

Nominated by the Department of Environmental Protection – Officer Officer W. Garrett Creamer

Although he has only been employed with DEP Law Enforcement, for 2 years, Officer Garrett Creamer exemplifies the agency's mission of "more protection, less process" by going above and beyond what is required. On and off duty, he exhibits the highest level of professionalism in his daily interactions with the public. He is a proactive officer who varies his workdays with a combination of vehicle, foot, ATV, and vessel patrols.

On two several occasions, Officer Creamer demonstrated his commitment to service by saving the lives of several individuals.

On May 5th, Officer Creamer was the first on scene at a traffic crash that occurred outside of Wakulla Springs State Park. Officer Creamer extinguished a fire inside the vehicle where the victims were trapped. He then provided emergency first aid to the victims until EMS arrived on scene.

On June 30th, Officer Creamer observed a thick smoke coming from the area of St. George Island. Officer Creamer responded to the area of the smoke where he located a motor home partially engulfed in flames.

Officer Creamer overheard several bystanders who indicated that the fuel tanks on the motor home were full and that there may still be people inside. Without regard for his own safety, Officer Creamer rushed toward the burning motor home to determine if it was occupied.

He observed a 5 or 6 year old child standing approximately 25 yards from the burning motor home and immediately called out to her to move away from the fire and come towards him. The child did not respond to Officer Creamer's request, and did not seem to be aware of his calls to her.

Sensing that the child was in danger, and at great personal risk, Officer Creamer ran to the child, picked her up and carried her to a safe location across the street where a group of bystanders had gathered.

Before Officer Creamer could make it back to the motor home to check for other occupants, the fire reached the fuel tanks, exploded and the motor home became fully engulfed in flames. Officer Creamer realized he could not get safely back to the motor home until fire units arrived, and also realized the explosion had occurred in the same area where the young child had been standing just seconds before.

Lt. Dix wrote the following about Officer Creamer: "He ensures the highest level of professionalism in his daily interactions with the public, on and off duty. Officer Creamer performs his daily duties with little to no guidance required and completes his follow-up investigations quickly and thoroughly. Officer Creamer is a fine example of what it means to be a DEP Law Enforcement Officer."

Nominated by the Department of Financial Services, Insurance Fraud Division – Detective Steve Grenier

A 13 year employee of the agency, Detective Steve Grenier is a member of the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Fraud “Mortgage Fraud Squad” and is assigned to the Palm Beach County F.B.I. Mortgage Fraud Task Force.

Several years ago, Detective Grenier recognized the need for the Division of Insurance Fraud to add additional resources toward the investigation of mortgage fraud and requested to be assigned to these often complex and tedious criminal investigations.

In an effort to address South Florida’s mortgage fraud problem, Detective Grenier has fostered working relationships with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, which has had a significant impact on the investigations of mortgage fraud in South Florida.

For the past three years, he has worked to educate local, state and federal law enforcement agencies regarding title insurance and mortgage fraud. Detective Grenier has assisted in instructing new detectives at the DFS Detective’s Academy in Tallahassee.

In the past fiscal year, Det. Grenier investigated 18 mortgage fraud cases, made 14 arrests resulting in 13 convictions, and obtained over \$17.7 million dollars in court ordered restitution. His efforts had a significant impact in the Palm Beach community of Versailles, an upscale development especially hard hit with mortgage fraud.

Nominated by the Florida Highway Patrol – Trooper Danyen Komorek

Trooper Komorek is an 11 year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol and exemplifies the agency’s commitment to excellence, resourcefulness, initiative, and service.

On April 15, 2009, Trooper Komorek was advised by the Florida Highway Patrol Communications Center that there was a passenger van traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of I-95 in Nassau County.

As Trooper Komorek approached the area of the sighting in an attempt to intercept the vehicle, she observed smoke coming from the wooded tree line on the east shoulder of the roadway. As she got closer she observed the passenger van was on fire. The van had apparently traveled off the roadway, down an embankment, through a deep ditch filled with water, and struck a large tree.

Without hesitation Trooper Komorek ran toward the burning vehicle, which was resting halfway in the ditch in about 3 feet of water. As she entered the water, she observed a disoriented male driver behind the wheel who had sustained facial injuries.

Trooper Komorek tried to open the driver’s door but it was jammed shut, so she entered the vehicle through the rear. Trooper Komorek tried to communicate with the driver, but he was unresponsive.

With the fire quickly spreading to the engine compartment and windshield area of the vehicle, Trooper Komorek grabbed the driver's upper arm, pulled him out of the burning vehicle to a safe distance and provided medical assistance until the Nassau County Fire/Rescue arrived.

Trooper Komorek's investigation later determined that the driver had suffered from a severe diabetic reaction which caused him to become disoriented. He had no recollection of the events that lead up to the crash.

Trooper Komorek's quick response to the radio call along with heroic and unselfish actions surely saved the life of this citizen.

Nominated by the Florida Police Chiefs Association – Officer Jorge Martinez

Officer Jorge Martinez began his career with the Titusville Police Department in October 2007, after serving seven honorable years in the U. S. Coast Guard. He is currently assigned to the Crime Suppression Unit, and is also a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT).

During 2009, Officer Martinez participated in a project targeting violent offenders in Titusville. The result was eight search warrants served; ten arrests of multiple career offenders; the seizure of multiple illicit drugs, including cocaine, cannabis, and hydrocodone pills; and recovery of a .22 caliber handgun. For his work on this project, he was awarded the Department's Exceptional Service Award

Officer Martinez was responsible for saving the lives of several individuals during the calendar year. In April 2009, he noticed an occupied suspicious vehicle parked with the engine running and windows down. After several attempts to wake the young man in the driver's seat, Officer Martinez realized that the driver was in medical distress and called Fire & Rescue to respond.

It was later determined the man had overdosed on a combination of drugs. Officer Martinez was later informed that without his immediate reaction to the medical distress of the occupant, the man would have died.

In July 2009, Officer Martinez assisted a male driver who was suffering from a diabetic coma. Officer Martinez was able to successfully communicate with the driver and used the man's cell phone to call a family friend to obtain pertinent medical information. Medical personnel advised that without the immediate medical attention, the man would have died. For his efforts in these and other life saving incidents, Officer Martinez was awarded the Titusville Police Department's Life Saving Award.

Officer Martinez was also recognized by his agency for his involvement in 14 other high profile cases during the year which included multiple drug arrests, robbery calls, traffic stops, and high profile warrant service, just to name a few of these numerous incidents

Sgt. Barrett states: "Officer Martinez has had a very productive year. I am very impressed with his strong work ethic. He is truly an asset to this agency and our community."

Nominated by the Florida Department of Transportation – Officer Elpidio "Al" Padilla

Officer Al Padilla is assigned to the Miami Field Office and has been a member of the Office of Motor Carrier Compliance (OMCC) family for more than seven years. Officer Padilla epitomizes the Department's values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork and Excellence.

In November 2010, Officer Padilla was recognized as the Southern Work Area Law Enforcement Officer of the Quarter for the period July through September 2010, and also selected as Motor Carrier Compliance Officer of the Year.

Throughout the year, Officer Padilla has constantly performed above and beyond in his law enforcement efforts. During this period, Officer Padilla recovered 51 stolen commercial motor vehicles with a total value of nearly \$1 million.

Colonel Dees writes: "Officer Padilla always has a positive "can do" attitude and always makes himself available to supervisors and fellow officers. He is truly a shining star for the Office of Motor Carrier Compliance.

Nominated by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Officer Charles Townsend

Having served with the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement for almost six years, Officer Charles Townsend is hard working, dependable, and professional. Officer Townsend is well respected personally and professionally by his supervisors and peers as well as staff from other agencies.

Officer Townsend is consistently at the top of shift activity reports, but his actions go far beyond what is counted on reports. He not only assists with any given task given by his supervisor, but he is willing to help anyone in need.

Officer Townsend conducted 2,971 inspections during the past fiscal year. He apprehended 278 vehicles that failed to stop for inspection, inspected 677 shipments of livestock and verified 66 sealed loads. During these inspections, Officer Townsend discovered 42 agricultural violations, made five arrests, (including two involving illegal aliens), and placed a subject in protective custody under the Marchman Act. He also assisted the Florida Highway Patrol and other agencies with a DUI Checkpoint in Suwannee County.

Officer Townsend is a great asset to the public and responds to any call for help. He had 78 assists last year, which included assisting other agencies and stranded motorists. Officer Townsend changes tires, gets gas, calls wreckers, and does anything else that needs to be done to get motorists safely back on the road.

In many instances, he is the first on the scene at vehicle crashes. He assists regardless of inclement weather or hazardous conditions. On September 8, 2009, Officer Townsend responded to a commercial vehicle crash on I-75. He made contact with the driver and realized that the driver required medical attention. He discovered that the driver was hauling hazardous materials and noticed smoke coming from the trailer. Without regard for his own safety, Officer Townsend continued to assist the driver until EMS and the fire department arrived. He then assisted the Florida Highway Patrol with closing down the interstate.

In addition, Officer Townsend participates in the Annual Gilchrist County Beast Feast, which is a fundraiser to assist graduating high school seniors with scholarship funds. He is also an active member of the Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Bell.

Nominated by The Florida Retail Federation – Detective John Tritt

A 12 year veteran with the Orlando Police Department, Detective John Tritt never loses sight of the fact that his professional and personal conduct reflect upon the Department and the law enforcement community as a whole. Detective Tritt embodies the ideal law enforcement professional, never betraying one's badge or the public trust, and holding himself and others accountable for their actions.

In March 2010, the Orlando Police Department received information that several vendors were selling counterfeit designer goods at a location known as the Indoor Flea Market on International Drive, in the middle of the tourist area.

Among the items being sold were fake Coach, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Chanel and Tiffany & Co. products. Through undercover efforts and extensive investigative techniques, including extreme attention to detail, Detective Tritt, who was the lead case agent, successfully dismantled this counterfeiting operation and seized thousands of counterfeit items with a total retail value of approximately \$2.9 million.

Detective Tritt was assisted by 20 detectives and 18 other members of the Orlando Police Department during this intensive investigation. It took Detective Tritt and the other detectives approximately 10 hours, (or 2100 hours, collectively), to gather and package the extensive array of counterfeit items. Detective Tritt secured 23 victim and witness affidavits, wrote eight arrest warrants and a search/seizure warrant for one of the defendant's bank accounts. Charges included Forgery, Counterfeiting Private Labels, Scheme to Defraud, etc.

Due, in part, to Detective Tritt's diligence and investigative skills, one of the defendants has already been convicted and sentenced while the other seven are likely to encounter a similar fate.

Detective Tritt is also very involved in his community and various public service organizations. He is known for taking needy children on Christmas shopping events through the "Shop with a Cop" program, mentoring youth through the non-profit organization "Operation Positive Direction," and helping build a playground for the Harbor House, which is Orange County's Battered Women's Shelter. He frequently participates in many fundraising walks and runs for charity.

Nominated by the The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement – Officer Rich Wilcox

A five year veteran with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Officer Wilcox's commitment is evident in the dedication he displays every day.

Throughout the year, his law enforcement work resulted in arrests for poaching, night hunting, possession of prohibited species and even a case of illegal game meat being traded for illicit drugs.

On one occasion Officer Wilcox led rescue efforts on the Twelve Mile Swamp Water Management Area, when a deer hunter had fallen out of his climbing tree stand and became entangled by his legs, hanging upside down. Because of his familiarity with the heavily wooded area, Officer Wilcox was able to lead rescuers to the hunter's location.

Wilcox taped the rescue operation which is now being used by the St. Johns County Fire Rescue Department as a training aide.

In late September, FWC was asked to assist in the search for a 21 year old female who walked away from her home after having an argument with her mother. The young woman had left home on a Thursday morning and was still missing the following Tuesday morning. Officer Wilcox began patrolling the 9500 acre parcel of land near her home on his ATV.

Given that the young woman had been missing for 5 days, the search effort was minutes from being suspended, and most of the Law Enforcement Officers were already returning to the command post.

However, Officer Wilcox continued his search, locating an FSU sweatshirt matching the one the young woman was last seen wearing. Wilcox turned off his ATV and listened for any sounds of the young woman. He heard a faint cry for help and slowly made his way toward the sound through the very dense vegetation.

He found the severely dehydrated woman covered with insect bites and barely conscious. He covered her with his uniform shirt, began administering first aid and called for help. The young woman spent the next ten days in the hospital. She expressed her sincere thanks to Officer Wilcox for not giving up the search.

On another occasion, while at home on annual leave with his wife and newborn, Officer Wilcox received information that an individual would be night hunting in the Dupont area of St. Johns County. Officer Wilcox made the decision to check into the complaint that night, but was unable to locate the suspect.

The next morning, Officer Wilcox interviewed the complainant, which happened to be the suspect's stepmother, at their home and was told about a spotted fawn the suspect had recently killed.

During the interview Officer Wilcox observed fresh blood and deer hair in the carport. He further noticed two sets of fresh deer antlers in the rafters of a boat garage. The stepmother told Wilcox that the stepson had killed the deer but she did not recall when or how.

Officer Wilcox obtained DNA samples of the evidence, tracked down the suspect and conducted an extensive interview. The suspect admitted to killing the spotted fawn and said the antlers were from two deer he killed at night. The ensuing three month investigation led to 88 charges being filed against eight suspects

Additionally, he participates in many community activities such as the St. Johns County Safety Expo, the National Marina Day Water Safety Expo, the Cattlemen's Cracker Day, and various other events.

One landowner has this to say about Rich: "If he is on your trail, you might as well give up, because he won't quit until he catches you"

Nominated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement – Special Agent Mark Willis

Serving six years with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Special Agent Mark Willis personifies the agency's core values of Service, Integrity, Respect, and Quality in all that he does.

A notable example of Special Agent Willis' investigative skill, resourcefulness, and relentless dedication to duty is his performance as lead case agent investigating home buyers, home owners, and mortgage brokers associated with marijuana grow houses.

As lead case agent, Special Agent Willis coordinated with Highlands County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) and presented the idea of charging the home owners with violation of the RICO statute and conspiracy to traffic in marijuana. As a result of this coordinated effort, FDLE opened *Operation Stoned Out of My Mortgage*.

He also assisted other agents in the office with their investigation and served as a Field Training Agent for new agent hires. In addition, during this past year he opened a case involving a gang organization in Okeechobee, was assigned a case involving child pornography and led an investigation of a crime against a child.

In addition to his exceptional work related performances, he has also participated in the Gourmet Gents event for the past three years. This event is a fundraising effort that assists the National Coalition of 100 Black Women in raising funds for scholarship programs for high school graduates. The event sustains community education activities, fosters leadership development and promotes awareness of equal rights within the community.

Nominated by the Florida Sheriff's Association – Deputy Michael Kleinfelt

Deputy Kleinfelt is a six year veteran of the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Since 2008, he has worked in the Mounted Patrol Unit. Though he had no previous experience, he has quickly become an accomplished horseman.

Deputy Kleinfelt is a very professional and motivated law enforcement officer, as evidenced by his unit statistics. In 2009, he made 39 felony arrests, 65 misdemeanor arrests and 30 warrant arrests, as well as issuing 55 notices to appear and 439 traffic citations.

His dedicated approach to his job was exemplified by his actions on May 20, 2009, during an encounter with an armed suspect. While patrolling the Pine Hills area of Orange County, he and his partner spotted a vehicle that matched the description from a BOLO issued the day before. They pulled into the gas station where the vehicle was located, and blocked it in with their patrol vehicle. The deputies noticed that the vehicle was unoccupied and also noticed marijuana in plain view on the center console.

As Deputy Kleinfelt and his partner attempted to gain information from the individuals around the vehicle, the suspected owner came out of the store. When Deputy Kleinfelt ordered the suspect to come over to speak with him, the suspect immediately fled across an adjacent shopping center parking lot.

During the foot chase, the suspect fired several shots at Deputy Kleinfelt, who courageously continued pursuit, while returning fire.

The suspect ran into a store, taking a hostage. Deputy Kleinfelt was able to convince the suspect to surrender and release the hostage. His courageous and determined actions resulted in the suspect's arrest without injury to the hostage or others.