



Charlie
Crist

A Guest Article from the Governor of Florida

Florida's Law Enforcement Officers Best in Service, Duty

I wish to thank all law enforcement officers for making the choice to serve your communities and the people of Florida. I know that each of you serve with honor and pride and strive to uphold the highest standards. Even when off duty, you are willing to help others who are in danger, just as brothers **Robert** and **Paul Ura** did when on vacation in Las Vegas this summer. These Florida Department of Law Enforcement special agents heroically helped disarm a shooter before anyone was killed.

While Robert and Paul Ura's act of bravery may have caught the attention of several newspapers around the country, I know that the same skill and dedication is exercised by every law enforcement officer in Florida every day. I see it in the special agents who are part of my security detail and **Lt. Governor Kottkamp's** Trooper detail. I am tremendously grateful for their commitment and admire the expertise and professionalism they demonstrate each day.

As I travel throughout the state and talk with the people of Florida, they tell me how important it is to feel safe and secure in their homes and communities. Every day, the dedicated law enforcement officers of every town, city, county and state agency answer the call of duty to keep Florida safe.

Every day, you put yourselves in harm's way by serving on the front lines. You face danger and uncertainty, knowing that even the most routine

activities can turn deadly in an instant, when you least expect it. You live with this reality every day, and so do your families. We thank you for choosing public service as your life's work. And on behalf of all Floridians, we join you in mourning the loss of those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

As highly trained and dedicated individuals, you make our neighborhoods and roads safer. You defend people you do not even know against reckless individuals who would seek to harm others. You ensure the safety of all Floridians, as well as visitors who come to our state to enjoy our climate and beautiful natural surroundings. We are truly indebted to each of you.

While there is absolutely nothing more important than protecting the people of our state, we must ensure that we protect those who are protecting us. We must protect the quality of life of law enforcement officers by ensuring fair pay and benefits and appropriate accountability for their service. We must ensure tough penalties for those who commit crimes against law enforcement officers exercising their duties. We must make certain that officers have the tools needed to prosecute those who seek to harm our children or carelessly injure others in drunk driving crashes. New legislation such as the Anti-Murder Act will help keep our communities safer. Now, we can ensure that probation violators with histories of violence can be kept in

jail without bond until the court holds a probation violation hearing.

As I visit with law enforcement officers throughout the state, I hear firsthand how many of you are frustrated with struggling to own your own homes. The costs of property taxes and property insurance prevent many dedicated officers from living in the communities they work so hard to protect. Our dedicated public safety officers who protect our communities and citizens every day deserve affordable housing.

For the past six or seven years, we have seen a tremendous increase in property values and property taxes throughout Florida. What the Legislature did during special session is a great first step to lowering those taxes. They also gave the power to the people of Florida to implement the second step to lower property taxes, by voting on the constitutional amendment on January 29. This opportunity gives the power to the people, exactly where it should be.

I know that many local governments are trying to scare our public servants into thinking that lower property taxes will also mean less public safety. I appreciate the challenge of providing essential services while also giving relief from high property taxes. However, I firmly believe that responsible public officials will not put public safety at risk. Local governments know that they must ensure the safety of their communities.

Like Florida's families, local governments will have to choose to spend money on what is most important. I am certain that as property taxes have risen during the past six or seven years, families have had to carefully choose how to spend their money. Many have gone without some things they would have liked to have. In the same way, local governments will have to make the similar decisions. Where were we six or seven years ago when local governments didn't have such large revenues? We still had police officers, and local governments were able to live within their means. They will have to learn how to do that again.

Florida's law enforcement officers serve our communities well. You not only bravely step into dangerous situations as crimes are committed, but you take steps to help prevent crimes. You teach children in our schools and community centers and reach out to seniors and retirees to make sure they know how to be safe and secure in their homes and communities. You go the extra miles needed to provide peace of mind to all Floridians. Your acts of service often go without applause and recognition, but the people of your community are safer because of your dedicated work. On behalf of all Floridians, we appreciate your sacrifice and service.

May God bless and protect you and the great state of Florida. ●

"...I firmly believe that responsible public officials will not put public safety at risk."

IRS TAX TIP: IR-2007-148

New E-mail Scam Offering Cash for Participation in "Member Satisfaction Survey"

Aug. 28, 2007

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued a consumer alert regarding a new, two-step e-mail scam that falsely promises recipients they will receive \$80 for participating in an online customer satisfaction survey.

In the scam, an unsuspecting taxpayer receives an unsolicited e-mail that appears to come from the IRS. The e-mail contains a URL linking to an online "Member Satisfaction Survey."

"We have seen many e-mail scams using the IRS name," IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support Linda Stiff said. "The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail. Taxpayers should always use caution when they receive unsolicited e-mails."

In this case, the e-mail notifies the recipient that he or she has been randomly selected to participate in a survey. In return, the IRS will credit \$80 to the taxpayer's account. There are references to the IRS in the "from" line and the "subject" line of the e-mail. The link to the survey and a copyright statement at the bottom of the e-mail also reference the IRS. The survey form features the IRS logo.

In addition to standard customer satisfaction survey questions, the survey requests the name and phone number of the participant and also asks for credit card information. Once the fraudsters have a name and phone number, they will presumably call the participant and attempt to retrieve other financial information.

The apparent objectives of this scam are to use the participant's name and financial data to withdraw funds from the taxpayer's bank account, run up charges on a credit card or take out loans in the taxpayer's name.

Tricking victims into revealing private personal and financial information over the Internet, telephone or other means is a practice known as "phishing."

Continued on sidebar on page 9

PBA DEATH & DISABILITY PLAN

By Glenda Kelly



For participating PBA Charters and Chapters, members are eligible for coverage through the Florida PBA Heart Fund, a charitable organization (see page 25 for more details). The benefits include: Disability Benefits to officers permanently and totally disabled due to a catastrophic injury while in actual performance of their duties (\$15,000); Death benefits for officers killed in the actual performance of their duties (\$30,000); and all benefits are payable to either the officer, spouse, or dependent children. Please contact Glenda Kelly, (glenda@fpba.org), 1-800-733-3722, extension 426 for more information.