

March 9, 2009: Save The Date! Unveiling of the Florida PBA "Officer Down" Memorial



Date: Mon., March 9th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Florida Capitol Plaza,
Tallahassee



Join us as we honor the men and women of law enforcement and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

*By
David
Murrell*

Update On Memorial

As you may have read previously, Florida PBA has commissioned **Michael Jernigan** as the sculptor to create PBA's "Officer Down" Memorial at the Capitol in Tallahassee. The Memorial will be in the Courtyard between the Old and New Capitols and will feature two impressive bronzed statues (life-sized). The unveiling will be held on March 9, with **Governor Crist**, families of victims, and other dignitaries highlighting the ceremony.

Thinking to the future as we remember the past, imbedded in the statues will be three time capsules. We have invited families, co-workers, and law enforcement agencies to submit pictures and information about their particular fallen officer, and, as most have done, messages to

their loved one. As of this writing (Feb. 12), we have had an excellent response to this request (cutoff date had to be Feb. 16 in order to get the capsules imbedded within the statues). The messages have been really heart rending with the love expressed from parents, spouses, children, and co-workers.

Law enforcement and other organizations have also been responsive. For example, the Florida Sheriff's Association sent a beautiful listing of the 318 deputies who have been killed in the line of duty from 1844-2009, with the listing being accompanied by a picture of their inspiring monument to fallen deputies. The Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., has also been very helpful in getting the message out about the Memorial, the time capsules, and the ceremony itself.

Likewise, **Ms. Stephanie Womble**, Director of Government Relations and Special Events for Dade County PBA, has been indispensable in helping us set up the ceremony, contact survivors and, in general, putting everything together. And, of course, I would be remiss to not mention that **Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach County PBA's** stepped up to the plate and joined Florida PBA in providing most appreciated sponsorship for the Memorial.

For all those mentioned and the many more who have contributed, we say "thank you" for making this Memorial and the ceremony dedicating the Memorial a fitting tribute to those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep all of us safe. It has been a labor of love for all involved, and now the Memorial is about to become a reality. We hope to see you at the dedication on March 9. 🇺🇸



Sculptor Michael Jernigan and Florida PBA President John Rivera discuss the small scale "Officer Down" statue.

“Really great people make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

~ Mark Twain