

Attorney General Pam Bondi's 2016 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Nominees' Biographies

Officer Christopher Ayala, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement

Nominated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement

- On July 10, 2016, Officer Ayala was on duty at a truck weighing station, located near the Macclenny exit on I-10. Attorney Douglas McAlarney, was trailering a new boat back to Tallahassee, when his right rear trailer tire blew out. He pulled over at a truck weighing station, where Officer Ayala noticed the vehicle in trouble and directed the driver to a place where he could park the boat trailer in order to change the tire in a safe manner.
- The driver had purchased a spare tire recently, but inadvertently purchased the wrong type of rim. Officer Ayala saw the man was having some trouble, approached him, and assessed the situation. He informed the driver that there was a local truck stop nearby and that he should contact them and ask if they could put the new tire on the old hub. The driver called, and they were able to help him. He unhitched his trailer and drove to the truck stop with both tires. They easily and rapidly fixed the tire, and the driver was safely back on the road to Tallahassee within two hours of his blowout.
- Officer Ayala could have easily ignored this situation. He could have gone about his business and offered the citizen in need, no help. But instead, he chose to help. He went above and beyond, kept a stranded driver safe, gave him advice and guidance on how to solve the problem, and got him back on the road in short order.
- Later that year, a driver was panicking while her car was stranded on the side of the highway. She later wrote a letter to express her deepest gratitude to Officer Ayala, who had come to her rescue on I-10. Her tire had blown out on the highway and she felt like she didn't know what to do, being 450 miles from home. She expressed in her written words that if it weren't for Officer Ayala and his selfless help, she would have been truly stuck and stranded. She thought so highly of his selfless act, that, in her letter, she said she could not thank him enough for changing her tire in the middle of the pouring rain and then directing her to a service center where she could receive further help.
- Officer Ayala takes the duty of public servant very seriously. During the year, he had 32 incidents like the ones above where he provided assistance, that went above and beyond his duties. Most of these consisted of helping stranded motorists on the highway. Officer Ayala provides directions, changes tires, and procures gasoline as well as a host of other things.

- Officer Ayala always maintains a high level of productivity in all areas of his assigned duties. Because of his diligence, he has 187 vehicle stops where he detected 139 regulatory violations and had a multitude of arrests. Officer Ayala is respected as a tough inspector. Officer Ayala tops the charts for bill of lading scans for the Department of Revenue. He scanned over 1,700 bill of ladings during the rating period, which led to the collection of over \$475,000 in unpaid taxes owed to the State of Florida.
- With stories like these, it is not hard to see why Officer Ayala is a highly respected professional by his fellow officers and supervisors. It is obvious, Officer Ayala's work ethic is outstanding as reflected by the high productivity that he produces. His commitment to serving the public has also been attested to by his fellow officers, his supervisors, as well as citizens themselves.

Officer David Brady, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Nominated by the State Law Enforcement Chiefs' Association

- On August 7, 2015, while patrolling the area of St. Andrew's Bay, Officer Brady was asked to respond to a call from a citizen regarding a disturbance involving two previously terminated subjects coming to his business and causing problems with other employees and guests.
- The subjects were heading east in a sailboat in the area of St. Andrew's pass. Officer Brady responded and made contact with the two subjects onboard the sailboat.
- He tied off to the sailboat and asked them to drop anchor due to the choppy waters. He asked them for their identification, one subject handed his driver's license over and the other subject entered the cabin of the vessel.
- The subject exited the cabin armed with a handgun pointed at Officer Brady. Officer Brady made a quick decision to take evasive action and jumped from the boat into the water. Immediately, he felt pain in his left shoulder and left rib cage. Officer Brady had been shot two times. The subject continued to fire at Officer Brady as he took cover behind the engine of his own patrol vessel.
- Officer Brady and the subject exchanged several rounds of gunfire. The subject then jumped into Officer Brady's vessel and Officer Brady took cover behind the subject's sailboat. The subject tried to run over Officer Brady with his own patrol vessel and crashed into the sailboat. At that time, the other subject jumped into Officer Brady's patrol vessel. Officer Brady continued to exchange gunfire in an effort to save his own life, ultimately striking one of the subjects.
- A United States Coast Guard vessel approached the area of Officer Brady after hearing about the disturbance. Officer Brady yelled for help, identified himself, and said he had been shot and his vessel stolen. Coast Guard personnel pulled him from the water and administered medical treatment to his gunshot wounds. Officer Brady managed to communicate important information to responding units. Officer Brady was transported to Bay Medical Center.
- The suspects fled in the FWC boat, grounding it, then fled on foot in a northbound direction. Area law enforcement began setting up a perimeter to contain the suspects.
- At approximately 6:15 pm, a citizen observed the two suspects attempting to break into a residence and confronted them with a handgun. One suspect fled the area on foot and was apprehended by officers. A perimeter was established

at the residence, and deputies observed the subject in the residence. Entry was made and the suspect was apprehended.

- A Glock handgun was recovered at the residence that is believed to have been used in the shooting and attempted murder of Officer Brady. One suspect had a gunshot wound on his hand that was sustained in the exchange of gunfire with Officer Brady.
- Officer Brady was treated at Bay Medical Center for a gunshot wound to his side that was stopped by his ballistic vest and a gunshot wound to his upper shoulder.
- Officer Brady displayed extreme courage and bravery during the entire incident. He never gave up and survived the subjects several attempts to kill him. Officer Brady not only survived, but was able to return fire in an effort to stop the two dangerous men from not only killing him, but also from doing harm to anyone else. Considering the two subjects had no problem attempting to kill a law enforcement officer, it is likely that Officer Brady's quick reaction was a call to save lives.

Deputy Emanuel Gonzalez, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by the Florida Fraternal Order of Police

- In November, Deputy Gonzalez was dispatched to a house fire located on Lonesome Dove Drive in Kissimmee. Once at the scene, it was learned that a handicapped man was still inside the home, which was fully engulfed in fire. Deputy Gonzalez, along with other deputies on scene attempted to gain entry into the home in two separate locations, but heat from the fire was overwhelming. While attempting to make entry, Deputy Gonzalez and the deputies assisting were exposed to a substantial amount of black smoke. When Osceola County Fire Rescue arrived, the deputies exposed to the smoke went to the hospital for smoke inhalation.
- Even though Deputy Gonzalez was suffering from smoke inhalation, he remained at the scene to assist Fire Rescue, who was short of personnel. When firefighters removed the male victim from the home, Deputy Gonzalez noticed that most of the fire personnel were fighting the fire and the paramedics needed assistance administering CPR to the unconscious victim.
- Without regard for his need of treatment, Deputy Gonzalez began assisting the paramedic by administering CPR to the victim and continued to do so for approximately 30 minutes, while the victim was being transported to the hospital. After arriving at the hospital, he waited for physicians and nurses to care for the victim first before receiving treatment himself.
- Fire Fighter Marc Belanger, of Osceola County Fire Rescue Station 72, expressed his appreciation for Deputy Gonzalez's efforts that evening to this agency in an email. Mr. Belanger wrote; "Deputy Gonzalez was the first to volunteer and jumped into action to assist us with patient care. He jumped in the back of the ambulance and performed great CPR for an extended period of time and continued to assist as we transported the patient to the hospital."
- Deputy Gonzalez certainly went beyond the call of duty by assisting Fire Rescue, all the while doing it at a time when he himself required medical attention. Deputy Gonzalez acted in the finest tradition of our agency's service to our citizens.

Officer Jason Hutchinson, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Nominated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

- Officer Hutchinson began his career with the Department of Corrections as a corrections officer. Following his work with DOC, he transitioned to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and then to the Department of Environmental Protection. In 2012, his goal of becoming an FWC officer was realized when sworn members from DEP were welcomed into the FWC ranks.
- Officer Hutchinson strives to set an example for other officers in the area. This year, the area implemented a BUI squad, and since Hutchinson had expressed an interest in improving his BUI detection abilities, he volunteered. By "Leading from within," he persuaded fellow officer John Clark into teaming up and joining the squad. Together, Hutchinson and Clark worked more BUI and DUI cases than the rest of the Santa Rosa and Escambia County officers combined.
- Officer Hutchinson's dedication to teamwork is also evident in his cooperation with the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office. North Santa Rosa County has only one or two deputies on duty at any given time, especially at night. Officer Hutchinson has gone out of his way to meet local deputies, provide them with his contact information and let them know his willingness to assist. Santa Rosa County Sheriff Deputies have called Hutchinson directly to report illegal activity or to request assistance. The resulting teamwork has been outstanding.
- Officer Hutchinson is also committed to the core mission of resource protection and enforcement. Over the past twelve months, his enforcement efforts have produced more than 232 written citations and warnings, many documenting numerous charges. More than 70 of these cases were for misdemeanor or felony level charges. Hutchinson's caseload, a primary indicator of excellence, exceeds that of any other sworn officer in his captain's four county region.
- Officer Jason Hutchinson is a fine example of a well-rounded officer with an extremely strong work ethic. He is very well respected in the community, but feared by poachers across his assigned patrol area. Hutchinson represents the FWC with a level of dedication that sets him apart.

Officer Niel Johnson, the North Miami Police Department

Nominated by the Florida Police Chiefs Association

- On April 14, 2015, while working an off-duty security detail at the Sans Souci Guard Gate, Officer Johnson, via radio transmission, heard a 'Be On the Lookout', for an armed subject, driving a stolen City of Miami marked police vehicle. Shortly thereafter, the deafening sound of multiple gunshots rang out on Sans Souci Boulevard. Without hesitation, Officer Johnson, fearing for the safety of the residents in the community, vacated his security post and responded toward the gunshots.
- Officer Johnson was immediately confronted by the gunman, who was wielding a high-powered assault rifle with a pistol grip and two magazines with the capacity for 40 rounds. The subject engaged Officer Johnson and fired multiple high caliber rifle rounds at him from close range.
- Reverting to his tactical training and survival instincts, Officer Johnson return fire and took cover. Officer Johnson maintained his composure during this violent gun battle, and miraculously was not struck. He precisely returned fire, neutralizing the threat, and stopping the violent actions of this subject. The subject was taken into custody and airlifted to Jackson Memorial Ryder Trauma Center.
- Officer Johnson came face-to-face with an armed and potentially deadly subject. It was determined that the subject had engaged in a spree of criminal activity throughout the morning. The subject had committed numerous acts of vandalism to taxi cabs, fired multiple gunshots at a City of Miami police officer in attempt to kill him, and stole the police officers marked police vehicle, which had the lights and siren activated.
- During the crime spree, an innocent bystander was shot as the subject fled from the scene. The subject took flight northbound, and after entering the city of North Miami, he shot an innocent motorist, just before confronting Officer Johnson. Had it not been for the swift, valued, and selfless actions of Officer Johnson, this out of control gunman would've continued inflicting injuries and possibly death upon more victims.
- Officer Johnson is honored today while we promote greater public awareness of the exemplary service of Florida law enforcement personnel. Officer Johnson's extreme bravery and life-saving efforts brought closure to this chaotic event and was directly involved in protecting the lives of innocent people within the City of North Miami and throughout Miami Dade County.

Special Agent Travis Lawson, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Pensacola Regional Operation Center

Nominated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement

- Special Agent Lawson began his career with FDLE in 2000 at the Miami Regional Operations Center. In 2007, Special Agent Lawson transferred to the Pensacola Regional Operations Center, where he is currently assigned to the Panama City Field Office and Marianna Sub-Field Office in the Program Area of Investigations and Forensic Science. The Marianna office is staffed by a single FDLE agent, Special Agent Lawson, who serves four rural Florida panhandle counties.
- The uniqueness of the Marianna Office requires someone that is self-motivated, an exceptional investigator, willing to assist local agencies, and experienced at conducting independent investigations with successful conclusions. Special Agent Lawson possesses these qualities and has established a professional working relationship with the law enforcement communities of Jackson, Washington, Holmes, and Calhoun Counties.
- These small counties and the local law enforcement agencies located within the counties, consistently rely on Special Agent Lawson for his professional and knowledgeable investigative abilities. Special Agent Lawson has often been described by local officials as someone who immediately earns their respect.
- On April 2, 2016, the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office responded to the Calhoun/Liberty Hospital where a two-year old child was being treated in the emergency room for multiple bruises, contusions, and skull fractures. It was also determined the young victim and her five-year-old brother had multiple bruises and marks that were consistent with child abuse. The following day, the victim died from her injuries.
- The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office immediately called on the expertise and professionalism of Special Agent Lawson. Through his leadership and exceptional investigative skills, this case was brought to a successful conclusion, when the mother's boyfriend plead no contest to aggravated manslaughter of a child and was sentenced to 20 years.
- On July 6, 2015, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded to a small night club in Jacob City where Calvin Lee Rhynes had been shot and subsequently died from his wounds. Special Agent Lawson took a leadership role in this investigation and participated in the arrest of the subject and ultimate conviction for first Degree Murder and Armed Robbery.
- In addition to the above listed cases, Special Agent Lawson was the lead Agent on a Marianna Police Department in-custody death, where it was shown that the decedent

died from Flakka toxicity. Special Agent Lawson was also the lead on public integrity investigations, additional homicide investigations, and ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) investigations.

- During 2015, the Panama City Field Office was tasked with numerous investigations into in-custody death investigations and officer involved shootings. Special Agent Lawson participated in this team effort without complaint and conducted himself in a professional manner.
- Special Agent Lawson's work ethic is second to none and he always goes the extra mile in the various tasks that are required of him. He not only has great common sense; he has an intellect that truly shines in the more difficult cases with which he is presented - from homicide to the most detailed financial crimes. Officer Lawson is an exemplary special agent and personifies FDLE's core values of service, integrity, respect, and quality in all that he does.

Investigator Jason Newlin, the State Attorney's Office for the Second Judicial Circuit

Nominated by the Florida Gang Investigators Association

- Investigator Newlin was hired by the Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit in January of 2010. He had previous law enforcement experience with The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- On May 25, 2015, a homicide occurred in a neighborhood called "South City", which is an area with a high concentration of gang members. Although it is believed there were numerous residents at the housing complex who witnessed the murder, only one witness came forward reluctantly to identify the shooter. The witness was an incredibly kind and brave 13-year-old.
- The shooter was a documented member of a particularly violent local street gang called, "The Hit Squad". Within weeks of the homicide, rumors started to spread throughout the neighborhood that this juvenile witness and his family were informers. By cooperating with the police and telling the truth about a man being gunned down in the street, this witness was labeled a snitch and targeted by gang members associated with the shooter.
- In June, after several gang members showed up at the witness' home, Investigator Newlin responded quickly and moved the entire family into a local motel. He and the victim advocate then maintained daily contact with the family as they searched for a more secure residence on the opposite side of the county.
- At one point in early July the decision was made to allow the family to return home temporarily while they secured a relative placement for the juvenile witness. But less than one week after returning to South City, the family was again targeted. On July 9, drive by shooters left their car and home riddled with bullet holes. Luckily, nobody inside was injured or killed. But the entire family was once again, victimized and badly shaken.
- The juvenile witness wanted very badly to remain at his school where he played football, so Investigator Newlin contacted the school principal and school resource officer to coordinate a safety plan which allowed the child to finish his last year at his middle school. Several times the child's mother would contact Investigator Newlin when she had no way to provide transportation to and from the school. Investigator Newlin would pick the child up both from home and school.
- One night he waited for hours while the child finished football practice so he could drive him home. He also attended several of the boy's games to ensure there were no "Hit Squad" members present posing a threat to the child. Investigator Newlin visited

the child's home so frequently that the child and his siblings all started calling him, "Uncle Jason".

- On the day of the verdict, family of the defendant and "Hit Squad" members started posting threats on social media of their intent to find and harm the witness. Fearing further violence to the family, Investigator Newlin again had them placed in a secure motel while the State Attorney's Office arranged for a security system to be installed at their new residence. He continued to coordinate with local law enforcement and gang units to arrange extra patrol at various locations.
- Virtually none of the efforts described in this nomination fall into Investigator Newlin's job description, but because he cares about his job and about the people he serves, he will do whatever it takes to protect and serve them. It's in large part due to his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty that, not only are the child and his family safe and doing very well, but a dangerous killer is behind bars.

Investigator Jayson Paul, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by the Florida Retail Federation

- In April 2015, Investigator Paul was assigned a 'gift card racketeering' case, and thought it would be just another case file to add to the pile that greeted him at work each day. What he did not know, was that this case would be one of the largest retail theft investigations in Florida's history.
- Investigator Paul initiated an investigation into a large-scale racketeering case that would become known as "Operation Plastic Paradise. " The case involved multiple criminal groups that were entering large retail stores, stealing thousands of dollars' worth of property on a daily basis, then returning the stolen property in exchange for gift cards that were then sold to local gift card buying businesses.
- Investigator Paul led a team of investigators that meticulously documented the organization's crimes. During the operation, Paul and the other investigators spoke to known shoplifters, pulled "Cash for Gift Card" transaction records and went undercover to sell gift cards to the businesses on 10 separate occasions. During many of the undercover sales, the law enforcement operative engaged in small talk with the employees and made comments that suggested that the gift cards were stolen.
- After Investigator Paul meticulously built his case against the organization, it was adopted by the Florida Office of the Statewide Prosecutor. Due to his hard work and dedication, Investigator Paul was able to identify five inter-connected groups that were committing organized retail theft throughout the Central Florida area. So lucrative was the scheme that financial records from the "Cash for Gift Cards" business showed \$2 million flowing through the company's bank accounts in less than one year. And one of the businesses' most prolific customers sold more than 600 gift cards to them in a six-month span.
- As a result of his tireless efforts, 23 arrest warrants, 5 search warrants and 6 seizure warrants were issued to dismantle the organizations. This amounted to one of the largest organized retail theft investigations in the history of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. Leading a team of approximately 40 investigators, Investigator Paul executed a massive and extremely successful operation that had a significant positive impact on Florida's retail industry.
- Voted number one by his peers, the success of the operation earned Investigator Paul the title of, Volusia County Sheriff's Office, 2015 Investigator of the Year. Investigator Paul has utilized his keen skills, determination and investigative tenacity to solve the crimes to ensure that Florida's 270,000 retailers and their millions of customers are provided the safety and protection that law enforcement officers like Investigator Paul bring to the citizens of Florida every day.

Lieutenant Channing Taylor, the Florida Highway Patrol – Troop D

Nominated by the Florida Highway Patrol

- Every day, Florida Highway Patrol Troopers leave the comfort of their homes in order to protect us and help ensure motorists Arrive Alive. On one dark Sunday evening, Lieutenant Taylor made a selfless decision that undoubtedly saved the lives of innocent bystanders. He is a hero who has earned our gratitude.
- On June 14, 2015, at approximately 9:15 p.m., while Lieutenant Taylor was on patrol, he observed a red pickup-truck entering the parking lot of the Pilot gas station, located on State Road 520 in Brevard County, Florida. He saw the truck being operated without its headlights.
- Lieutenant Taylor approached the vehicle and asked the driver for her driver license. Suddenly, a male passenger in the right-front-seat produced a revolver and fired at Lieutenant Taylor, striking him once in the shoulder. Lieutenant Taylor took cover behind the corner of the gas station and drew his firearm. Not certain if the driver was a victim or accomplice, Lieutenant Taylor maintained his sight on the vehicle and was able to radio for assistance while under duress.
- Lieutenant Taylor observed the vehicle as it backed out of the parking area in an attempt to flee the scene. He then left his covered position to gain a clear line of sight of the vehicle and its occupants. Lieutenant Taylor fired his service firearm, striking the male passenger. The vehicle then crashed into another vehicle and came to a stop. The suspect, who shot Lieutenant Taylor, died at the scene as a result of gunshot wounds. It was later learned the suspect and female driver, who were dating, had planned to drive to Ohio to commit suicide. Their actions clearly showed that the pair had no regard for the welfare of others.
- After fleeing, the driver of the vehicle was located by assisting Troopers and charged with Attempted Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer and Second-Degree Felony Murder. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement 's investigation concluded that Lieutenant Taylor fired a total of three shots.
- Lieutenant Taylor stated that he only fired three shots due to the fact that he had a very limited line of sight to the shooter and was concerned for the safety of customers in and around the gas station. His actions demonstrated that Lieutenant Taylor's main concern was for the safety and welfare of the public and the prevention of further injury.
- Lieutenant Taylor was awarded with the Florida Highway Patrol's Medal of Valor, the highest award bestowed by the Florida Highway Patrol, based on an officer's display of outstanding bravery, gallantry or courage when faced with great personal danger during the performance of their official duties.

- Lieutenant Taylor not only ended a life-threatening situation to himself, but his quick and decisive actions ensured the safety of the individuals around him. His commitment to the Florida Highway Patrol core values of courtesy, service and protection ensured the safety and welfare of millions of Florida residents and visitors of the great state of Florida by his actions that day.
- Lieutenant Taylor is a 22-year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol and has served with incredible courage and strength. It is this service and dedication that helps protect Florida's families and communities.

Deputy Nicholas Worthy, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by the Florida Sheriffs Association

- Immediately after his high school graduation, Deputy Worthy enlisted in the United States Army, on a Ranger track and was assigned to Charlie Company. He was deployed to Southeast Asia in 2010, where Deputy Worthy served our great nation with several tours as a US Army Ranger Sergeant and Team Leader. He was also recognized in the armed forces with the Bronze Star Medal of Valor in combat for his heroic actions in Afghanistan.
- As Deputy Worthy's enlistment came to an end in 2015, he decided to follow his father's example and signed up for road patrol duty at the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, where his father had been a deputy for 30 years. The transition from service to his country, to service to his community, was a natural one for him.
- On February 6, 2015, Deputy Worthy was one of the three deputies that responded to a residence in Cocoa regarding a vehicle fire. Upon arrival, they found a vehicle in the driveway fully engulfed in flames. The fire had also spread to another vehicle in the carport and onto the eaves of the home. Due to the size of the fire, coupled with the unstable and explosive contents within the carport and vehicles, the deputies were unable to reach the front door of the residence.
- As the deputies ran to the rear of the house, they discovered a burning gas can under a natural gas line, as well as fire at the rear door. With fire blocking all entry and exit points to the home, the three deputies began banging on windows to try to notify any occupants. Deputy Worthy broke out one of the bedroom windows, and they worked together to locate the occupants and carry them to safety.
- An Inspection by Fire Investigators determined the fire was arson and was set with the intention of trapping the-occupants inside the residence. Without the quick actions of these deputies, the victims would have surely perished. Deputy Worthy's actions of courage and heroism, placing himself in imminent danger to protect lives, exemplifies the highest degree of honor. For this incident, Deputy Worthy and the other two deputies were awarded a Life Saving Bar.
- March 9, 2015, at 9:08 p.m., a 911 call was received describing a man standing in the street firing a handgun at random cars and houses. The City of Cocoa was the primary agency responding to the call, with Deputy Worthy responding as back-up. It turned out that he was the closest officer and arrived first.
- When he got within two blocks of where the shooter had last been seen, he stopped to retrieve his patrol rifle and approached on foot. His time as a Ranger had taught him that the element of surprise was worth its weight in gold, but like all well thought-

out plans, his plan was subjected to Murphy's Law. The original plan went by the wayside within seconds of his arrival.

- Deputy Worthy's car was blacked out, meaning no lights of any kind were on, when he saw the subject standing in the street. He turned on his headlights to get a better look at the man. The man, who turned out to be the active shooter; acted as if he was going to run, so Worthy activated his blue lights announcing that he was a deputy sheriff. As soon as the lights came on, the suspect reached into his pocket, pulled out a handgun and began firing at him. One of the first shots came through the patrol car's windshield and embedded in the headrest, narrowly missing Deputy Worthy's head.
- Deputy Worthy exited and sought better cover behind his car. The shooter, in a highly agitated state, pursued Worthy to the rear of the car, shooting the entire time. At one point the subject was running towards Worthy, and it was at this time that Worthy confronted the suspect and responded with deadly force.
- Deputy Worthy's actions were truly an act of courage and heroism that day. He placed himself in imminent danger to protect lives, without any hesitation. His actions exemplify the highest degree of honor and the ideas of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. For his heroic actions during this incident, Deputy Worthy was awarded the "Medal of Valor" from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.