Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Jan. 15, 2021



Encouraging and highlighting positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve is a mission close to my heart. As the wife of a law enforcement officer, I know the dangers these brave men and women can face. When these officers leave for work, they never know what challenges lie ahead of them.

Last October, Florida Highway Patrol Troopers Brian Clary, Chris Folsom and David Smith were responding to a traffic crash on I-10 when a second crash occurred at the scene. The second crash resulted in a vehicle being pushed off the roadway—pinning the car between a tractor trailer and a tree. The tractor trailer quickly caught fire and spread to the vehicle.

The vehicle's driver, Dwayne Greenhill, was trapped inside as the vehicle became engulfed in flames. Troopers Clary, Folsom and Smith immediately rushed to Greenhill's aid and began using fire extinguishers to put out the flames while attempting to rescue Mr. Greenhill from the burning vehicle.

Once out of the vehicle, the troopers administered lifesaving first aid to Greenhill until paramedics arrived to transport him to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Because of the immediate and heroic actions of all three troopers, Mr. Greenhill's life was saved, and he made a full recovery.

This week, I presented Back the Blue Awards to the troopers for their life-saving actions, with Mr. Greenhill in attendance.

I am so proud of the quick thinking and life-saving work of these heroes. They know firsthand the many inherent dangers of responding to a traffic crash, along with the subsequent dangers of secondary collisions. Thank you, Troopers Clary, Folsom and Smith, for your bravery. Florida is safer because of your service.

Do you know a law enforcement officer, citizen or organization to nominate for a Back the Blue Award? If so, click here for more information.

By supporting those who wear a badge and risk their safety for ours, we will build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Attorney General Ashley Moody recognizes FHP troopers who saved man from burning vehicle, WCTV Tallahassee

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Local and state agencies ramp up human trafficking awareness ahead of Super Bowl 55, NBC 8 Tampa

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Ashley Moody Joins State AGs in Asking FDA About Recent Steps to Fight Opioids, Florida Daily

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Florida busts Palm Harbor charity 'falsely' promising to help wounded war vets, NBC 8 Tampa

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Florida's Historic Capitol to illuminate blue for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Florida Politics

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody and Bipartisan Coalition Push FDA to Examine Progress in Opioid Fight



Attorney General Ashley Moody joined a broad coalition of 48 attorneys general in pushing federal regulators to examine recent progress in their fight to end the opioid crisis harming Florida families.

The bipartisan coalition of attorneys general is specifically seeking a progress report regarding recent steps taken by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to combat the opioid crisis, given the new authorities Congress granted the agency in 2018.

In a letter sent to FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, the attorneys general contend the requested information will help reduce prescription opioid abuse and accidental deaths.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Sadly, we are acutely familiar with the death and destruction brought on by the national opioid crisis, taking lives in Florida and straining public resources. As Florida's Attorney General, I am committed to ending this health crisis in Florida and we must use all tools at our disposal to combat this deadly epidemic and save lives." Read More

Attorney General Moody Recovers Funds Following Multistate Investigation into Sham Veterans Charity



Attorney General

Ashley Moody and 10 other state attorneys general are recovering funds from a sham veterans charity based in Palm Harbor. The recovery follows a multistate investigation into Healing Heroes Network, Inc. and its former directors Stacey Spiegel, Allan Spiegel and Neal Spiegel, and a related entity, Hero Giveaways, LLC—a business formed by Stacey Spiegel and Neal Spiegel for their use of deceptive charitable solicitations, including misleading sweepstake mailers and a telemarketing campaign.

The multistate investigation revealed that the organizations falsely promised to use donations to help wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan receive medical treatments. In 2016 and 2017, the charity also falsely claimed on social media that it dedicated 100% of its proceeds to wounded veterans. The investigation found that very little of the charitable contributions received by HHN were used to further this charitable mission. Instead, donations were used to pay professional fundraisers, online advertising fees, the salaries of Stacey Spiegel and son, Neal Spiegel, and to purchase t-shirts from a relative's apparel business.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This is outrageous. The fact that anyone would exploit the service and sacrifice of our wounded military heroes to solicit money under false pretenses is deserving of the highest level of contempt. Fortunately, as a result of this joint action with my counterparts in other states, HHN will be banned from soliciting donations in Florida and we will claw back some of the unlawfully obtained donations." Read More

Attorney General Moody joins State Attorneys General in Condemning Attack on the U.S. Capitol



Attorney General

Ashley Moody joined a bipartisan coalition of 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, in sending a letter to Acting U.S. Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen condemning the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and stating such actions cannot be allowed to go unchecked.

The letter, led by Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine, Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden and Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson, reads:

"We, the undersigned state attorneys general, are committed to the protection of public safety, the rule of law, and the U.S. Constitution. We are appalled that on January 6, 2021, rioters invaded the U.S. Capitol, defaced the building, and engaged in a range of criminal conduct—including unlawful entry, theft, destruction of U.S. government property, and assault. Worst of all, the riot resulted in the deaths of individuals, including a U.S. Capitol Police officer, and others were physically injured. Beyond these harms, the rioters' actions temporarily paused government business of the most sacred sort in our system—certifying the result of a presidential election." Read More



The Florida

Department of Law Enforcement arrested former Broward County School Board Chief Information Officer Anthony Hunter on Jan. 12 following an indictment by the statewide grand jury. Hunter is indicted for bypassing the bidding process for school equipment and steering business to a friend. Attorney General Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution served as legal advisors to the grand jury and will prosecute the case.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "I am proud of the work the statewide grand jury put into this case, as well as the efforts of my Statewide Prosecutors and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Let this be a lesson to anyone attempting to abuse the public trust; all public servants can and will be held accountable for their unlawful actions." Read More

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody illuminated Florida's Historic Capitol blue in recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Blue is the international color of human trafficking awareness. Attorney General Moody is committed to ending human trafficking in Florida.



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Attorney General Moody delivering the keynote address at the It's a Penalty launch event in Tampa. The Attorney General's Office and It's a Penalty are teaming up to raise awareness of human trafficking ahead of Super Bowl LV, including supplying signs at Tampa International Airport on how travelers can spot and report trafficking.



Attorney General Moody presenting Back the Blue Awards to Florida Highway Patrol Troopers

Brian Clary, Chris Folsom and David Smith for rescuing a driver from a fiery crash last October.



Attorney General Moody speaking to police chiefs from across the state at a Florida Police Chief's Association Mid-Winter Training Conference in Orlando.

