



# POAT Newsletter

*Sergeant Chuck Duncan, Miami Dade Police Department  
October 2009*

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Assistant Director  
Miami-Dade Police  
Department.
- **Vice President**  
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- **Secretary**  
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Friday, September 11, 2009, the 9-11 Ceremony was held at the Law Enforcement Memorial site at Tropical Park 8, the ceremony was well attended by police and fire personnel. Remembering that horrific day is sad and painful, but it is important to demonstrate to the brothers and sisters of our fallen comrades that we will never forget the sacrifices they made to keep us safe. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event.

Saturday, September 12, 2009, the bi-annual "Crop for Cops" was held. There were over 60 scrap book enthusiasts in attendance for this all day scraping fundraiser. This has become an extremely popular event for those "scrapers" in the scrap booking community. Thank you to Candy Loftus and Annette McCully for coordinating the fun filled day, and be looking for the next "Crops for Cops" next spring.

Saturday, October 17, 2009, POAT will be participating in Macy's "Shop for a Cause." By donating \$5, you will be entitled to additional discounts and special shopping hours, not available to the general public. Contact Annette McCully at (305) 970-2776, or the POAT office for additional information or tickets.

The County-Wide United Way Campaign will begin in October. Please consider making your payroll deduction to the Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT). This campaign is what provides the lifeblood for POAT to honor our fallen heroes and support officers and their families in their time of need. All requests for assistance received by POAT are kept in strictest confidence. Unless you are on the Board of Directors and hear the assistance cases first-hand every month, have been assisted yourself, or have personal knowledge of a fellow officer POAT has assisted, you are probably unaware that POAT has averaged 36 new assistance cases a year since 2000. Often times in my travels through-out the years, in talking to officers from the various police departments that are requesting assistance from POAT, I hear a common statement, "Chuck, all the years I donated to POAT I never thought I would need it." POAT is like an insurance policy you hope you never have to use, but it gives you peace of mind knowing POAT is ready to assist if the situation ever arises. My response to officers that often become very emotional when I advise them that their request for assistance was approved is always the same, "I'm only the messenger; it's the thousands of officers that consistently donate their money and time to make it possible to help during such a critical time."



**Brooke, Dillion**

**EOW:** Oct 21, 1924  
MDPD Corrections

**Canalejo Jr.,  
Osvaldo**

**EOW:** Oct 13, 1992  
Miami

**Christman, Jerome**

**EOW:** Oct 3, 1960  
MDPD

**Gort, Evelyn**

**EOW:** Oct 30, 1993  
MDPD

**Jones, Reuben**

**EOW:** Oct 5, 1998  
MDPD

**Melendez, John**

**EOW:** Oct 17, 1985  
Bal Harbour

**Staab, Robert**

**EOW:** Oct 31, 1957  
Bal Harbour

**Thornbury, Donald**

**EOW:** Oct 26, 1991  
Miccosukee

The next POAT Motorcycle Ride will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m., starting at Tropical Park (in the front). Registration is \$20 with proceeds going to the Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children. POAT provides holiday gifts for the surviving minor children of officers killed in the line-of-duty and officers that have died of natural/accidental means. You can register by going to [www.POAT.org](http://www.POAT.org), or by calling Lieutenant Rudy Gonzalez at 305-471-2312.

On Friday, December 11, 2009, a Scramble Golf Tournament will be held at Keys Gate Golf and Country Club, with all proceeds benefiting POAT. Entry fee is \$125. per golfer, which includes green fees, cart fee, lunch, goodie bag, and beverages on course. For further information, please contact Richard Mestre at (305) 786-299-2188.

Don't forget to sign-up for the Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children. This is an annual event POAT embarks upon during the holiday season to remember the children of officers killed in the line of duty or who died while actively sworn with an agency within Miami-Dade County. Funds are raised in order to purchase gifts for approximately 66 recipients. We are requesting volunteers to work the POAT collection tables, which will be set-up at Aventura Mall, Dadeland Mall, The Falls Shopping Center, Southland Mall, and the Village of Merrick Park. Collections will begin on Friday, November 27th during the evening hours. Aventura Mall is coordinated by Lt. Dwight Snyder, Sunny Isles Beach ~ (305-792-1893), Dadeland Mall is coordinated by Officer Chris Hodges, Miami-Dade ~ (305-970-0769), The Falls is coordinated by Sgt. David Greenwell ~ Miami-Dade (305-471-2506 or 305-970-7214), Southland Mall Sgt. John McLaughlin, and the Village of Merrick Park is coordinated by Sgt Vinnie Peterson, Coral Gables ~ (305-283-8905); or you can call the POAT office at 305-594-6662. Volunteers will hand-out POAT brochures explaining the program and will be collecting donations. If everyone reading this, volunteers for just one night, we will be able to have the tables up and running every evening. We always fill the weekend days first, as they are the most productive days for generating donations. Let's all work together to make this a success and help bring a smile to the children's faces during this holiday season. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

**Trooper Robert Smith, was killed on July 26, 1997, when his FHP vehicle was struck by a drunk driver.** Susan Perry Fuhrman and Harold Humphrey (POAT Board Member), from the 200 Club of Miami, visited with Trooper Smith's children Todd and Taylor Smith (twins) on their birthday to present each with a \$300 gift certificate.

## Service Legacy Brick

The Service Legacy Bricks for retired officers would make a great gift for that special retired officer in the family. The Service Legacy Brick is placed in the walkway at the Law Enforcement Memorial in Tropical Park. You can get a brick in the walkway by completing the application by [clicking here](#) or visit our website at <http://www.POAT.org> and making a \$50 donation to POAT. The funds raised from the brick donations go towards maintaining the Law Enforcement Memorial and funding the annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony.

## POAT Scholarships

The POAT has two scholarships that we offer to students getting ready to attend a university, college, or vocational school and are the children of a sworn officer, federal, state, county, or municipal, serving within the boundaries of Miami-Dade County. [The Paul Janosky Art Scholarship](#) is offered to students majoring in visual, graphic or computer arts. [The Mike Byrd Crime Scene Scholarship](#) is offered to students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Forensics, Pathology, or any major affiliated to Crime Scene Investigation. Applications for these scholarships can be obtained by downloading them from the POAT website at <http://www.POAT.org>, calling the POAT office at (305)594-6662 or downloading here:

[The Paul Janosky Art Scholarship](#)

[Mike Byrd Crime Scene Scholarship](#)

## Thanks for your support and stay safe!

### Make a tax deductible donation:

**Mail to: Police Officer Assistance Trust  
1030 NW 111 Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33172**

POAT offers assistance to all sworn officers in Miami-Dade County from federal, state, county, and municipal agencies. **Your contributions make these efforts possible!** Checks should be made payable to the Police Officer Assistance Trust or POAT. If you wish to make a donation to a specific area of assistance (educational, general, holiday gifts, police memorial, Paul Janosky Art Scholarship, Mike Byrd Scholarship), please notate the information in the memo area of your check

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The Police Officer Assistance Trust is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization operating within Miami-Dade County, Florida. POAT provides assistance to law enforcement officers and their families in times of crisis or critical need