



For Immediate Release:
Friday, August 22, 2022

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Florida Police Chiefs Association Announces 2022 Legislators of the Year

CORRECTION NOTICE: *This copy reflects the addition of legislators who could not attend the ceremony and received their awards in absentia.*

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) announced the 2022 Legislator of the Year award recipients at the FPCA's 70th Annual Summer Training Conference and Exposition awards banquet held in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

"Every year, the Florida Police Chiefs Association honors those legislators who, through hard work and dedication, demonstrate their commitment to the betterment of law enforcement and public safety in Florida," said FPCA President and Fellsmere Police Department Chief Keith Touchberry. "This year, we applaud each of these Senators and Representatives for passing legislation that improves officers' lives and their families' lives by recognizing the hard work of law enforcement, and expanding the time to seek and receive potentially life-changing mental health treatment."

Said FPCA Immediate Past President Director Stephan Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department, "I'm honored that as one of my last acts as president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, I gave our Legislator of the Year awards to this distinguished group of public servants."

Receiving the awards were:

Senate President Wilton Simpson
Senator Jennifer Bradley
Senator Danny Burgess
Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls
Representative Mike Giallombardo
Representative Jason Fischer
Representative Tom Leek
Representative Josie Tomkow

Sponsored by Representatives Giallombardo and Fischer, and Senators Bradley and Burgess, HB 689 was FPCA’s top legislative priority for 2022. The bill expands the time for a first responder to report post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in order to qualify for workers’ compensation benefits and treatment.

Sponsored by Representatives Tomkow and Leek, HJR 1 and the implementing measure HB 1563 propose an additional \$50,000 homestead property tax exemption for first responders, as an acknowledgement of their contribution to the public welfare, and to help recruit and retain the best officers. The constitutional amendment must still be approved by voters this November.

As leader of the upper chamber, Senate President Simpson worked diligently to ensure passage of HB 689 and HJR 1 / HB 1563, and stood strongly against calls to defund the police. In addition to awarding him Legislator of the Year, FPCA also proudly endorsed Wilton Simpson for Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls has been a staunch supporter of FPCA’s priorities, and this year was no different. His leadership was critical to the passage of some of the most impactful public safety legislation, including HB 3 which will greatly assist with the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers in Florida.



L-R: Senate President Wilton Simpson; Director Stephan Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department, FPCA Immediate Past President; FPCA Executive Director Jennifer “Cookie” Pritt.



L-R: Senator Jennifer Bradley; Director Stephan Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department, FPCA Immediate Past President; FPCA Executive Director Jennifer “Cookie” Pritt.



L-R: FPCA Executive Director Jennifer “Cookie” Pritt; Senator Danny Burgess; Director Stephan Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department, FPCA Immediate Past President



L-R: Director Stephan Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department, FPCA Immediate Past President; Representative Josie Tomkow; FPCA Executive Director Jennifer “Cookie” Pritt.



L-R: FPCA Executive Director Jennifer “Cookie” Pritt; Representative Jason Fischer; Director Stephan Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department, FPCA Immediate Past President

About the Florida Police Chiefs Association

The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) is the nation's pre-eminent law enforcement professional association, speaking for over 1,000 of Florida's top law enforcement executives, and providing guidance and leadership for the future of law enforcement and our communities. The FPCA serves municipal, airport, college and university, and tribal police departments, as well as private businesses and security firms and federal, state and county law enforcement agencies across every region of the state. For more information about the FPCA, please visit www.fPCA.com.

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