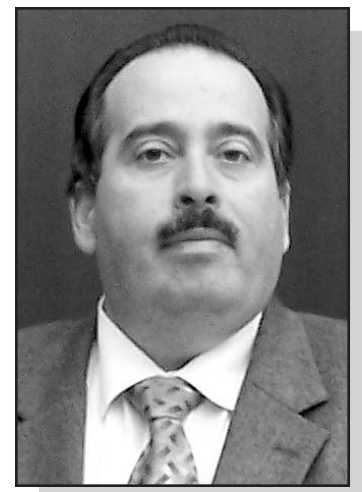


A Message From the President of the SCO Chapter



James
"Jim"
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2007 Was Deadly Year For CO's

The year 2007 was not a good year for correctional officers or law enforcement as a whole. It was a record year for in-line-of-duty deaths of correctional/law enforcement officers. In fact, last month the Federal Government released a report that stated that, as the inmate population went up across the nation, so did the assaults on correctional officers. We are all well aware of the killing of Broward County Correctional Deputy Paul Rein in Fort Lauderdale a short time ago while transporting an inmate to court.

Being a state correctional officer is getting more and more dangerous daily. I see it daily as I walk through the prison and hear from my fellow correctional officers across the state. The Florida Department of Corrections had several close calls this year. If funding to keep experienced officers is not increased soon, 2008 could be a deadly year for all of us. The formula for disaster is simple. We are giving inmates more and more time in prison, the number of inmates is increasing along with the turnover of officers which adds up to trouble, pain, and possible death for officers. And why the turnover of correctional officer? It is not the danger they are facing, but the pay. Risking your life daily and seeing no pay raise isn't a great career incentive. We need the Legislators to make state correctional officers' funding a priority this year. If not, they may spend the money in other ways after a prison is lost and Florida has its version of Attica. Here are some of other in-line-of-duty deaths from across the nation.

Senior Corrections Officer Cecil Arthur Smith, Sr., New Jersey Dept. of Corrections – Died on March 29, 2007.

Senior Corrections Officer Smith died from complications of injuries he received while on duty on November 10, 2006, at the New Jersey Juvenile Corrections facility. Officer Smith's duties included escorting all vehicles to and from the front gate of the institution. After returning from escorting a Hess Gas truck, Officer Smith fell from the truck when the door broke. Officer Smith injured his knee, shoulder, and hit his head on the pavement. Officer Smith eventually had to have knee replacement surgery and died from complications of the surgery.

Officer Smith had 26 years of service. He was married with four children.

Deputy Sheriff David Gwin, Macon County, Missouri, S.O.– Died on June 24, 2007.

Deputy Gwin died of a heart attack after being assaulted by an inmate at the Macon County jail. While attempting to

place the suspect in the lock-up cell, the suspect struck Deputy Gwin in the chest and abdomen. Deputy Gwin began to spit-up blood and he lost consciousness. Deputy Gwin was transported to the hospital and was being treated in the emergency room when he suffered a heart attack and died.

Deputy Sheriff Gwin had 24 years of service. He was married with five children.

Corrections Officer Stephen R. Anderson, Utah Dept. of Corrections – Died on June 25, 2007

Officer Anderson was shot and killed with his own gun by an inmate at the University of Utah Medical Center. Officer Anderson had transported the convicted gang member to the Medical Center to receive an MRI test. As Officer Anderson released the shackles from the inmate's feet, the inmate overpowered him, gained control of his service weapon and fatally shot him.

Corrections Officer Anderson had 22 years of service. He was married with five children.

Corrections Officer IV Susan Louise Canfield, Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice – Died on September 24, 2007.

Corrections Officer Canfield was struck and killed during a prison escape of two inmates. Officer Canfield was on horseback and supervising a group of inmates on a work detail when two inmates overpowered another officer, stole his weapon and a Ford pick-up truck. While fleeing, the inmates ran over Officer Canfield and her horse. Officer Canfield was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Officer Canfield had seven years of service. She was married with three children.

Corrections Officer Elizabeth Franklin, Alabama Dept. of Corrections

Officer Franklin died from injuries she received when she fell from the Watch Tower of the correctional facility. To reach the tower, officers must first climb a set of stairs and then climb up a ladder. On the morning of December 1, Officer Franklin lost her footing as she attempted to climb down the ladder. She was transported to a hospital with severe neck and head injuries. She remained in a coma and died one week later.

Officer Franklin had 24 years of service. She was single.

Reference: *The National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund (From the NLEMF Preliminary Law Enforcement Fatality Report)* ■

A secret agent was sent to Ireland to pick up some very sensitive information from an agent called Murphy. His instructions were to walk around town using a code phrase until he met his fellow agent. He found himself on a desolate country road and finally ran into a farmer.

"Hello," said the agent, "I'm looking for a man called Murphy."

"Well you're in luck," said the farmer, "as it happens, there's a village right over the hill, where there's a butcher called Murphy, the baker is named Murphy, three widows are called Murphy. In fact my name is Murphy."

"Aha," thought the agent, "here's my man." So he whispered the secret code. "The sun is shining... the grass is growing... the cows are ready for milking."

"Oh," said the farmer, "you're looking for Murphy the spy—he's in the village over the other direction."

Police Unity Tour Bicycle Ride

In May 1997, the Police Unity Tour was organized in an effort to bring about public awareness of law enforcement officers that have died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices. Additionally, we assist the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Fund with monetary support. This mission is primarily accomplished through an annual bicycle trek from various points across the United States to the Memorial, located in Washington, D.C. Since 1997, when 18 riders raised \$18,000, the Police Unity Tour has raised over \$4,300,000 for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Fund.

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of the Police Officers who have died in the line of duty.

The secondary purpose is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum.

www.policeunitytour.com

Last year over 1,000 officers made the journey. Officers who have committed to the 2008 Police Unity Tour Bicycle Ride are in the process of raising funds for their journey and some have personal websites available if you would like to contribute to their ride. The officers listed below are PBA members who we learned are signed up for the 2008 Ride. If no website is listed, please contact them in person. This list is NOT inclusive. For a larger list of participants, please go to www.policeunitytourviii.org/roster.htm.

Ron Colson, FDLE Capitol Police – www.firstgiving.com/roncolson

Chris A. Gatewood, Florida Highway Patrol – www.firstgiving.com/fhp

Tim Clark, Tallahassee Police Department

Tracy Clark, Tallahassee Police Department – www.firstgiving.com/tracyclark

Reynaldo Finales, Tallahassee Police Department – www.firstgiving.com/562

David Northway, Tallahassee Police Department – www.firstgiving.com/710

Stephen Vaughn, Tallahassee Police Department – www.firstgiving.com/srv

Sean Wyman, Tallahassee Police Department – www.firstgiving.com/wyman

Michele Yown, Tallahassee Police Department ■

