

# *A Message From Your* **Political Consultant**

## **You Find Out Who Your Friends Are...**

**T**his refrain from a popular country song could easily be the anthem for law enforcement for the next few years.

Sure, it was easy for politicians to voice their undying love and support for police and corrections when times were good. They loved getting their pictures taken with the troops, proudly touting our endorsement in their campaign literature and talking tough about criminals while pledging to always make public safety number one.

That was during the good times.

Today, we are facing the sharpest economic downturn in a generation and these same politicians are having to make THE really tough choices and are going to have to live with the consequences of their decisions. From the Governor on down to the tiniest city commissioner, political leaders must back up their campaign promises to ensure public safety is the top priority.

Some have turned out to be fair weather friends while others have been no less than courageous.

Take **Governor Crist**. The Governor vetoed cuts to the Department of Corrections that would have cost probation officers their jobs. In doing so, he not only underscored that public safety should be government's primary concern, but once again let the men and women of law enforcement, risking their lives on the front lines, know that he continues to have their back.

Take long time PBA ally **Senator Victor Crist** (R), Tampa, who deserves credit, and our gratitude, for insisting on budget language instructing the Department of Corrections to seek cuts among the ranks of highly paid administrators rather than front line officers. He is also at the forefront of pushing needed changes in the direction of corrections, meaning a better, smarter way of handling prisoners and probationers (DOC and PBA agree with his approach).

Take **State Representative Sandy Adams** (R), Orlando, for example. As a former Orange County Sheriff's Deputy and now Chair of the House Public Safety Committee, she made it clear that the Department of Corrections should be cutting fat cat administrators long before whacking probation officers who literally stand between recently released criminals and the public.

Apparently some folks at the DOC didn't take her warning seriously. Let me offer them some free advice, Sandy Adams was one tough cop, and you're fixing to find out just how ornery she can be as Chair of the very same committee that writes your budget.

We will be pointing out the sunshine patriots later. For now, our collective hats off to Governor Crist, Senator Victor Crist and Representative Adams for having the courage to stand up for the men and women in the trenches.

We now know who our friends are.  
Till next time, be safe out there. ■



*Jim Spearing*

**"...[Governor Crist] let the men and women of law enforcement... know that he continues to have their back."**

## *PBA Staff Updates From Your* **Executive Assistant**

### **Farewell and Welcome**

**Farewell Ed Hotaling**—Ed left the PBA after many years of service to PBA members in the Florida Highway Patrol and State Law Enforcement Chapters in south Florida. Ed is the immediate Past President of the FHP Chapter and former Senior Vice President of the Combined State Officers Chapter and served recently as a PBA Staff Rep. His beliefs in a strong statewide police association have help forge the Florida PBA into the forefront of the Florida police labor movement. PBA wishes Ed all the best in his retirement and thanks him for his dedicated service to the PBA and it's members.

**Farewell Steve Mears**—Steve left the PBA after many years of service to PBA members in the Big Bend area. He is currently working for the State Attorney's Office in the Panama City Circuit.

PBA wishes Steve well in his future endeavors and thanks him for his dedication to the PBA and its members.

**Farewell Jeff Finley**—Jeff was the behind the scenes pressman at PBA. Jeff worked nights and weekends so most members didn't really know how valuable he was in printing newsletters, hot sheets, member forms, etc. for almost 20

years, all the while working a full-time job for the DOT. PBA truly appreciates the dedication and sacrifice Jeff made for our organization. We wish Jeff a long and happy retirement.

**Welcome Sherry Hannon**—Sherry joins the PBA staff as our new Membership Secretary. She brings aboard an immeasurable amount of experience in both the secretarial and legislative fields.

Sherry will be assisting **Matt Puckett**, the legislative team, and providing services to our membership.

You can reach her via e-mail at [sherry@flpba.org](mailto:sherry@flpba.org) or by phone 1-800-733-3722, extension 400.

**Welcome Marcia Hall**—Marcia recently joined the PBA staff as the Secretary for the Starke office. She came with a vast background of legal and professional skills from her twenty plus years as a legal assistant. Marcia will be supervising the Satellite Offices, assisting the Staff Representatives assigned to Starke, and providing services to our membership.

You can reach her via e-mail at [starkeofficepba@flpba.org](mailto:starkeofficepba@flpba.org) or by phone 1-800-706-2677. ■



*By Glenda Gail Kelly*

**"Blessed is the man, who having nothing to say, abstains from giving wordy evidence of the fact."**

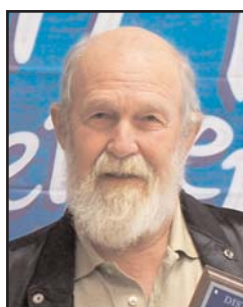
~ George Eliot



Steve Mears



Ed Hotaling



Jeff Finley



Sherry Hannon



Marcia Hall