

# PBA Lobbyist Ed Hoffman Honored For Fifty Years Of Service

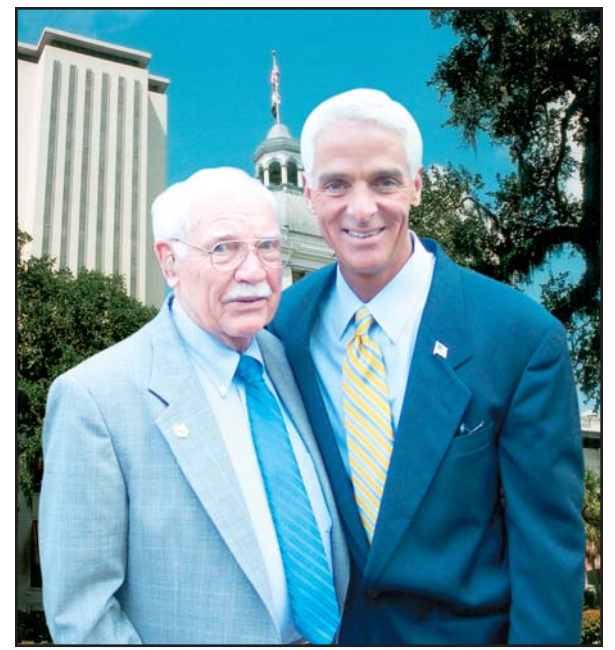
During the 2009 Legislative Session, the House and Senate paused to honor PBA's **Ed Hoffman** for his many years (fifty to be exact) of representing public safety in the Legislature. Ed has been my lobbying partner/sidekick/mentor/friend for almost a quarter of a century, and I know first hand that many of the benefits law enforcement and correctional officers enjoy would not have been possible without his dedication and hard work. For example, the three per cent accrual rate which all FRS Special Risk members now get is directly attributable to his breakthrough idea in 1988 which resulted in the phasing in of the full three percent accrual rate over a five year period of time (the accrual rate had been two percent a year since 1978, and there was not enough money to pay for full restoration in 1988, so his idea to pay for it over a five year period of time broke the log jam and the legislation became law). Another example is the "Heart and Lung" legislation which absolutely would not have been possible without his last minute heroics.

You name it, Ed has been in the thick of battle for just about every major advancement for law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and firefighters for the last fifty years.

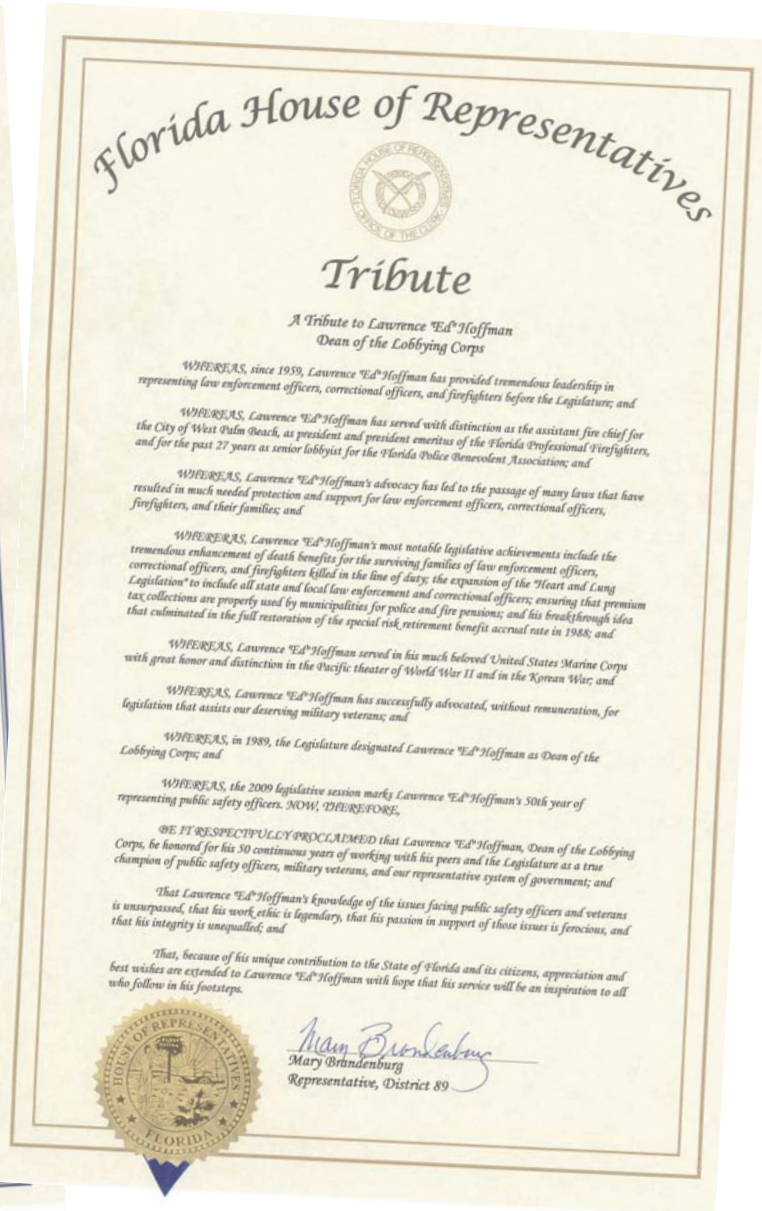
That's a hard act for any of us to follow. We salute and honor Ed for a job more than well done. Named by the Legislature in 1989 as "Dean of the Lobbying Corps," his legacy lives on.

Extra special thanks go to **Senator Mike Fasano** and **Representative Mary Brandenburg** for being so thoughtful to offer the Resolution and Memorial in tribute to Ed's great service to all of us.

~David Murrell



"Dean of the Lobbying Corps" Ed Hoffman and Governor Charlie Crist.



A man is recovering from surgery when the surgical nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling.

"I'm OK, but I didn't like the four letter-words the doctor used in surgery," he answered.

"What did he say?" asked the nurse.

"Oops!"

## Time To Circle The Wagons *continued from page 4*

If you know what to expect in the future and you do not prepare yourself, you only have yourself to blame.

Here are some simple rules when you are forced to say, "I never believed it would happen to me."

**Rule No. 1** – The battle is in the Court of Public Opinion! The employer will be making its case to the public and media. It is a fight for the hearts and minds of the tax payers. If the public is in a foul mood over their personal finances, you will get little sympathy by arguing you deserve to be paid more than the high school principal. The message has to be directed to how the reduction in police services will impact their lives. It is all about the public!

**Rule No. 2** – The political fight is the main event and lawyers are a side show. If you are forced into the courthouse or arbitration, you may have waited too long to start the political machine.

Police unions can avoid many of these issues by endorsing and supporting candidates who will not ask them to make such a decision, or negotiate in good faith with the union over any change. You have to recruit candidates and be involved in each election.

Every decision impacting police officers is decided by a political vote. How many votes do you have on the issue? If you lack a majority, how many do you need to get right side up?

**Rule No. 3** – If you get caught behind the eight ball, and the employer is attacking you as a greedy and uncaring union you must identify the vocal critics and make them feel your pain.

Somehow this seems to be where the unions get queasy and weak-kneed. It is often difficult to convince yourself or the members to picket some councilman's business, put their home telephone numbers up on billboards, and in general make their lives a living hell.

Union leaders who feel they are too professional to stoop to these tactics are the same ones who believe they can win by remote control using some lawyer.

**The bottom line:** The main event is a POLITICAL GAME and the legal game is the side show. Unless you beat them politically, you will never win even if the courts one day decide in your favor. If you discover you cannot win under the current rules, change the rules, and go outside the experience of the elected officials. Think outside the box.

Get dirty and fight to win. If you are in this predicament, then your elected officials did not RESPECT the union or the officers.

To get respect you have to bloody their noses and demonstrate that the union is willing to make it personal, because it is personal on so many levels. ●

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
This sort of attack is already happening in Florida. See SB 538 on page 6.