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## **Florida Police Chiefs Association Announces 2021 Outstanding Officers, Agencies, and Partnerships of the Year U.S. Senator Marco Rubio Provides Keynote Address**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) announced the 2021 Outstanding Officers and Agencies of the Year, and the Operation / Cooperation and Pillars of Success awards at the FPCA's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Training Conference and Exposition held in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

FPCA President and Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department Director Stephan Dembinsky said, "The accomplishments of the officers, agencies, and citizens recognized this year embody the highest ideals of our profession, and we were honored to have U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, an incredible champion of law enforcement and public safety, further honor these award winners with his keynote address."

The Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Awards recognize individual officers for outstanding police work, based on agency size. The recipients were:

Officer Richard W. Menor, West Miami Police Department, Small Agency  
Corporal Courtney Weddington, Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Medium Agency  
Officer Staci Chastain, Davie Police Department, Large Agency

Sponsoring the Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Awards was Publix.

The Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Awards recognize member agencies, also based on size, that develop and implement innovative approaches to policing. The recipients were:

Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Medium Agency  
St. Petersburg Police Department, Large Agency  
Sponsoring the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Awards was United Badges Insurance Services.

The Operation Cooperation Award recognizes excellence in private sector partnerships with law enforcement agencies working together to address community needs and enhance public safety. The recipients were:

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck and Pam Halberg and the Delray Beach Police Department.

The Pillars of Success Award recognizes individuals who previously served as law enforcement officers and who have successfully transitioned to the private sector. The recipient was:

Retired Chief Don De Lucca with V2 Global.

Sponsoring the Operation Cooperation and Pillars of Success awards was Redspeed.

More detail on each of the award recipients follows.

#### **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](http://www.fPCA.com).

## Fort Walton Beach Police Department

The City of Fort Walton Beach developed a NOW (No Opportunity Wasted) philosophy to take community policing to the next level. Due to staffing reductions and high turnovers, the agency had retreated from community engagement, but in 2020, the department applied for and received a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to add three officers for community engagement activities. After hiring the COPS personnel, the Department restarted its community policing unit in early 2021. Officers at all levels began looking for every opportunity to engage with the public and establish ongoing partnerships, and social media engagement grew significantly. The NOW philosophy contributed significantly to reducing crime by three percent in 2021 compared to 2020, the lowest level in more than 15 years.



L-R: Allen Durham, United Badges Insurance Services; Chief Larry Krantz, FPCA Awards Committee Chair; Chief Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach PD; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President

## St. Petersburg Police Department

In July of 2020, the department embarked on a plan to reimagine policing, with the CALL (Community Assistance & Life Liaison) Program as the cornerstone of the announcement. Beginning in January, 2021, as a 9-month pilot that has now been extended into a two-year contract, CALL is a partnership between the department and the non-profit Gulf Coast JFCS (Jewish Family and Community Services) to provide a non-police response to nonviolent and noncriminal calls for service. CALL has significantly diverted nonviolent and noncriminal service events from law enforcement, including mental health, substance abuse, homeless-related, truancy, and neighborhood disputes. To date there have been no incidents of violence or injury during these responses from the CALL team. The CALL program is effectively addressing community needs by providing an improvement in response for citizens with quality-of-life related concerns.



L-R: Allen Durham, United Badges Insurance Services; Chief Larry Krantz, FPCA Awards Committee Chair; Megan McGee, Special Projects Manager, St. Petersburg PD; Terri Balliet, COO, Gulf Coast JFCS; Assistant Chief Antonio Gilliam, Chief Anthony Holloway, St. Petersburg PD; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President



### Officer Richard W. Menor

On January 18th, 2021, while in an off-duty capacity, Officer Menor was enjoying lunch in Hallandale Beach when he heard gunshots coming from the adjacent parking lot. Officer Menor immediately identified himself as a police officer, drew his firearm, and began advising patrons and employees to take cover. He then observed a female victim crawling towards him from the parking lot area. The victim was in obvious medical distress, bleeding profusely from her lower extremities. After conducting a swift assessment, Officer Menor realized that a bullet wound to the victim's right leg was causing arterial bleeding from which, he realized, the victim would not survive without immediate first aid. Officer Menor moved the victim to safe cover behind a booth, removed his belt, and while shielding the victim applied it as a tourniquet on the victim's leg until Fire Rescue arrived. Officer Menor is recognized and commended for his bravery, situational awareness, and quick decision-making which saved the life of this victim and possibly the lives of the other patrons and employees as well.



L-R: Officer Richard W. Menor, Major Pedro Delgado, West Miami PD; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President

### Corporal Courtney Weddington

Corporal Weddington has made a significant contribution to the Fort Walton Beach Police Department's community engagement efforts by taking the initiative and asking for the collateral responsibility for the department's social media accounts. Beginning in July, 2021, with little equipment or training, Corporal Weddington's informative and engaging still and video social media posts increased the department's Facebook followers to over 17,000 and reach from 44,000 to over 370,000, and Instagram followers to over 2,600 and reach from 1,993 to over 60,000. Her work has made the department's social media pages some of the most followed pages in the community, helping create a positive image of policing in the community and strengthening camaraderie within the department.



L-R: Major Mark Raiche, Chief Robert Bage, Corporal Courtney Weddington, Fort Walton Beach PD; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President



## Officer Staci Chastain

Officer Chastain was selected into the department's community policing unit and has profoundly impacted the community over the past year. First as a member of the department's COVID task force, charged with developing relationships and education of the county's emergency orders, then as a volunteer member of the newly established Broward County LGBTQ+ Coalition, and again as a point of contact and now Board Secretary of the Broward County Multi-Agency Homeless Taskforce, Officer Chastain has gone above and beyond dedicating herself to her community. In an environment where much of police work is reactive, Officer Chastain consistently seeks out those in need and cultivates lasting relationships. Her determination to aid others is an accurate representation of an exceptional law enforcement officer.



L-R: Lieutenant Patricia Ravine, Chief Stephan Kinsey, Officer Staci Chastain, Davie PD; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President

### Chuck and Pam Halberg / Delray Beach Police Department

Mr. and Mrs. Halberg are long-time residents of Delray Beach and the owners of a local construction company (Stuart and Shelby Development). For decades, they have supported the Delray Beach Police Department and community. In 2021, they led, hosted, and supported countless projects within the community that greatly enhanced the image of the Delray Beach Police Department, including initiating and raising funds for a variety of community related initiatives via Delray Citizens for Delray Police. The unrelenting generosity and kindness Mr. and Mrs. Halberg and the entire Halberg family have shown to the Delray Beach community and police department are a testament to their great character.



L-R: U.S. Marshal Bill Berger, FPCA Public Private Partnership Committee; Chuck Halberg; Pam Halberg; Chief Javaro Sims, Delray Beach PD; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President



## Chief Don De Lucca

Chief De Lucca is a thirty-three-year law enforcement professional. In 2014, he was appointed Chief of the City of Doral Florida Police Department where he served until retirement. Prior to that he served as Chief of the Golden Beach Police Department, and prior to that served over 26 years with the Miami Beach Police Department. In 2016, he was elected as President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief De Lucca received "The Outstanding Law Enforcement Leadership Award" in 2015 and in 2016 by the Miami-Dade County Police Benevolent Association and the 2018 Outstanding Alumni Award from Barry University. In April, 2018, he joined V2 Global, a business intelligence, crisis management, security services, and risk mitigation company as a partner.



L-R: U.S. Marshal Bill Berger, FPCA Public Private Partnership Committee; Retired Chief Don De Lucca; Director Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President

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