

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

J.M. "BUDDY" PHILLIPS

"SHERIFF OF FLORIDA"

Sheriff Phillips got his start in law enforcement in 1956 when he began working part-time for the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office while still in high school. Thirteen years later he was elected Sheriff of Suwannee County and served one term in office before joining the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as a special agent/training specialist in 1973 where he later became Director of Mutual Aid for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Buddy served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps European Command and was stationed in France when he began a correspondence with his future wife, Mary Jo Rogers and the two married in 1964. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1967. In 1973, he relocated his family to Tallahassee to work for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He was appointed by two different governors to serve as interim Sheriff in six other counties at different times throughout his career and is the only person in Florida's history to serve as sheriff in seven counties. This earned him the nickame "Sheriff of Florida."

In 1988, Buddy was selected as Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association, where he built membership and additional support for its sister organization, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. He retired from this position March 31, 2002. During his tenure, he also established the first and only permanent memorial on the grounds of FSA headquarters dedicated to the men and women of sheriffs' offices who died in the line of duty. Sheriff Phillips also published the "History of the Florida Sheriffs," a book series reaching back into the office of sheriff beginning in the 1800s.