FPCA members. Award recipients will receive special recognition on display at the new FPCA headquarters in Tallahassee. This year, Chief Sid Klein, Clearwater's former Chief of Police, and Chief David Milchan, the former police chief for Pinellas Park and a past president of FPCA, were honored with the Wall of Honor award. Both men were recognized for their continued service to their communities, their police departments and the FPCA over many years.

The FPCA is the third largest state police chiefs association in the nation and is composed of more than 900 of the state's top law enforcement executives. FPCA serves municipal police departments, airport police, college and university police, private business and security firms, as well as federal, state and county law enforcement agencies. The FPCA has members representing every region of the state.

Additional Statements:

Mexico Beach Police Department: "Sgt. Kelly is the first recipient from the Mexico Beach Police Department to achieve this high honor, and we are fortunate to have him as a member of our department," said Police Chief J. Glenn Norris. "The truly unselfish and expedient actions of this officer show his integrity and solidify the respect he has for human life. He is truly an outstanding officer, and we are all very proud as he receives this award."

Fellsmere Police Department: "We're thrilled to be receiving this award from the FPCA on behalf of our community, because this has been the result of a community partnership," said Fellsmere Police Chief Keith Touchberry. "This initiative has made a tremendous difference; all of us are able to come together as a community, work together on our issues and pursue shared solutions."

Florida State University Police Department: "I am extremely proud of the officers who have been selected as the FPCA Officers of the Year," said Florida State University Police Chief David Perry. "Their bravery and valor is a reminder of the sacrifices men and women in law enforcement are willing to make for their communities. I salute these heroes!"

Pinecrest Police Department: "I am thrilled that we successfully developed an innovative idea, which I believe will contribute, in a meaningful way, to the Miami-Dade Police Department's real time crime center," said Pinecrest Police Chief Samuel Ceballos, Jr. "I look forward to collaborating with the leaders of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police to implement the web-based BOLO solution, and I am grateful to Florida International University for turning our vision into reality."

Tallahassee Police Department: "Through the selfless acts of Officers Lewis and Angulo the loss of life in this incident was kept to a minimum," said Tallahassee Police Chief Michael J. DeLeo. "I applaud these two incredible acts of courage and heroism and am grateful to have these extraordinary officers as part of our team at our department."

St. Cloud Police Department: "The St. Cloud Police Department is very honored to receive this prestigious award," said St. Cloud Police Chief Peter Gauntlett. "Our steadfast commitment to serving and protecting our 'Greatest Generation' ensures our senior citizens have safety and comfort in their homes. Our Community Policing Initiative helps give back to those who gave us so much."