

TEAM SOUTH FLORIDA

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Address: PO Box 8595, Coral Springs, FL 33075

Florida Department of Agriculture Charitable

Organization Registration Number: CH47562

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PRESS RELEASE: 2016-04
DATE: October 23, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Team South Florida is a non-profit 501c3 Police Cycling Team who is dedicated to honoring and remembering those Law Enforcement Officers who have been killed in the line of duty while supporting their agencies and their families. We focus on bridging the gap between Law Enforcement and the communities they live and work in. When appropriate, this is accomplished by sharing the human side of the profession and by highlighting some of the many positive incidents which occur in our communities on a daily basis but are sometimes not recognized. We are a strictly volunteer team comprised of active and retired, sworn Law Enforcement members, in good standing, who serve, have served, or retired and now reside in the South Florida area as well as civilian volunteers with close ties to the Law Enforcement community.

This past Thursday, October 20th, 2016 our Team was extremely proud to host our First Annual Best of the Badge Awards which took place in Broward County. Our Team is eternally grateful to all those who made it such a huge success. The event began with a great opening by the Police Pipe and Drum Corps of Florida which was followed by an absolutely breathtaking live rendition of the National Anthem by 14 year old local superstar, Jenna Marie Del Gardo. Retired Police Sergeant Amber Williams performed her tribute song, *The Fallen*, and local Radio Host Rich Stevens lead the Pledge of Allegiance and was gracious enough to host the event for us. Guest Speaker Randy Sutton, retired Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Lieutenant and National Spokesperson for Blue Lives Matter, spoke on current events and the importance of unity within the Law Enforcement profession.

Our Team received almost fifty nominations this past summer for ten different award categories. The categories varied from a Lifetime Achievement Award and a Citizen Appreciation Award to the Life Saving Award and the Valor Award. The following page of this press release contains a detailed list of those nominees who were selected and recognized for their outstanding performance.

We look forward to continuing to support our mission and sincerely thank everyone for their continued overwhelming support for our Team. We extend a special thank you to Scott Clark on behalf of High Drive K-9 for being the main sponsor of this event. We also applaud those who were not recognized yet still came out to support this special event. This included many family members, civilians, and a variety of ranks from local Law Enforcement agencies from Road Patrol Officers and Deputies all the way up to Command Staff personnel.

Very respectfully,
Rich Best

TEAM SOUTH FLORIDA EXECUTIVE BOARD
RICH BEST **PRESIDENT / TREASURER**
JASON WHISNANT **VICE PRESIDENT**
ERIKA LASKY **SECRETARY**

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2016 Team South Florida Best of the Badge Awards

Significant Arrest Award

- Broward County Sheriff's Detective Brian Walker
- Broward County Sheriff's Detective Jason Dorsett
- Broward County Sheriff's Detective David Augusti
- Broward County Sheriff's Detective Victor Carrasquillo
- Broward County Sheriff's Detective Geoffrey Brown

Determination & Solid Police Work Award

- Boca Raton Police Detective Tim Kurdys
- Boynton Beach Police K-9 Officer Michael Brown
- Boynton Beach Police Officer Chris Munro
- Boynton Beach Police Officer George Baldino

Law Enforcement Role Model Award

- Coral Springs Police Traffic Homicide Investigator Chris Swinson
- Lauderhill Police K-9 Officer Ron Torres

Excellence in Media Award

- WPBF News Anchor & Reporter Stephanie Berzinski
- Mitchell Pellecchia on behalf of Margate News
- WPLG News Reporter Erica Rakow

Merit Award

- Miami Dade Police Officer Liam Angelini
- Boynton Beach Police Officer Dennis Castro
- Broward County Sheriff's Detective Don Huneke
- Coral Springs Police Sergeant Carla Kmiotek
- Coral Springs Police Retired Sergeant Bob Behan
- Coral Springs Police Officer AJ King
- Coral Springs Police Officer Brian Mitchell

Citizen Appreciation Award

- Mr. Bryan Needle
- Mr. Tom Berry

Exceptional Service Award

- Davie Police Detective Adam Granit
- Coconut Creek Police Officer Obed Saldana
- Broward County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Commella
- Broward County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Rausch

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Retired Police Sergeant Michael Brunson

Life Saving Award

- Doral Police Officer Katherine Alvarez
- Doral Police Officer Melinda Cengel
- Boynton Beach Police Officer Patrick Monteith
- Pinecrest Police Sergeant Sigfredo Badillo

Valor Award

- Miami Gardens Police Officer David Starling

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