

# Candidate Endorsements In The News

## Two old friends elected to the Senate

A lot of our members wonder why the Florida PBA gets involved in politics. The elections of this summer are the perfect example of why our involvement is so important. Two strong supporters of the PBA were elected to the Florida Senate and we played a role in helping them get there.

Most recently, the Florida PBA participated in a special election for Florida Senate District 8 to fill the vacancy created by the death of **Senator Jim King**. Former House Speaker and pro-PBA legislator **John Thrasher** was one of four Republican candidates running for this seat. No Democrats qualified for this seat. The Coastal Florida PBA and the Florida PBA jointly endorsed former Speaker Thrasher.

While he was House Speaker, John Thrasher helped get funding for the Special Risk Buyback, fully restoring the lost years for law enforcement officers who had Special Risk taken away in 1978. He also helped pass the Heart and Lung Presumption which has since helped countless numbers of officers who suffer from heart related injuries or illness. Speaker Thrasher saw to it that Correctional Probation Officers were given Special Risk, finally recognizing the dangerous job that they do. And he helped pass legislation that made sure that premium tax monies collected by cities intended to provide benefits to municipal police officers were used for that purpose.

John Thrasher won the primary with 39 percent of the vote and now faces two unknown write-in candidates in the general election.

The Florida PBA sent mailers to our members in District 8 as well as to thousands of frequent Republican voters, asking them to vote for John Thrasher. We designed, printed and mailed the flyers in-house – one of the many services the PBA offers. We also made a number of political contributions to his campaign.

While we can't take total credit for putting Mr. Thrasher over the top, we can say we did our part to get our members out to vote, and we hopefully persuaded the general voting public to vote for the pro-law enforcement candidate.

In August we supported former House member **Joe Negron** in his run for Florida Senate District 28 vacated by the retirement of **Senator Ken Pruitt**. In 2006, while

Negron was Chairman of the House Fiscal Council that oversaw the writing of the budget, units of the Florida PBA saw probably their best session in terms of the budget.

Representative Negron helped get funding for the FDLE Special Agents pay compression package, giving officers \$3,000 to \$5,000 increases depending on length of service with an additional two percent performance pay. This was on top of the three percent across the board pay raise for all state employees.

Our State Correctional and Correctional Probation officers received a two percent bump at their five year anniversary if they had not received it the previous year, plus officers with 10 years or more received a three percent "step." Again, this was on top of the three percent pay raise for all state workers.

Correctional Probation officers also received an increase to their mileage reimbursement — something they had not seen in 12 years!

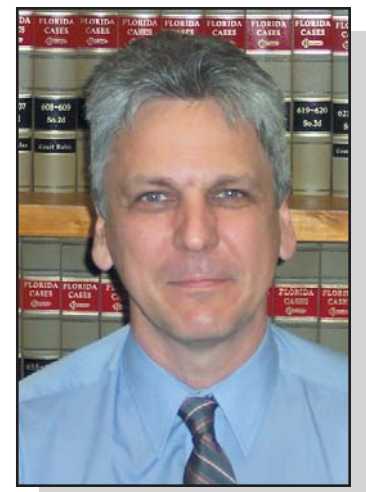
The Florida PBA is very active in state races, working hard to get pro-PBA and pro-law enforcement candidates elected to the Cabinet, and Florida House and Senate. These folks are the ones who control state law enforcement and corrections pay issues and write criminal justice legislation. Our local PBA's work to get pro-PBA and pro-law enforcement city and county commissioners elected at the local level. This makes it easier for us to get a seat at the table and to have input on important issues facing our community at large.

Your PBA officers and staff work hard to screen candidates, develop relationships, and to get folks elected who can have a major impact on you and your family. We put the resources of our 23 political committees into action to help accomplish this mission.

Your part is to help us help you get our candidates elected and re-elected.

When you receive a mailer from the PBA asking you to support a candidate(s), please consider the effort the PBA put into selecting them and then go vote for the PBA endorsed candidate(s).

Make your vote count towards putting the pro-PBA, pro-law enforcement candidate over the top. ●



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## Brave Officers

### Letter To The Editor

On May 14, two Hollywood police officers fought deadly rip currents to save three men from drowning. They did so without hesitation or concern for their own well being. **Officers Michael McBride** and **Richard Losenbeck** responded to a 911 call about three men drowning about 100 yards off Hollywood Beach at a time when there were no lifeguards on duty. Both officers stripped down and jumped into the water, working together with the aid of an off-duty lifeguard to pull all three men to safety.

To date, this story remains untold by the media. I have to wonder why that is.

The public is regularly bombarded with negative pieces about law enforcement, but it is a rare thing to see police officers lauded for the heroic deeds they perform every day. The job these men and women do is thankless and often times dangerous, yet each day they don the uniform and go out and do it again.

It is time to hear the other side of the story. Ask **Marco Popescu, Vasile Modovan** and **Carlos Escobar** — the three men rescued on May 14 — how they feel about the job the police are doing. ●



*Jeff  
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**Editor's Note: Our members always ask for ways they can help. A Letter To The Editor is a great way to get our message out.**