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300 East Brevard St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
1-800-733-3722

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Editor In Charge
David Murrell

Publications Specialist
Bob Peterson

Proofreader
Marcia Eggers

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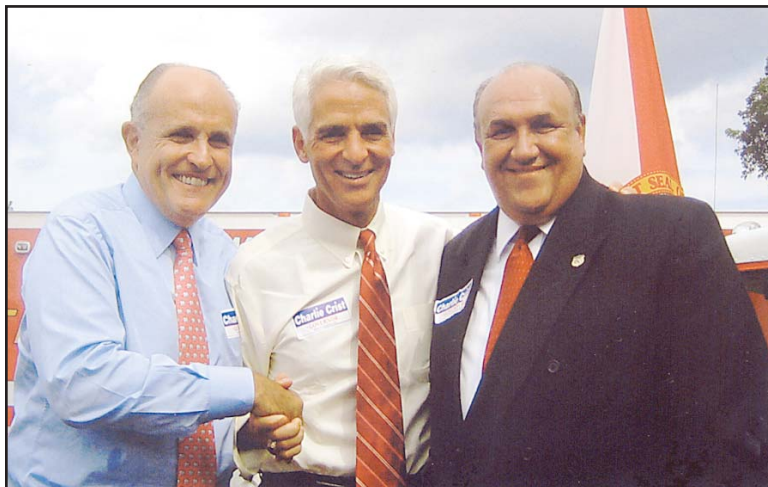
John Rivera

As your new Florida PBA President, I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for the confidence and support you have bestowed upon me. To be involved with the strongest and most respected union around is an honor beyond description. **President Ernie George** has left quite a legacy and will be a hard act to follow. This organization has come a long way and Ernie has set the bar high. Under his leadership, the PBA has proven to be a powerful and professional organization and certainly a force to be reckoned with. Thank-you, Ernie, for your guidance and your friendship. I must also thank the entire Florida PBA staff for all their hard work and dedication.

Without their support and commitment, our jobs would be impossible.

I will continue to do my utmost to live up to the standard that has already been established. The PBA has achieved many wonderful things for its members and has passed legislation that positively affect all our lives. From retirement issues to protecting our rights, we have been relentless in ensuring the well-being of our members. That effort will continue in its strongest fashion. I will give you all 100%; I simply don't know how to do it any other way.

Again, thank you for permitting me to be your voice. ●



Rudolph Giuliani, Gubernatorial Candidate Charlie Crist and Florida PBA President John Rivera at the Ft. Lauderdale rally for Charlie Crist.



John Rivera addresses Charlie Crist supporters at the rally.



David Murrell

Passing the Torch (A Point of Personal Privilege)

October 1, 2006, marked the end of a great era in Florida PBA history. That's when **Ernie George** ended his presidency of Florida PBA. It was my distinct pleasure to serve as Ernie's Executive Director during his entire tenure. To say the least, it was an exciting ride to work for Ernie. From being a part of his team to overthrow the **Maddox** regime and its abuses, coping with the severe financial and organizational mess left from the Maddox days, making the Florida PBA the political powerhouse it is today, gaining the many major benefits from the Legislature for our members, greatly improving the services to members, presiding over a tremendous increase in the number of members—all of these happened under Ernie's leadership. He and his leadership team made it happen. It was no accident.

When I think of Ernie's abilities, several leadership traits stick out. A shrewd, tough businessman. Politically astute. Open minded and always looking for better ways to do things. Compassionate—looking out for the little guy who has no one else for support (i.e., his efforts to bring fairness to the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission through serving as a Commissioner and PBA legislation). A stand-up

guy. Not afraid to take on the tough fights. Not afraid to take on the devil himself if need be.

Now, for those members who are saddened by the end of the "Ernie-era" I have good news for you; and for those PBA adversaries who might be tempted to rejoice, I have bad news. Ernie has passed the torch to **John Rivera**. The personalities and styles may be somewhat different, but the core beliefs and all those desirable traits mentioned above are the same. Another thing: Ernie is still going to be around. He and John switched positions on the Executive Committee (Ernie is now the Treasurer.), so Ernie will still be active in leadership and will continue lobbying efforts in Tallahassee.

A new PBA era starts with John Rivera. John is no stranger to all of this. He stood shoulder to shoulder with Ernie and the rest of the "urban insurgents" in taking care of the Maddox problem, the recovery from that ordeal, and was an integral part of everything good which happened under Ernie's watch. John's administration will be both exciting and productive for PBA members, and I am honored that he has asked me to continue as Executive Director. Being a part of Ernie's leadership team and now John's, it doesn't get any better than that. And it doesn't get any better than that for our members. ●

A Message From Your
**Executive
Director**