



THE 6TH ANNUAL:
**HEROES IN
PUBLIC SAFETY**
AWARDS BANQUET



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Welcome to the sixth annual Heroes in Public Safety Awards Banquet.

As part of Tallahassee State College's unending support for our men and women in public safety, we are honoring individuals who have made a significant impact in the public safety field.

This program recognizes those heroes who have attended TSC or have trained at the Florida Public Safety Institute (Pat Thomas Academy or Lively) or the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. Many of them studied at institutions that are now part of TSC, and we proudly count them among our alumni.

Tonight, we will induct nine new members into the TSC Heroes in Public Safety Hall of Fame, present three public safety professionals with a TSC Heroes in Public Safety Lifetime Achievement Award and recognize 64 Chris Connell Merit Award recipients.

2025 Heroes in Public Safety Banquet Program

Welcome Remarks

Walt McNeil, Leon County Sheriff, TSC Foundation Past Board Chair

Invocation

Darryl Hall, Leon County Emergency Management Services

Title Sponsor Remarks

Park Broome, President/CEO, Loyalty Credit Union

TSC Remarks

Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President, Tallahassee State College

HIPS Student Scholarship Recipient Remarks

Presentation of Awards

Closing Remarks

CHRIS CONNELL MERIT AWARDS



Chris Connell served as the Director of the Capital Police after a 28-year career with the Tallahassee Police Department. He was also a member of the Steering Committee for the TSC Heroes in Public Safety Program. Connell passed away in October 2019. Connell pushed to ensure that rank-and-file public safety personnel is honored as part of the Heroes in Public Safety Program. In honor of his commitment, these awards have been named the Chris Connell Merit Awards.

Chris Connell Merit Award Winners demonstrate exemplary accomplishments and acts of bravery in the line of duty. This award showcases the following areas:

Incident Awards – Teams and Individuals

Those who have demonstrated exemplary accomplishments in the past year. This year, we have added a section to this award that honors members who worked across agencies as a team for a response.

Unsung Heroes

Those who have demonstrated exemplary accomplishments in the past year.

Young Professionals

Those who have demonstrated a level of commitment, service, and professionalism, often unseen in someone new to the field.

Congratulations to the 2025 Chris Connell Merit Award Honorees

Incident Team Awards

Team Bridge Rescue

Brandon Alexander, Firefighter, Midway Fire Department, 3 years of service
Director of North Florida Search Team

Greg Allen, Lieutenant, Tallahassee Fire Department, 19 years of service
Member of Florida Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 7 and Region 2 HAZMAT Response Team

Troy Anzalone, Battalion Chief, Tallahassee Fire Department, 26 years of service
Member of Florida Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 7 and Region 2 HAZMAT Response Team

Seth Blessing, Lieutenant Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 20 years of service
Tactical Paramedic and HAZMAT Technician

Josh Ciarlariello, Firefighter/EMT, Tallahassee Fire Department, 1 Year of service

Darrius Dudley, Lieutenant, Quincy Fire Department, 16 years of service
Member of Florida Task Force 7 and USAR Team

Ivey Gillette, Lieutenant Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 30 years in emergency services

Drew Hayward, EMT, Gadsden County EMS, 3 years of service

Danny Hunter, Fire Chief, Gretna Fire Department, over 30 years in public safety

Shavarris Jackson, Firefighter, Quincy Fire Department

Chaddrick Jenkins, Firefighter/Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 3 years of service

Elizebeth "DiDi" Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief, Midway Fire Department (2019), 11 years of service

Ty Kelly, Firefighter/Paramedic, Gadsden County EMS, 4 years of service

Kyle Mann, Firefighter/EMT, Tallahassee Fire Department, 1 Year of service

Robert McCown, Firefighter, Tallahassee Fire Department

Chase Miley, Engineer/Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 10 years of service

Caleb Miller, Engineer/Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 6 years of service

Dr. Joe Parramore, Assistant Fire Chief, Gretna Fire Department, over 35 years in fire service
Director of Legislative Affairs for The Council of Florida Churches

Thomas Pendleton-Jett, Firefighter, Quincy Fire Department

Josh Pinto, Lieutenant Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 19 years of service
Member of HAZMAT and Drone teams.

Josh Ray, Lieutenant, Midway Fire Volunteers, 12 years of service

Kris Robinson, Firefighter/Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 9 years of service
Fire/Live Fire Instructor at Tallahassee State College

Ryan Shealy, Fire Engineer, Tallahassee Fire Department, 13 years of service

Ethan Smith, EMT, Gadsden County EMS, 2 years of service

Sam Tenorio, Firefighter, Tallahassee Fire Department

Jonathan Witmer, Firefighter/Paramedic, Gadsden County EMS, 3 years of service

Nathanial Yarusso, Fire Chief, Midway Fire Volunteers, 11 years of service
Search and Rescue K9 Handler

INCIDENT TEAM AWARDS

Team Water Rescue

Gabriel Beyer, Officer, Tallahassee Police Department, 3 years of service

Lance Butler, Engineer/Paramedic, Tallahassee Fire Department, 18 years of service

Elisa Carter, Officer, Tallahassee Police Department, 18 years of service

Tien Cao, Leon County EMS, 21 years of service

Team Leader for the LCEMS Tactical Medics

Jazmine Dudley, Paramedic, Leon County EMS, 7 years of service

Michael Eastman, Battalion Chief, Tallahassee Fire Department

Zachary Fernandez, Engineer, Tallahassee Fire Department, 11 years of service

Kieran Fry, Firefighter, Tallahassee Fire Department, 3 years of service

Liliana Garcia, Paramedic, Leon County EMS, 5 years of service

Jamel Gavin, Firefighter/EMT, Tallahassee Fire Department, 6 years of service

HAZMAT Technician

Lena Head, EMT, Leon County EMS, 4 years of service

Jeremy Jordan, EMT, Leon County EMS, 4 years of service

Shania Lape, Paramedic, Leon County EMS, 6 years of service

Jonathan Owens, Officer, Tallahassee Police Department, 10 years of service

Michelle Siples-Ward, Lieutenant, Leon County EMS, over 16 years of service

Kirshner Saint-Charles, Captain, Tallahassee Fire Department, 15 years of service

Certified Fire Instructor at Tallahassee State College

John Tillotson, Lieutenant, Tallahassee Fire Department, 13 years of service

INCIDENT AWARD

Brandon Baumann, Deputy, Leon County Sheriff's Office, 7 years of service

Recipient of the Medal of Valor and a Life Saving Award

Faith Baumann, Deputy, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Lonnie Brevik, Officer Specialist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 9 years of service

Michael Carroll, Investigator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 11 years of service

Alex Garcia, Deputy Sheriff, Leon County Sheriff's Office, 5 years of service

Henry Keels, Officer, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, over 5 years of service

John Lejarzar, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Joined FWC in 2014, Stationed in Brevard County, Started FWC Survivor Kids Camp, 2018 Transferred to Charlotte County, Focused on Commercial Fishing regulation, Over 30 Deployments including 13 hurricane deployments

Timothy Roche, Deputy Sheriff, Leon County Sheriff's Office, 12 years of service

Amanda Simmons, Officer, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 year of service

UNSUNG HERO AWARD

Michael Abbey, Public Safety Communications Specialist, Consolidated Dispatch Agency, 35 years of service

Rachel Bryant, Captain, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, over 30 years of service

Reginald Byrd, Supervisor, Florida Department of Corrections, 32 years of service

Jeremy Gordon, Special Agent Supervisor, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 20 years of service

Jack Hypes, Trooper, Florida Highway Patrol, 46 years of service

Hazen Ogden, Sergeant, Florida Highway Patrol, 23 years of service

Christopher Wells, Master State Trooper, Florida Highway Patrol, 24 years of service

Brad White, Master Corporal, Florida Highway Patrol, 19 years of service

Malachi Wilkins, Officer Specialist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 8 years of service

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Kentazha (KB) Bradshaw, First Responder, Consolidated Dispatch Agency, 12 years of service

Caleb Harper, Firefighter/EMT, Wakulla County Fire Rescue, 7 years of service


Reserve Deputy Sheriff with Wakulla County Sheriff's Office

Hekia Jackson, Sergeant, Leon County Sheriff's Office, 11 years of service



PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNER AWARD

This category was created to recognize those private sector partners working with public safety agencies to address community problems and enhance public safety in their communities. Honorees can be individuals or organizations that make significant contributions and impact on their local public safety agency.





DR. DAVID BELLAMY

Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic

Dr. David Bellamy began his public service career in 1989, enrolling in the Lively Criminal Justice Academy. After earning his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in 1997, Dr. Bellamy returned to Tallahassee, where he has contributed significantly to both the medical and law enforcement communities.

Balancing his medical career and law enforcement duties, Dr. Bellamy became the Tactical Apprehension and Control (TAC) Team doctor for TPD's SWAT team, offering essential medical support. He quickly earned a reputation as a "first responders first" doctor, providing exceptional care to officers and their families.

Dr. Bellamy is known for his positive, caring personality and commitment to community service, always going the extra mile to support first responders. His involvement extends beyond his work, consistently supporting charity events and causes, making him an invaluable member of Tallahassee's first responder family.



KELLIE O'DARE

University of Central Florida - 2nd Alarm Project

Dr. Kellie O'Dare is a researcher, educator, and advocate specializing in first responder health and wellness. As the Founder and Director of the 2nd Alarm Project and Research Associate Professor at UCF RESTORES, Dr. O'Dare has led initiatives to support first responders' mental health and resilience.

With a Ph.D. in Social Work, her work bridges academic research and real-world solutions, significantly improving behavioral health support systems. Dr. O'Dare has secured \$8 million in funding, driving advancements in first responder wellness. She is also personally connected to the community, being the niece of a firefighter/paramedic killed in the line of duty and the spouse of a Florida firefighter/paramedic.



DR. CARL I. SCHULMAN

University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine

Dr. Carl I. Schulman is a Professor of Surgery, Director of the William Lehman Injury Research Center, and the Eunice Bernhard Endowed Chair in Burns at the University of Miami. He earned his medical degree in 1995 from the University of South Florida College of Medicine, followed by specialized training in general surgery, trauma, and surgical critical care at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. Dr. Schulman holds certifications in general surgery and surgical critical care from the American Board of Surgery.

With over 150 publications and numerous research grants, including from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the CDC, Dr. Schulman focuses on burn and trauma epidemiology. He has led groundbreaking research in burn injury treatments, including the first human use of mesenchymal stem cells for burn wound healing. Dr. Schulman is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the BMW and Hyundai North American Crash Research Programs and serves as the Southern Region Troop Surgeon for the Florida Highway Patrol.



SKIP & MELODE SMELKO

Altrua

Melode and Skip Smelko are the owners of Altrua Global Solutions, a family business founded by Melode's parents over 45 years ago. They continue their parents' legacy by giving back to their team, clients, vendors, and the community.

In 2016, they established a Law Enforcement Break Room at their production facility on Hartsfield Road, providing officers and deputies a quiet space for paperwork and breaks. Their commitment to supporting first responders is further reflected in their Hometown Hero program, founded 10 years ago to honor local veterans during the Veterans Day parade. To date, 13 veterans, including five World War II veterans, have been recognized.

Married for 33 years, Melode and Skip are proud parents of two grown daughters, Isabel and Abby, with Abby now continuing the family tradition by joining Altrua two years ago.



FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL ADVISORY BOARD

The Florida Highway Patrol Advisory Council is an organization comprised of business, professional, and community leaders throughout the state. Members of the Advisory Council provide assistance to the Director of the Florida Highway Patrol by offering input regarding the performance of the Patrol and the quality of service provided to the public.

The Advisory Council was incorporated in 1999 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and subsequently established the Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Memorial Fund. This fund was established to provide a memorial honoring Florida Highway Patrol Troopers and Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary Troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty serving and protecting the citizens of the State of Florida.

The Advisory Council assists the Florida Highway Patrol in other areas such as special projects, and undertakings designated by the Director of the Florida Highway Patrol. Especially important is the Council's mission to provide our troopers with resources that will assist them with providing quality service to the public and enhancement of their personal welfare.

PUBLIC SAFETY HALL OF FAME

The Public Safety Hall of Fame distinction is reserved for those who, through their work, have contributed to the advancement and support of public safety. Honorees inducted into the Hall of Fame have demonstrated extraordinary service to their community, state, and nation through their continued leadership in the public safety field.

Congratulations to the Public Safety Hall of Fame Class of 2025 Inductees

Jeff Allen, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Robert (Steve) Ashburn, Florida Highway Patrol

Larry Bourdeau, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Marvin (Berkley) Clayton, Tallahassee Police Department

Sharon Davis, Florida Department of Corrections

Mauricio Endara, Tallahassee Police Department

Brice Google, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Kelli Kilcullen, Consolidated Dispatch Agency

James (Jimmy) Starling, Florida Highway Patrol



JEFF ALLEN

Leon County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Allen, a Tallahassee native, began his career with the Leon County Sheriff's Office in October 1984, just months after graduating from high school. He initially worked in the Communications section for three years before graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy in 1987. Allen's career quickly expanded as he moved into Uniform Patrol, then onto School Resource and Investigations, where he worked in various units such as Property Crimes, Vice and Narcotics, and Violent Crimes.

In May 2023, Allen was promoted to Sergeant, continuing his work in Uniform Patrol, School Resource, and Investigations. By August 2014, he earned the rank of Lieutenant, where he served as a Watch Commander, the Field Training Officer Commander, and Violent Crimes Lieutenant. His dedication and leadership led to his promotion to Captain in 2018.

Throughout his distinguished 40-year career, Allen served in multiple key roles, including overseeing uniform patrol, judicial services, and criminal investigations. After his retirement in October 2024, he reflects with pride on his contributions to the community and his career at the Sheriff's Office. Now, in retirement, he looks forward to spending time at the beach and cherishing moments with his 9-year-old granddaughter, Finley.



ROBERT (STEVE) ASHBURN

Florida Highway Patrol

Steve Ashburn's law enforcement career began in 1976 with the Daytona Beach Shores Police Department before joining the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) in 1978 as part of the 55th recruit class. He served in Ft. Lauderdale and Apopka, then became a Traffic Homicide Investigator in Orange County in 1984, investigating over 300 fatal crashes. In 1986, Steve became an instructor for FHP's Traffic Homicide Courses while earning his BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida.

He helped develop FHP's Advanced Traffic Homicide and Reconstruction Courses and the Reconstruction Certification Test, setting a benchmark for the agency. After 21 years in Orange County, he transferred to Tallahassee, was promoted to Sergeant, then Lieutenant, and served as FHP's Statewide Traffic Homicide Coordinator.

Upon retirement in 2011, he continued instructing for the Florida Public Safety Institute and served as coordinator for the Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Safety and DUI Program. In 2015, Steve returned to FHP as an Investigations Specialist II and serves as a subject matter expert.

Steve is a Reserve Lieutenant with FHP and has been married to his wife, Rebecca, for 39 years.



LARRY BOURDEAU

Leon County Sheriff's Office

Larry has 28 years of law enforcement experience in Florida. He is currently the Captain of Law Enforcement Training at the Leon County Sheriff's Office, previously serving as the Director of Reentry and Inmate Programs. Before that, Larry held roles including Deputy Director of Security at the Florida Lottery, Chief Deputy Marshal at the Florida Supreme Court, Law Enforcement Coordinator at the Florida Public Safety Institute, and various positions at the Quincy Police Department and Tallahassee Police Department. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Tallahassee State College and a certified Law Enforcement Trainer.

Larry holds a master's degree in criminal justice administration and is a graduate of the FDLE Senior Leadership program (2014), Chief Executive Seminar (Class 53, 2019), and the Certified Public Managers Course at Florida State University (2023). He served as President of the State Law Enforcement Chief's Association in 2019-2021.

Larry is a proud husband of 24 years to his wife, Sara, and father to two children, Baylee and Brandon. He enjoys coaching youth sports, mentoring law enforcement professionals, and making a positive impact in the community.



MARVIN (BERKLEY) CLAYTON

Tallahassee Police Department

Berkeley Clayton, a Tallahassee native, attended both Leon High and North Florida Christian before enrolling at TSC from 1972 to 1975. He then continued his education at Florida State University, earning a B.S. in Criminology between 1976 and 1981.

Clayton began his law enforcement career with the Tallahassee Police Department on January 12, 1976. He completed 320 hours of police basic training at the Academy later that same year. Although Mr. Clayton officially retired in 2006, he chose to remain with TPD as a reserve officer, continuing to work on cases to this day. His dedication to the department and community has remained steadfast throughout his career.



SHARON DAVIS

Department of Corrections

Sharon Davis is the Bureau Chief of Community Programs at the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) Community Corrections. She began her career in 1997 as a Pretrial Release Officer with the Volusia County Pretrial Release Program before joining FDC in 2001 as a Correctional Probation Officer. Through her dedication and expertise, she steadily advanced to her current leadership position in the Central Office. Sharon holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida.

A certified Florida Department of Law Enforcement instructor, Sharon has a strong passion for training. She has shared her knowledge as an adjunct instructor at Eastern Florida State College, teaching college-level criminal justice courses, and at Tallahassee State College, where she instructed Correctional Probation Officer Basic Recruit Classes. In her current role, she leads the training department for Community Corrections at FDC, providing valuable instruction to staff and key stakeholders. Sharon's expertise, dedication, and enthusiasm for education are widely recognized, both within her agency and by external partners, highlighting her commitment to advancing public service and enhancing public safety.



MAURICIO ENDARA

Tallahassee Police Department

Mauricio “Moe” Endara is a 31-year veteran of the Tallahassee Police Department, dedicated to helping others and going the extra mile for anyone in need. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Moe is often called the “people whisperer” for his ability to communicate clearly and effectively.

Currently serving as the department’s Downtown Officer, Moe has held various roles throughout his career, including Patrol, Investigations, and Community Oriented Policing. His willingness to assist any unit in the department showcases his passion for helping others.

Moe’s philosophy is simple: treat others as you would like to be treated. This approach has helped him navigate many challenging and high-stress situations, including protests, with calmness and respect. His ability to adapt quickly to different circumstances has earned him respect and recognition, including being named Officer of the Year in 2007 for his role in a significant human trafficking case.

An excellent team player and leader, Moe has also been instrumental in recruiting and training new officers. He regularly participates in career fairs, gives tours, and conducts presentations, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with others.



BRICE GOOGLE

Leon County Sheriff's Office

Assistant Sheriff Brice Google began his career at the Leon County Sheriff's Office in 1994 as a dispatcher. He joined the Reserve Unit for a year before transferring to Uniform Patrol in 1997. In 1999, Google moved to the School Resource Unit as a Resource Deputy.

In 2001, he transitioned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau, where he worked as a Detective in the Vice Unit, Robbery Task Force, and Violent Crimes Unit. Notably, he was recognized by the U.S. Attorney's Office for his undercover work in a federal investigation. Google also led the first successful hazing case trial under Florida's new hazing law in 2006.

Promoted to Sergeant in 2008, Google supervised several units, including Uniform Patrol, Property Crimes, and Vice. He became a Lieutenant in 2015 and a Captain in 2018, overseeing various divisions. In 2020, he was promoted to Chief of Patrol & Investigations and later served as Chief of Judicial Services and Detention Administration.

In March 2024, he was promoted to Assistant Sheriff of the Department of Detention. Google actively supports local charities and is involved in several community organizations.



KELLI KILCULLEN

Consolidated Dispatch Agency

Kelli Kilcullen began her communications career in 1996 with the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), where she gained experience as a Training Officer, Shift Supervisor, and Quality Assurance Specialist. After the agency's consolidation, Kelli became the Quality Assurance Supervisor, managing three specialists and helping to structure the program. She then served as Interim Assistant Director of Professional Development, Bureau Chief of Operations, and Communications Training Officer Program Coordinator for the Tallahassee-Leon County Consolidated Dispatch Agency.

Kelli was recently appointed as the Accreditation Manager, eager to learn a new aspect of the agency before her retirement. She graduated from Florida State University's Certified Public Manager (CPM) program in July 2021 and serves as one of the FCIC Agency Coordinators, DAVID contact person, and a member of the agency's Peer Support Team.

Outside of work, Kelli enjoys spending time with family and friends. She values interaction with her colleagues and believes that every team member, regardless of experience, has something valuable to contribute.



JAMES (JIMMY) STARLING

Florida Highway Patrol

Jimmy Starling is a dedicated 42-year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), beginning his career in March 1983 as part of the 68th Recruit Class. After graduating from the FHP Academy, he served in Troop E in Miami and later transferred to Troop K, covering the north district of the Florida Turnpike.

In 1993, Jimmy reached a significant career milestone by becoming a Corporal in the Traffic Homicide Program, realizing his goal of becoming a Traffic Homicide Investigator. He further advanced his expertise by becoming a Certified Traffic Crash Reconstructionist after completing FHP's rigorous certification process.

Promoted to sergeant in 2009, Jimmy served as a subject matter expert in the Traffic Homicide Coordinator's Office, where he oversaw policies, procedures, training, and equipment evaluation for the program. His leadership has greatly influenced FHP and law enforcement agencies across Florida.

A respected instructor, Jimmy taught traffic homicide curriculum statewide and contributed to the development of training standards through his work on the FDLE Criminal Justice Standards and Training Committee. His career has significantly advanced traffic homicide investigations in Florida.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award is dedicated to those who have had a distinguished career in public safety, advancing this profession through their leadership roles throughout their career. Lifetime Achievement honorees have made extraordinary contributions and sacrifices through a body of work that has positively impacted their organization or community.

Congratulations to the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees

Karen Bodiford, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Mike Hadden, Tallahassee Fire Department

Charles (Chuck) Perry, Tallahassee Police Department



KAREN BODIFORD

Leon County Sheriff's Office

Karen Bodiford moved to Tallahassee in 1972 from the Midwest. She is a graduate of Leon High School, Tallahassee State College, and Florida State University, Class of 1978. In 1980, she began her law enforcement career with the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) as a Deputy Sheriff. Over the years, Karen made history as the first female to be promoted to Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain at LCSO. She worked in various divisions, including Patrol, Crime Prevention, Criminal Investigations, Training, FTO, and Internal Affairs.

Karen retired from LCSO in 2006, but her passion for law enforcement continued. From 2005 to 2008, she served as an adjunct professor in Criminal Justice at Tallahassee State College. In 2009, she returned to LCSO as the Director of Records Management, a position she held until her second retirement in 2021.

Currently, Karen volunteers with the TMH Animal Therapy Program alongside her dog, Molly, and remains an active member of LCSO's 413 Peer Support Team. She also serves as a member of the LCSO Reserve. With 45 years of service as a sworn Deputy Sheriff, Karen continues to give back to her community.



MIKE HADDEN

Tallahassee Fire Department

Following his college graduation, Chief Michael Hadden witnessed a serious vehicle accident that became a pivotal moment in his life. Observing the first responders at the scene sparked his interest in the fire service, prompting him to earn his EMT certification and Certificate of Compliance from the Florida State Fire College. After several months of job searching, Chief Hadden was hired by Jefferson County Fire Rescue, launching his distinguished career.

Over the past 29 years, Chief Hadden has achieved numerous certifications, including Paramedic, Fire Officer I-IV, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, Instructor III, Incident Safety Officer, Live Fire Instructor II, HazMat Technician, Pump Operator, and USAR Technician. He also holds a master's degree in public administration. Throughout his career with the Tallahassee Fire Department, Chief Hadden has steadily advanced through the ranks, serving in some of the department's busiest stations as Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Division Chief, Division Chief, and currently as Deputy Chief of Operations.

Chief Hadden and his wife, Kelli, have been married for 26 years and are proud parents of two sons, both of whom have completed college and started their professional careers.



CHARLES (CHUCK) PERRY

Tallahassee Police Department

Chuck Perry served with the Tallahassee Police Department for over 27 years, initially hired as a dispatcher before becoming a law enforcement officer in 1989. He retired in 2015. Prior to his time at TPD, he spent four years as a sniper with the U.S. Marine Corps and earned his AA degree from Tallahassee Community College.

During his career, Perry was deeply committed to community-oriented policing, working in specialized units such as the Gang Squad, Housing Police, Problem-Oriented Policing Squad, Motorcycle Unit, Career Criminal Unit, and Vice and Narcotics Unit. He also served as a member of the Tactical Apprehension and Control Team, where he was a negotiator and EMT.

Additionally, he was a certified firearms and defensive tactics instructor, teaching courses like Martin Luther King Non-Violence Training and AARP's 55 Alive Mature Driving Program. Perry's dedication to service extended beyond his professional duties, as he mentored at-risk youth and provided faith-based support to inmates. Over the years, he received numerous accolades, including two Tallahassee Police Department Medals of Honor, two Bravery Awards, Officer of the Year, and the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Lee McGhee Police Officer of the Year award.

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Zachary Fernandez Family



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