



POAT Newsletter

*Sergeant Chuck Duncan, Miami Dade Police Department
October 29, 2008*

- **President**
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Miami-Dade Police
Department.
- **Vice President**
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The County-Wide United Way Campaign begins November 1st.

Please consider making your payroll deductions 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 that have been stricken by a catastrophic event. In 1996, POAT entered into an agreement with the United Way allowing Miami-Dade County employees to contribute to the United Way through payroll deduction and designate their donation to go to POAT. The inaugural slogan when the program began was, "Three Is For Me", which was an effort to get every officer to donate at least \$3 per pay period. With the value of the dollar decreasing, and POAT's commitment to never turn away an officer truly in need, we are asking every officer to give what they can afford and feel comfortable with. Since the majority of the

assistance POAT provides to officers is done in a discreet/confidential manner, many are not aware of the number of officers who have been assisted through the years. Suffice it to say that during my travels to various police departments, I see an officer POAT has helped on almost every occasion. Never forget the power that all officers working and contributing together has on the individual officers who are being helped during their darkest hours. There is not one of us who can accomplish as much as all of us together. POAT is the vehicle used to provide assistance to so many officers and their families in many ways. All of the officers that contribute to POAT provide the fuel for the vehicle to run. It is

our collective duty to see that POAT is a viable charitable organization far into the future.

There is a current video POAT has released for everyone to view which has candid interviews from POAT recipients. Make sure to watch the video, especially if you have any questions as to what POAT does on a routine basis. **Make sure you designate "Police Officer Assistance Trust" (not POAT) on your United Way form to ensure POAT receives the donation. I think I can speak for the hundreds of officers and their families that POAT has, and/or is currently helping when I say thank you for your support.**



Milledge, John

EOW: Nov 1, 1946
Miami

Saenz, George

EOW: Nov 2, 1989
United States
Customs

Mertes, Carl

EOW: Nov 5, 1980
North Miami

Miyares, Emilio

EOW: Nov 6, 1986
Hialeah

Ferguson, Jerrel

EOW: Nov 7, 1962
Miami

Hodge, Lynette

EOW: Nov 16, 1993
North Miami

Jester, Robert

EOW: Nov 18, 1933
Miami

Cainas, Pedro

EOW: Nov 19, 1992
Hialeah

Gonzalez, Carmen

EOW: Nov 19, 1993
Miami-Dade

Stephens, Billy

EOW: Nov 23, 1957
Coral Gables

Schulz, Lavern

EOW: Nov 27, 1987
South Miami

Boles, Richard

EOW: Nov 28, 1988
Miami-Dade

Marler, Richard

EOW: Nov 28, 1921
Miami

Strzalkowski,

David

EOW: Nov 28, 1988
Miami-Dade

Support Our Wounded Warriors

On Saturday November 8, 2008 the second, Support Our Wounded Warriors, shooting competition will be held at the Miami-Dade Police Training Bureau. The last fun shoot competition had about 50 competitors. About half were military veterans and half law enforcement. If you would like to compete or volunteer for the event contact Mike Preston at mpreston@mdpd.com or 305-992-5213. An obstacle course competition has been added to the event list. Kelly Kennedy is coordinating the event and can be contacted at KJKennedy@mdpd.com or 305-715-5116. Anyone wanting to register for the shooting or obstacle course event can register online at www.poat.org, or by contacting the respective coordinator. There is a \$20 registration fee per event. Lunch and drinks are included.

SemiAnnual Cops Ride For Kids

The next POAT Motorcycle Ride will be held on Saturday December 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m., starting at the Snapper Creek Plaza (SW 120 Street & Turnpike). 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, calling Lieutenant Rudy Gonzalez at 305-471-2312, or the POAT office at 305-594-6662.

Don't forget to sign-up for the Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children.

This is an annual event that 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 so we can purchase gifts for approximately 60 children. We are requesting volunteers to work the POAT collection tables that will be set up at Aventura Mall, Dadeland Mall, The Falls Shopping Center, and the Village of Merrick Park. Collections will begin on Friday, November 29th during the evening hours. Aventura Mall is coordinated by Lt. Dwight Snyder (305-792-1893), Dadeland Mall is coordinated by Officer Chris Hodges (305-970-0769), The Falls is coordinated by Sgt. David Greenwell (305-471-2506 or 305-970-7214), and the Village of Merrick Park is coordinated by Sgt Vinnie Peterson (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 childrens' faces during this holiday season. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Service Legacy Brick

The Service Legacy Bricks for retired officers would make a great Christmas gift for that special retired officer in the family. The Service Legacy Brick is placed in the walkway at the new Law Enforcement Memorial in Tropical Park. You can get a brick in the walkway by completing the application that is on our website at POAT.org and making a \$50 donation to POAT. The funds raised from the brick donations goes 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 deadline for both scholarships has been extended to June 30, 2007. **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 web-site at <http://www.POAT.org> or calling the POAT office at (305)594-6662.

www.POAT.org

POAT has updated its web-site at <http://www.POAT.org>. A great way to keep informed of POAT's events and fundraisers or scroll through the roll call of honor.

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

[Click here for more information for Paul Janosky Art Scholarship](#)

[Download application here](#)

[Click here for more information for Mike Byrd Crime Scene Scholarship](#)

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