



For Immediate Release:

Friday, July 17, 2026

Contact: Jennifer Pritt, Executive Director (850)-219-3631, info@fpca.com

Florida Police Chiefs Association Announces Winners for 2026

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) announced the 2026 William B. Berger Outstanding Chief Executive of the Year and a series of additional awards and recognitions at the FPCA's 74th Annual Summer Training Conference and Exposition held in Orlando, FL.

After making the awards as his last acts as FPCA president, Fort Walton Beach Police Department Chief Robert Bage said, "I am reminded that organizations do not move forward because of one leader, they move forward because people are willing to listen, collaborate, and serve something greater than themselves. The Florida Police Chiefs Association has always been about its members, and I leave this role more confident than ever that our best days are still ahead. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve. Together, we have strengthened this Association, and together, we will continue strengthening our profession."

The **William B. Berger Outstanding Chief Executive of the Year** award recognizes an individual for exceptional performance and support and advancement of the law enforcement profession. This year's recipient was:

Chief David Brannon, Bunnell Police Department

Sponsoring the William B. Berger Outstanding Chief Executive of the Year award was Security Industry Alarm Coalition.

FPCA recognizes that law enforcement is a team effort, including non-sworn personnel serving in many and sometimes multiple roles. Nominations for these awards surged this year, and the recipients of these awards based on agency size were:

Civilian Employee of the Year

Tammy Pearson, Wauchula Police Department, Small Agency
Lauree Green, Marco Island Police Department, Medium Agency
Sara Clymer, Tampa International Airport Police Department, Large Agency

Sponsoring the Civilian Employee of the Year Awards was Virtual Academy.

Dispatcher of the Year

James Dumas, Orange Park Police Department, Small Agency
Kira Huyghue, Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Medium Agency
Jamie Peterson, Tallahassee Leon County Consolidated Dispatch Agency, Large Agency

Sponsoring the Dispatcher of the Year Awards was Virtual Academy.

Administrative Assistant of the Year

Sarah Grissett, Tallahassee State College Police Department, Small Agency
Sheila Powers, Temple Terrace Police Department, Medium Agency
Ida Walker, Tampa Police Department, Large Agency

Sponsoring the Administrative Assistant of the Year Awards was Miller Electric.

The **Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year** Awards recognize individual officers for outstanding police work, also according to agency size. The recipients were:

Detective Lazaro Jimenez, West Miami Police Department, Small Agency
Corporal Carlos Estrada, Miccosukee Police Department, Medium Agency
Detective Gedeus Frederick, North Miami Police Department, Large Agency

Sponsoring the Lee McGehee Police Officer of the Year Awards was Publix Super Markets, Inc.

The **Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing** Award recognizes member agencies that develop and implement innovative approaches to policing. The recipients were:

Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Medium Agency
Coconut Creek Police Department, Large Agency

Sponsoring the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award was United Badges Insurance Services.

The **Public Private Partnership Committee's (PPPC) 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:

Thomas & Tina Pepin, Pepin Distributing Company, LLC and the St. Petersburg Police Department

Sponsoring the Public Private Partnership Cooperation Award was RedSpeed.

The **Outstanding Command Officer of the Year Award** recognizes excellence in law enforcement management and administration. The recipient was:

Deputy Chief Shane Porter, Florida State University Police Department

Sponsoring the Command Officer of the Year Award was Virtual Academy.

The recipient of the **FPCA's President's Award** for exceptional service to FPCA was:

FPCA Executive Director Jennifer "Cookie" Pritt

Inclusion in the **FPCA's Wall of Honor** is the Association's highest award, and the Association is proud to include:

Retired Chief Stephan "Ski" Dembinsky, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department

In addition, the **FPCA Executive Director Guardian & Warrior Awards** were awarded to the following individuals:

Representative Danny Alvarez
Retired Chief, Doug Muldoon Palm Bay Police Department
Secretary Matthew Walsh, Department of Juvenile Justice
Chief Kris Kuehn, Cocoa Beach Police Department

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 1,300 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.