

**Deputy Michael Braswell**  
**Polk County Sheriff's Office**  
**Nominated by the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police**

Deputy Braswell is an eleven year veteran of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

On June 25, 2010, Deputy Braswell and his partner, Paul Fairbanks, were working in conjunction with the Proactive Community Attack Program investigating a series of burglary trends in an area neighborhood.

The deputies noticed a young man riding a bicycle down the road late at night, which would not have drawn further observations except for the late hour. Deputy Braswell's suspicions grew when the individual quickly crossed the street and later jumped off his bike upon realizing that they were law enforcement.

Deputy Braswell later stated that "It was the look on his face when we pulled him over...the wad of cash that fell from his pocket. I've seen it 100 times and every time its drug related."

After pulling him over to ask if everything was alright, Deputy Braswell and his partner attempted to build a rapport with the young man. A short time later the suspect agreed to allow the deputies to search him, gave them his ID and headed toward the Police car for a pat down.

Deputy Braswell was following behind him when the suspect suddenly turned around with a weapon in his hands and fired several shots that struck his partner, Deputy Fairbanks. Deputy Braswell watched his partner stumbled backwards and fell to the ground after being shot.

Deputy Braswell, who was only five to seven feet away from the suspect, returned fire while simultaneously being shot by the suspect. Braswell was hit twice in the vest, once in the hand and once in the leg as he fell to the ground.

The two deputies and the suspect were all lying wounded on the ground as Deputy Braswell watched his partner fight for his life. Deputy Braswell ordered the suspect not to move because nobody had to die that night, but the suspect continued to move towards the gun he had dropped which forcing Deputy Braswell to shoot him again in order to stop the continued threat to their lives.

Deputy Braswell fought back under extremely stressful circumstances to save the life of his partner and his own from a suspect who was determined to take theirs.

Deputy Braswell remained calm as he comforted his wounded partner even though he himself had been shot four times. He radioed for assistance and stayed composed throughout the ordeal. His instincts and his will to survive saved their lives.

Doctors told him that he was nearly fatally wounded and that the bullet in his leg was only one centimeter away from taking his life.

Deputy Braswell recovered from his near fatal wounds and returned to work 6 weeks later and continues to serve his community with pride.

For his heroic actions, he was named the Polk County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff of the Year at their 2011 annual awards ceremony by Sheriff Grady Judd. He was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Medal of Honor, the highest award presented by the Sheriff's Office, for his actions in the early morning hours of June 25.

He was also named one of the top ten officers in the nation by the National Association of Police Organizations' (NAPO) TOP COP at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

**Detective Scott Frantz**  
**Daytona Beach Police Department**  
**Nominated by the Florida Retail Federation**

Detective Frantz began his law enforcement career in the United States Army by serving as a military police officer for three years. He then joined the Daytona Beach Police Department part-time in January 1992, and has been working full-time for the Department for the past 19 years.

He is a highly motivated and driven individual who is a team player. He is the senior detective in his unit and mentors the newly assigned members and makes sure they are welcomed and ready to go.

Detective Frantz carries a full case load in the department's Criminal Investigations Division in addition to taking on the lead role of all the department's Organized Retail Crime cases. He is committed to reducing organized retail crimes that occur in Daytona Beach and spends hours of his own time researching and developing informants and relationships with companies in town to make a noticeable impact on these types of crimes.

Detective Frantz, in conjunction with Publix, Walgreens, and CVS Pharmacies conducted a lengthy and still ongoing investigation into Organized Retail Thefts within the City of Daytona Beach. Detective Frantz has been the lead Detective and also supervised many aspects of these investigations.

To date Detective Frantz has dismantled an organization responsible for over three million dollars in theft and losses to CVS and Publix stores in and around the Daytona Beach area.

One, three month operation utilized an undercover officer, a confidential informant and surveillance of three stores within Daytona Beach that had been identified as buying and encouraging thefts. The officer and the confidential informant were able to obtain a list of items the stores wanted stolen and subsequently sell items from the list to the store.

At a later date, detectives purchased the same items from the store shelves of these three stores in order to show the stores were also reselling the items.

On the last day of the operation, detectives sold 505 cartons of cigarettes to one store for \$7,500 just prior to executing simultaneous search warrants at all three locations.

More than \$40,000 in cases was seized, along with over \$10,000 in stolen items, and the three individuals who owed the stores were arrested.

This operation resulted in the dismantling of a million dollar organized retail crime ring that had three fences and ten professional shoplifters acting in concert with the owners.

For the past five years, Detective Frantz has participated in the Police Unity Tour. This is a 250-mile bicycle ride from Portsmouth, Virginia to Washington, D.C., to raise money

for the National Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Memorial and to honor law enforcement officers and the families of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

**Officer Ernest Goram**  
**Tallahassee Police Department**  
**Nominated by the Florida Police Chiefs Association**

Officer Ernest Goram has been with the Tallahassee Police Department since July 1, 2008.

In the early morning hours of November 23, 2010, Officer Goram was first on scene after being dispatched to a significant house fire. He quickly learned from the resident, that her four young children, ages 10, 7, 4, and 3 were still inside.

Officer Goram and Sergeant Reginald Lawyer made their way to the rear of the residence looking for a point of entry. Officer Goram discovered a low-hanging roof window with access to the second story. He attempted to climb a nearby fence to access the roof, but it quickly collapsed. Being undeterred by this immediate setback, he utilized Sgt. Lawyer as a human ladder and climbed onto his shoulders to gain access to the roof.

Once on the roof; he heard the screams of the children from inside the residence. He began calling to the children through a broken window where thick black smoke was billowing out thus preventing Officer Goram from seeing inside.

After many tense moments of attempting to get the children to respond to him, he was finally able to get the first child to walk to the window. He was able to pull the child onto the roof through the window. One by one the next two children followed Officer Goram's flashlight signal, along with the sound of his voice, and made their way to the window.

Working through the thick smoke he assisted each of them in exiting the residence. With three children out of the residence and could hear the fourth, the youngest, still screaming from inside the home. The smoke had thickened, making it all but impossible to see inside.

As he attempted to crawl through the window, Officer Goram was finally able to catch a glimpse of the fourth child who was in the upper bed of a set of bunk beds in the room. With the heat and smoke intensifying, Officer Goram entered the residence, grabbed the child and carried him back through the window to the roof.

Assisted by the Tallahassee Fire Department, Officer Goram was able to safely get the children down from the roof, to awaiting EMS personnel. All four children survived the incident; three of the children suffered minor inhalation and lacerations, and the youngest child also received burns to his hands. Officer Goram was treated for smoke inhalation and minor lacerations as a result of this incident.

Officer Goram's sound judgment in this potentially life-threatening situation led to a successful conclusion. Four young lives were saved because of Officer Goram's act of courage and heroism.

For his valiant efforts, Officer Goram was awarded the Florida Police Chief's Association Lee McGehee, Police Officer of the Year Award.

**Deputy Sheriff Con Kelley**  
**Clay County Sheriff's Office**  
**Nominated by the Florida Sheriffs Association**

Deputy Con Kelley has six years of law enforcement experience including the past four with the Clay County Sheriff's Office. He holds a Master's Degree in Health Administration and worked in the health field for six years before turning to law enforcement. He is also a pilot and spends some of his off time in his Cessna.

On November 11, 2010, Deputy Kelly was dispatched to investigate a citizens' complaint of a suspicious vehicle and individuals. The complaint indicated that at least one unknown male had exited the vehicle and run around a building. He was concerned because there had been a recent burglary to a residence in that area a few days prior.

When Deputy Kelly arrived at the location he began to search for the suspicious vehicle. Unable to locate the vehicle, he began driving through the area when he was flagged down by the caller who pointed out the specific building where the suspect(s) were seen.

As Deputy Kelley approached the door of the home, he heard loud arguing coming from the home's closed garage. As Deputy Kelley got closer he heard screaming and multiple gunshots come from inside the closed garage and observed the garage door begin to open.

When the garage door opened, Deputy Kelley was confronted by two suspects fleeing the garage, one of which was armed with an assault type weapon. Deputy Kelley confronted the suspects, who refused to comply with his commands and a brief gun battle ensued.

One of the suspects was killed in the exchange of gunfire and the second suspect fled on foot but was captured by Deputy Kelley after a short foot pursuit.

After securing the second suspect, Deputy Kelley assisted with the evacuation of citizens in the area while also assisting with the perimeter while other deputies searched the home for other suspects.

A third individual who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds was located in the garage and taken to a local hospital, but died while in route. He was the homeowner's cousin who was house-sitting at the time of the incident. He had just returned to the residence and was confronted by the burglary suspects when he entered the garage and subsequently murdered.

Deputy Kelley's actions led to the apprehension of two felons who were responsible for the death of the individual in the garage. He also prevented further potentially catastrophic events, which could have resulted from armed felons running into an area saturated with occupied homes.

Deputy Kelley exhibited selfless courage and valor in the face of death or great bodily harm to himself. During the follow-up investigation, the initial caller was heard saying the following about Deputy Kelley: "That is the bravest man I ever saw."

**Officer Duane North**  
**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
**Nominated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Officer Duane North has been in law enforcement since 2002, starting with the Daytona Police Department, before transferring to the Volusia County Sheriff's Office in 2005, and has been with the FWC since June 2008.

He is an exceptionally well-rounded, intelligent officer who consistently applies his skills and knowledge to make quality, core-mission cases in a wide variety of areas in the woods and on the water. He frequently assists his peers with cases including hunting out of season, hunting over bait, turkey, deer, salt and freshwater fishing and boating under the influence.

He works well to inspire teamwork with other agencies, and he initiates and participates in outreach events that help educate the public and stakeholders about fish, wildlife and boating issues.

This year he participated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in an outreach event on Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge where he presented a seminar entitled, "Hunting in Florida." Additionally, he was invited to and participated in a meeting of a local teen bass fishing club and presented information on fishing legally and boating safety.

He has a can-do, positive attitude, never complains, and his efforts to assist and improve the work product of squad mates have not gone unnoticed. As an example, he took it upon himself to train an officer who was new to the squad who had no hunting experience.

In 2011, Officer North has wrote over 148 citations to include both felony and misdemeanors arrests. He issued over 135 warnings and logged three BUI's and two DUI's.

The following are just a small sample of his activities during the year:

- Arrested an individual who shot the decoy deer in the Tiger Bay Water Management Area (WMA)
- Apprehended two men on felony charges who were stealing copper from utility poles in the Lake George WMA at night
- Arrested a registered sex offender for trespassing at a private hunting club who was also committing a lewd act when caught

- While working an off-duty job, he overheard a lost hunter call dispatched in the Dexter Mary Farms WMA. Realizing that the responding officer was a long distance away from the hunter, and was in the general area, he responded and located the hunter
- While working in the Lake George WMA, he checked the registrations of a vehicle parked in the WMA and discovered that the registered owner was hunting with a guess permit which was attached to a known convicted felon. He set up surveillance and waited for the convicted felon to return to his vehicle, at which time he was arrested for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon

Although it is not a priority to his assigned position, he nonetheless assisted local coastal officers in reaching their JEA (Joint Enforcement Agreement) goals by working numerous hours of JEA enforcement from land and water.

He is always available for call-outs and the needs of other officers, and stands ready and willing to participate in details.

He volunteered to participate in the agency's strategic planning at the Ocala Regional Office and routinely helps local scout groups on his personal time.

**Special Agent Thomas Roper**  
**Florida Department of Law Enforcement**  
**Nominated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement**

Special Agent Roper has a great working relationship with local law enforcement and is frequently called upon to share knowledge and assist in leading various cases. Special Agent Roper is known for his determination, perseverance, integrity and work ethic.

Roper had an outstanding and highly productive year in 2010 and was involved in 10 major cases, authored 154 investigative reports and recorded 35 arrests. Some of SA Roper's cases involved multiple homicides, multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking organizations, public integrity, and in-custody death investigations.

In August 2010, SA Roper was the case agent assisting the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office with a triple homicide investigation. The investigation led to the capture and arrest of three suspects and the case is awaiting judicial process.

In November 2010, SA Roper was the case agent assisting the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office in another homicide investigation. Initially, the death was ruled a natural death, but during the autopsy, a .22 caliber projectile was discovered in the victim's chest area. Despite the contamination at the crime scene, the investigation resulted in the arrest of three suspects, and the recovery of the murder weapon from the Suwannee River. This case is awaiting judicial process.

Roper worked several multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking cases, requiring Title II Wire Intercept, authored or co-authored by Roper. These cases called for use of different investigative techniques, including installing and monitoring pole cameras, tracking devices, surveillance, trash pulls, telephone analysis and interviews. The leaders of

one drug trafficking organization had ties to Miami, Live Oak, and Valdosta, Georgia. Nineteen suspects were arrested.

Other drug trafficking organization investigations involved large quantities of cocaine, opiates and crack, with ties to Tallahassee, Orlando and Palm Beach. In this case, opiates were traded for cocaine with locals committing prescription fraud. The drug trafficking organization had been investigated for the last 10 years but authorities were unable to dismantle the operation. It is anticipated that 15 suspects will be arrested.

Another drug trafficking organization investigation worked by Special Agent Roper involved marijuana trafficking and was tied to the Los Zetas, a violent drug trafficking organization investigation out of Mexico. This organization had ties to another Mexican, whose leader was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison for distributing marijuana from Mexico to Live Oak. Six suspects were arrested as a result of this investigation.

Special Agent Roper received information regarding another DTO operating in North Florida after a suspect was stopped in Louisiana en route to Florida and informed authorities about a subject shipping marijuana from Texas to Florida every two weeks. Two suspects were arrested and the case is ongoing.

He is self motivated and dedicated to his job. He maintains excellent relationships with civilians, local law enforcement agencies, and is always willing to help his fellow officers. He attends numerous trainings to stay abreast of the latest changes in law enforcement tactics.

He enjoys new challenges and always maintains a professional demeanor. He is actively involved in the Fraternal Order of Elks and the Masonic Lodge of Florida.

### **Master Corporal Cale Stevens Nominated by the Florida Highway Patrol**

Master Corporal Cale Stevens has been with the Florida Highway Patrol for 12 years.

On Thursday, July 22, 2010, at 12:45 PM, Corporal Stevens was off duty getting a haircut when he heard a traffic crash. He went to investigate and discovered a traffic crash had occurred outside the business with front end damage. As he approached the vehicle, Corporal Stevens observed an unresponsive male slumped over the driver's seat. He assessed the person's injuries and could not locate a pulse.

Enlisting the assistance of a bystander, they removed the subject from the vehicle onto the pavement where he could perform CPR. The subject began breathing and Corporal Stevens was able to detect a slight pulse at this point. He continued to assess the driver until emergency medical services arrived on the scene.

Without Corporal Stevens' quick response and decisive action, this man may not have survived the incident.



Corporal Stevens is to be commended for his excellent service and dedication to the citizens of the State of Florida.

In addition to over 12 years serving the public with the State of Florida Highway Patrol, Cpl. Stevens volunteers his time within the community. He works closely with the Sarasota Police Explorers teaching crash investigation and he volunteers at the Student Leadership Academy in Venice.

Colonel David Brierton, Director of the Florida Highway Patrol said the following about Cpl. Stevens: "Corporal Stevens showed great initiative while off-duty to assist this person in need. He showed a deep concern for his fellow man, which clearly embodies the Florida Highway Patrol's values of courtesy, service and protection."

**Officer Christopher Troedson**  
**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Nominated by Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Law Enforcement**

Officer Christopher Troedson has been with the DEP Division of Law Enforcement for 12 years.

Officer Christopher Troedson is a significant asset to the Division of Law Enforcement Park Police Northeast District having demonstrated notable self-initiated activity throughout the past year. His "routine" activities commonly begin as simple infraction encounters that, through proficient investigation, develop into warrant, misdemeanor, and felony arrests that frequently involve contraband.

His consistently high activity is not a matter of luck but an example of proactive and attentive police work applied to each incident, vehicle stop, and citizen encounter. The violations he uncovers within his assigned parks make these areas safer for the recreating public.

Officer Troedson's familiarity with and routine use of technological resources like the Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX) enables him to go beyond basic license verifications and criminal history checks, often resulting in the execution of outstanding arrest warrants.

Last year, Officer Troedson led his district in arrest and citation activities, however for him it was simply business as usual.

An example of his customary performance occurred on August 27, 2011, when Officer Troedson discovered a motorist at Amelia Island State Park attempting to unlock a vehicle door with a fishing pole. The motorist claimed to have locked himself out of the car. After confirming the person's ownership of the car, Officer Troedson helped him gain entry.

Having already observed a green, leafy substance scattered throughout the vehicle's interior, Officer Troedson was not surprised to smell the distinctive odor of marijuana when the door was opened. After obtaining consent to search the vehicle, he found a

95 gram brick of marijuana, 12.5 morphine sulfate tablets, a digital scale, and plastic baggies. The subject was charged with trafficking and possession of narcotics with intent to distribute.

Officer Troedson's proactive policing, keen skills, and attention set an example for his peers and merit his recognition for exceptional service to the Department of Environmental Protection and the residents and visitors of the State of Florida.

Officer Troedson was recently selected as the 2011 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

**Investigator Daniel Williamson  
Nominated by the Florida Department of Agriculture  
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement**

Investigator Williamson began his career with the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement on July 17, 2003.

During the past year, Investigator Williamson demonstrated outstanding performance as a criminal investigator for the agency. During FY 10/11, Investigator Williamson was lead agent in various criminal cases ranging from the Intentional Setting of Wildland Fires (Woods Arson), to Animal Health and Pet Lemon Law violations, to Consumer Related issues, including the illegal Solicitations of Funds.

As a result of his patience, persistence, and attentiveness to detail on numerous cases, Investigator Williamson has successfully charged criminal offenses against multiple defendants, all of which have either been successfully prosecuted or are pending prosecution.

His knowledge and expertise in the regulated programs is invaluable. His can do attitude and his willingness to go above and beyond, and share his knowledge with others, makes him an excellent trainer and an invaluable asset to the agency.

Investigator Williamson is certified as a General Topics Instructor, teaching Defensive Tactics, CPR, First Aid and AED training.

Investigator Williamson is cross sworn as a Secret Service Agent, and has served on the U.S. Secret Service Task Force in both Tampa and Jacksonville. He also actively participates in the NE Florida Environmental Crimes Task Force in Jacksonville; The Fraud Net Economic Crimes Task Force and the Department's "State Agricultural Response Team."

In April 2010, while assigned to the Tampa Office, Investigator Williamson was the lead agent in an investigation into a Charitable Organization that was actively soliciting donations in multiple states. It was determined that the organization was in fact an illegitimate charitable scheme and that the main person operating the charity had actually stolen the identity of a person from another state, claiming to be that person.

Investigator Williamson identified various violations of the law and several persons of interest. Due to the complexity of the case and the fact multiple states were also victims, Investigator Williamson teamed up with the Internal Revenue Criminal Investigations Section and the Office of Inspector General of Veterans Affairs and presented the case to the United States Attorney's Office.

The investigation is continuing, and even though investigator Williamson transferred to Jacksonville, he continues to track leads as they come in. The true identity of the primary person of interest is still unknown, and the case has been featured on America's Most Wanted.

After transferring to the Jacksonville area, Investigator Williamson became involved in a major fire investigation as the lead agent. From November 2010 through June 2011, a series of 30 intentionally set (Woods Arson) fires occurred in the St. Johns County area. Investigator Williams was able to recover an incendiary device still intact, commonly referred to as a "slow match". The device was submitted for laboratory analysis, and DNA was identified. This device was later linked to another device recovered from a fire occurring in another region of the state. There is a person of interest and the investigation is continuing.

**Detective Neil Zierden**  
**Florida Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations**

Detective Neil Zierden works with the Florida State Fire Marshall's Office in Orlando and he has been with the Bureau of Fire and Arsons Investigations for 8 years. Detective Zierden has consistently demonstrated his expertise in Fire Investigations by leading the Region year after year in arrests.

During 2010 he investigated 72 fires in which 37 fires have been determined to be incendiary. He arrested 12 individuals for arson in this time frame. Detective Zierden is a well recognized expert in the field of fire investigation in the Orlando area.

On July 29, 2010, Detective Zierden was requested by the Sanford Fire Department to investigate a fire of a single family residence. Upon his arrival he conducted a full investigation and determined the fire was intentionally set.

Several interviews with the homes occupants and neighbors discovered a domestic incident took place. According to the occupant, her husband made threats to burn the house down 10 to 20 minutes prior to the first reports of fire.

The husband was located and interviewed. He admitted to the domestic incident, but denied setting the fire or threat thereof. Detective Zierden requested the assistance of the State Fire Marshall K-9 (Misty) and Handler Paul Paterson." Misty alerted on the husband's clothing and shoes thus leading investigators to believe accelerant was present. The husband was arrested for 2 counts of Arson of a Structure while occupied and four counts of Attempted Murder.

During the several months of deposition, suppression hearings and follow-up, Detective Zierden was required to testify on numerous occasions in regards to cause and origin,

evidence procedures and Miranda protocol. The State Fire Marshal's Lab confirmed Misty's findings that gasoline was present on the husband's clothing.

Detective Zierden aggressively pursued this case to ensure that the defendant was held accountable for his actions. His investigative knowledge, use of all available resources, his attention to detail and sheer determination resulted in a successful case outcome.

At the trial's conclusion in 2011, the accused pled No Contest to all charges and was sentenced to 3 years in prison and 10 years supervised probation.