

“Support Law Enforcement” Tag Sales Overwhelming!

By Ken Kopczynski

PBA's “Support Law Enforcement” license plate sales continue going strong. We have over 300 new plates sold each month and about 900 renewals. The total of all sales, including renewals, through April 2009 has topped over 52,000. Currently there are almost 13,000 valid vehicle registrations with a PBA tag and growth continues.

Sales of the “Support Law Enforcement” tags hovers around 1,500 per month. We hope that, by this time next year, we're at 1,800 per month in sales.

If your fellow law enforcement families have not bought a PBA plate, ask them to do so. All the proceeds from the plate sales go to our “Heart Fund” and benefit many officers and families when tragedy strikes (see info at right).

And now, you can purchase a “gift” PBA plate for family and friends. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has created a new program to help organizations sell their plates (see DHSMV press release below).

So have a “heart” and purchase a “Support Law Enforcement” license plate for yourself, your family or friends and help out your fellow law enforcement family. ■



Florida PBA Executive Director David Murrell proudly displays one of the first custom PBA Support Law Enforcement Tags.



PBA Heart Fund Contribution Guidelines

In an effort to help the families of law enforcement, corrections, and correctional probation officers who are killed or disabled in the line of duty, Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA) has established a charitable arm which is called the PBA Heart Fund. Because the PBA Heart Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax deductible. Monies donated to the Heart Fund are used to provide death benefits to the families of officers killed in the line-of-duty and disability benefits to officers who are permanently disabled because of an in-line-of-duty injury.

Aside from individuals who may want to donate with the tax deduction in mind*, political campaigns may dispose of surplus funds (after the campaign is over) by donating some or all of the surplus to the PBA Heart Fund [s. 106.141 (4) (a) 2., Florida Statutes]. And, of course, other entities (e.g. not-for-profit corporations) may also donate to this cause. The address is:

Florida PBA Heart Fund
300 East Brevard Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

More information about the Heart Fund may be obtained by calling Florida P.B.A. at **1-800-733-3722**.

**Receipt for donations will be provided upon request.*

Specialty License Plate Gift Certificate Program

In behalf of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, we are pleased to inform you about an exciting opportunity for your organization as well as for Florida motorists. The Department has authorized the issuance of specialty license plate gift certificates. This new program allows anyone to purchase a specialty license plate as a gift for a motor vehicle registrant.

This new gift certificate program works much like any gift certificate. Upon payment of the statutorily authorized annual use fee, a gift certificate may now be purchased at an authorized motor vehicle office (e.g., state motor vehicle office, local tax collector office, or licensed tag agent) for any of the 104 specialty license plates currently available in Florida. At the time of purchase, a receipt will be provided and a credit will be issued in the name of the gift recipient, which can then be redeemed by the recipient at the time the specialty license plate is purchased. You do not have to purchase and redeem the certificate at the same office. The gift certificate is not required to be presented to redeem the credit, just proper identification (i.e. Florida driver's license or ID card). Once a gift certificate is purchased, the money is given to the sponsoring plate entity as specified by Florida Statutes. Therefore, refunds are not available for gift certificates.

We believe that specialty license plates will make great gifts, and that this new program will provide a great opportunity to promote the many causes and organizations represented by the plates. Please remember that in Florida, most registrations are renewed on the birth date of the registrant, so these gift certificates can also be a great birthday gift. ■



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