

ALERT NEWSLETTER

Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office



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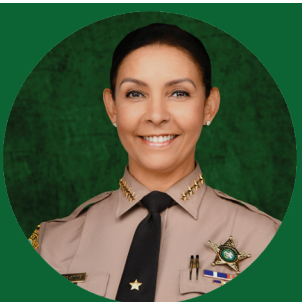
January - March 2025

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SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

Rosie Cordero-Stutz
Sheriff



I would like to thank everyone who helped put together such a spectacular swearing-in celebration to welcome me as your Sheriff. It was with tremendous pride that I witnessed the event, and I am humbled by your outpouring of support and your graciousness.

The recent loss of one of our own, Deputy Felicia Kinsey-Smith, to suicide, has left a deep ache in our agency and serves as a painful reminder of the invisible weight so many carry behind the badge. The responsibilities on our deputies shoulders – protecting our communities, responding to crisis, and still trying to be present for their families – can sometimes be overwhelming. Mental wellness is not an indulgence, it is a necessity. We must continue to support one another, speak openly to trusted family, friends, and coworkers, and those who are here to help you, from our licensed mental health professionals, to our Chaplains. We must continue to support one another, speak openly about our struggles, and remind each other that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. We are a family, and no one in this agency should ever feel alone.

I have taken some specific moves in our agency, separating our internal support system, Psychological Services, from our external, the Threat Management Assessment and Crisis Response Unit, which will stay on the investigative side. I want our employees to feel there is a safe space for them to go. I'm also revamping our Chaplain program, I want our Chaplains to have more direct contact with our employees and command staff, building relationships and supporting our employees spiritually as well as emotionally. Contained in this edition of the Alert Newsletter is our first ever "Chaplain's Corner." I invite you to read the first installment.

Additionally, I am increasing opportunities for training in the mental wellness arena for all of our employees. We are bringing on the Boulder Crest Struggle Well program,

a prevention-focused program for first responders that is based on the science of posttraumatic growth. We will continue to vet new and improved areas where we can support our employees.

Your professionalism shines through each and every day, it is what distinguishes this agency. We should continue to remind ourselves that what we do as individuals, and collectively, is constantly under the microscope of public scrutiny. I expect a high standard, because every interaction a deputy has, or any employee has with the community, is a direct reflection of the office of the Sheriff, and myself. We are in this profession for a reason. Treat others as you would want to be treated, and as you would want someone to treat a beloved family member.

Let's continue to look for ways to improve. In this profession, there is a fine line. There is a time for out-of-the box thinking, but also a time for chain-of-command thinking. We can be successful with both.

And finally, warm wishes to Detective Damian Colon as you embark on your retirement. Your sheer will to live, and your tenacity in recovery, is truly inspirational!

Sincerely,

Rosie Cordero-Stutz
Sheriff





Brother, Protector, Survivor Damian Colon Retires from MDSO

By Brian Ballou



Retired Detective Damian Colon received a retirement plaque from his supervisor in the Illegal Dumping Unit, Sergeant Christopher P. Garcia. (Photo provided by MDPD Social Media Team)

The second-floor auditorium of the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building was heavy with emotion on Monday, March 3, 2025. There was sorrow – in the tearful words of Damian Colon’s older brother and in the somber expressions of Damian’s colleagues in the Illegal Dumping Unit. But there was also love, and unshakable force that filled the room, wrapping Deputy Colon in gratitude and admiration as he marked the end of his career.

“Our plan was always looking forward to the DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Plan), retiring, and Damian following close to me, but this is a testament that we can all have all kinds of plans, but then there’s a plan,” said Sergeant David Colon, Deputy Colon’s older brother by 15 years. “It might be really tough at times to accept the things that happen, I think if we take a moment to really think, and know that we are really not in charge of some things, makes things a little bit easier.”

On November 4, 2022, an ex-girlfriend who had been stalking Deputy Colon shot him in the head at close range, in front of his Hialeah home, leaving him for dead. Deputy

Colon survived the vicious attack, and his road to recovery has been nothing short of a miracle, his brother told the crowd of approximately 300 people who showed up for the retirement send-off.

“I want to thank everything who made today possible, who made the last two-and-a-half years possible,” Sergeant David Colon said. “Damian’s journey here has been long and hard, he’s been from hospital to hospital, therapies after therapies . . . Damian has a team of people behind him, nurses, and people that make sure that he has the assistance that he needs, should he need it, they are there, just a call away.”

“I want you to know I witnessed a miracle, I don’t think I need to remind anyone how close Damian was to death, I think as close as anyone can get, and he pulled through.” Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz presented Deputy Colon with his retirement badge, as his family looked on proudly. In his 20-year career that started in June 2005, Deputy

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Damian Colon Retires from MDSO *Continued from page 2*

Colon's first assignment was in the Northwest District's General Investigations Unit, investigating burglaries and auto theft cases. He was later a member of the Robbery Intervention Detail, the Priority Response Team, and the Illegal Dumping Unit. He is known for having a tireless work ethic and for having an infectious positive attitude. Former Miami-Dade Police Department Director Stephanie V. Daniels returned to headquarters for the retirement celebration.

"Today we gather not just to celebrate the career of Detective Damian Colon, but to honor his life, dedicated to service, courage and resilience," the former director said. "Damian you are more than just a remarkable Deputy, you are a testament to God's plan for our lives." She reminded the crowd that even after he graduated from the academy, he was still too young to buy his own ammunition.

The former director, who drove Deputy Colon's family to the hospital on the day he was shot, talked about his never-give-up attitude. "Damian, what happened that day could have been the end of your story, but instead it became a testament to your strength, your resilience, and your will to live. You fought through the darkest days and showed each and every one of us what true courage looks like. You didn't just survive, you chose to live. So today, as you step into retirement, know that we are incredibly proud of you, not just for what you've done, but for what you are. You have been a protector, a warrior, a leader, and most importantly, a survivor."

After the hour-long retirement celebration, Deputy Colon said, "I appreciate everybody who has been behind me throughout this road, it's been a long road, and I will continue doing what I got to do, to get better."

Felix Varela Senior High School Students Win Contest to Name Mounted Patrol Unit's Latest Addition to Stable

By Brian Ballou

Agriscience students at Felix Varela High School met Valor up close on Monday, March 17, 2025, in front of their school. The school came up with the winning name for the Mounted Patrol Unit horse, in a contest that included eight other Miami-Dade Public Schools with agriscience programs. Sheriff Cordero-Stutz chose the name.

The newest recruit to the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office's (MDSO) Mounted Patrol Unit stands tall on four powerful legs, his sleek chestnut coat gleaming in the South Florida sun. But until recently, this American Quarter Horse had no name.

That changed when MDSO turned to the community for help, inviting students from nine area high schools with agriscience programs to submit their best recommendation for a name. The final decision rested with Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz, who chose "Valor," a name suggested by students at Felix Varela Senior High. It's a fitting choice for a horse tasked with representing MDSO not just in community events, but also patrol work, alongside Deputies who embody the very quality that his name represents – bravery, determination, and strength of character in the face of adversity.

The contest ran from January 27, 2025 through February 4, 2025. Other schools invited to participate were Coral Reef Senior High, Hialeah Gardens Senior High, South Dade Senior High, William H. Turner Technical Arts High, J.C. Bermudez High School, John A. Ferguson Senior High, Robert Morgan Educational Center, and Terra Environmental Research.

On Monday, March 17, 2025, Sheriff Cordero-Stutz and Valor visited Felix Varela Senior High, to congratulate the

students who participated. Approximately 300 students were present, and after the Sheriff congratulated them and presented the school with a plaque inside the school's auditorium, the students walked outside to see Valor.

Mounted Patrol Unit Sergeant Jason J. Rodriguez came up with the idea to have students come up with the name,

and along the way possibly inspire a few of the students to look into careers in law enforcement. "We appreciate all of the schools who participated, they came up with some really good names, and through the contest, they learned a little bit about what we do," Sergeant Rodriguez said.





Goodwill Cleaners Have Special Bond With MDSO *By Brian Ballou*



Longtime Goodwill employee Jean Bellerive recently retired after 13 years at the Northwest District. From left to right, Major William Gonzalez, Goodwill co-worker Inadia Garçon, Mr. Bellerive, Goodwill of South Florida Vice President of Service Contracts Jocelyne Moussavou, and Goodwill of South Florida Manager of Service Contracts Roberto Prado.

At 79-years-old, Jean Bellerive can still operate a heavy floor buffer for as long as it takes to apply his signature patina to the floors inside the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office's (MDSO) Northwest District. On mornings when his blood sugar is low he takes the necessary dosage of insulin and carries on with his daily duties.

After 13 years at the District, a stretch that included the COVID-19 Pandemic, when he chose to continue showing up for work rather than stay at home, Mr. Jean, as he is affectionately known, is retiring. He has been working for Goodwill of South Florida for 18 years.

He left Haiti 47 years ago. He was a French teacher there, but also learned Spanish, which he often used to chat with MDSO employees. He is a father of six who range in age from 31 to 57.

Approximately 40 deputies and professional staff gathered in the District's upstairs conference room on Friday morning, February 28, 2025, to surprise Mr. Jean for his retirement party. He had to be coaxed from his

cleaning duties by his Goodwill co-worker, Ms. Inadia Garçon, to go upstairs. They are a two-person team who look after one another. "He's such a hard worker, very strong, he loves to work, he's been like that his whole life," said Ms. Garçon, who has worked at the District for 20 years.

As Mr. Jean walked into the conference room, disbelief overcame him, and Ms. Garçon had to tug him by his arm to lead him in.

"I can't believe this, thank you so much," he told the crowd. He wore his light blue short-sleeve work shirt, dark blue khakis, grey mid-rise lightweight boots, and a wide, black back support brace with an adjustable strap system.



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Special Bond With MDSO *Continued from page 4*

Mr. Jean briefly pondered retirement years ago, but needed the income, so he continued working. While his hands can still offer a vice-like handshake, his body has been slow to recover some days from the exertions of the job.

"Now, the body says no," he said.

Major William Gonzalez, Commander of the Northwest District, said of the two Goodwill employees, "Aside from the work you do, you are members of our family, you come here every day with smiles on your faces, you come here with energy and vigor, and then, the jobs that you do, it comes from your heart, and I know it, and every single one of us here can testify to that."

Mr. Jean represents many of the 31 Goodwill of South Florida employees who clean MDSO buildings, including the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Training Center, the Cutler Bay Municipal District, and Hammocks, Intracoastal, and Northwest Districts. Certainly there are some Goodwill staff who choose to work inconspicuously, but as many of the professional and sworn staff at those locations can attest, the Goodwill crew in general has become a cherished part of workplace camaraderie. They are familiar faces in royal blue smocks who are pulled into conversation over cafecitos, and invited to MDSO employees homes to share family birthdays or other occasions. When they retire, they are sorely missed.

"There is a lot of training involved, and they stay with us for years, 10 to 15 years or beyond," said Roberto Prado, Goodwill of South Florida manager of service contracts. He acts as the supervisor for the two Goodwill employees at the Northwest District. Every location has a supervisor.

Workers are selected through job fairs mostly, and must pass thorough background checks as required to work inside a law enforcement agency.

"It's a great way for people to stay active, teach them skills, do something productive," said Mr. Prado, who showed up for the retirement party.

Jocelyne Moussavou, Goodwill of South Florida vice president of service contracts, also showed up to wish Mr. Bellerive a happy retirement.

"I honestly have to admit that it really touched me today, to see everybody in the room, to hear the Major, and listen to Mr. Jean's words about how everyone here treated him like a family member," Ms. Moussavou said. "As I said in my speech, it means so much, because he's not so much connected to us on a day-to-day basis, he is plugged in here more than to the Goodwill family. So it brings us a lot of peace to know that he is treated equitably and fairly, and with respect, because, unfortunately, sometimes this job doesn't always get the recognition that it should because people see it as a lower-level job even though it is a very important responsibility. This is a testament to the agency, and to the Sheriff's Office, because folks do treat our staff with that level of respect."

Northwest District Public Service Aide Candace Osborne picked up Mr. Jean's personalized retirement cake and carried it upstairs to the second-floor conference room, placing it on a table in front of the room alongside platters of sandwiches, fruit and other food. As she went about fixing the table, she recounted how Mr. Jean often exceeded his job role.

"Our refrigerator was full of things, left and forgotten and it hadn't been cleaned out for so long, so I went in and threw stuff away, to take out all the clutter, but when I returned the next day, he had gone in there, and actually cleaned the inside of the refrigerator, it was spotless clean, and I didn't even realize that he saw what I had done before," PSA Osborne said. "He took it upon himself to do that!"

While Mr. Jean could not eat his own retirement cake, because of his diabetes, he did snack on other food on the table. As he ate, he looked around and said, "This place has been like home for a long time, I'm going to miss it, I'm going to miss the people here most of all."

MIAMI-DADE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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First Deputies Graduate for Newly-Minted Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office

By Brian Ballou



The first Basic Law Enforcement class to graduate under the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office flag.

For the 47 members of Basic Law Enforcement Class #143, their graduation on Thursday, January 16, 2025, was a moment for them to celebrate their accomplishments with their classmates, family, and friends, but the ceremony also represented a watershed moment that made the event even more special. The deputies are the first class to graduate under the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO), the newly-minted agency that replaced the Miami-Dade Police Department.

The graduation was the second historic event in two weeks for MDSO. On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, inside the same venue, the Miami-Dade College North Campus School of Justice auditorium, Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz was sworn in. She is the first Hispanic woman elected sheriff in the state's history, and the first woman elected sheriff in Miami-Dade County history. The graduation was her first class as well. She had a message for the deputies.

"Have courage, to enter into dark alleys, places no one else would be willing to go, to help those that need it the most, but additionally, have courage to do what is right, to stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves, and have courage to be the example in law enforcement that everyone should look up to, and that courage may actually be more stressful than entering that dark alley. You see, we train you on how to enter that dark alley, but I think we're still working on teaching you how to be those positive examples to each other. It has been a personal

goal of mine, through this time, as I enter into the role of sheriff, to find better ways to make that goal a reality. I hope that you will come along on that journey with me, you see we are all firsts."

Sheriff Cordero-Stutz added, "This is a significant moment in the history of the office of the sheriff, you see, BLE 143, will never happen again, it will forever be known as the very first class of deputy sheriffs of the county of Miami-Dade, and those are very big shoes to fill, just as I'm being asked to fill these shoes as sheriff. I want you to know that I am counting on you, this community is counting on you, but this is just the beginning. Always grow, always serve, always lead, and you don't have to do that with stars or stripes on your collar or shirt, you can do it in action. I look forward to seeing you serve this community alongside me as the first deputy sheriffs of Miami-Dade County."

Among the graduates are three deputies with unique backgrounds and skills. Class Leader Robert Grillo introduced them to the crowd of approximately 2,000 people attending the graduation, saying that their contribution enhanced their training, which began on April 1, 2024.

Deputy Wilbur Harbin Jr., is a retired Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department Chief. He joined the academy

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Newly-Minted Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office *Continued from page 6*

at 55-years-old. "Trainee Harbin demonstrated that at no matter what stage of life you find yourself in, it's never too late to pursue your dreams and to never give up," Deputy Grillo said.

Deputy Asalemo Fruean Jr., is a veteran of the Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement, Sheriff Division, based in Honolulu, Hawaii. "His insights and expertise helped us navigate the rigorous demands of the police academy," Deputy Grillo said.

Deputy Doryam Jusino Mayoral was regarded as the

biggest asset for the class, serving in the role of executive officer, a position that supports the class leader. Deputy Grillo said that she played a crucial role in maintaining order, accountability, and organization throughout the nine-month academy. "Her efforts in coordinating events that our class oversaw hosting were invaluable, trainee Jusino, your support as the executive officer for BLE 143, helped me navigate challenges that we faced and for that we are truly grateful."

For a Good Cause, Echaverry Family Visits Headquarters on Officer Appreciation Day *By Brian Ballou*



Cesar Echaverry Sr. donated blood on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, January 9, 2025, in honor of his son.

On National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, January 9, 2025, the red One Blood bus was at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building, collecting blood donations. It was a day that Cesar Echaverry Sr. had marked on his calendar, to return to the place where his son once worked, and donate blood in his honor, and to help save lives.

"This is my second time donating blood, the reason I am doing it is to honor my son, and the Sheriff's Office is a part of my family," he said, sitting inside the air-conditioned bus after his donation. "It's also for the community. I would say that doing this is part of the healing process, just like the school supply donations that are done in my son's name, to schoolchildren back in Nicaragua. This gives us some satisfaction, that we are doing something in benefit of our son."

His son, Detective Cesar "Echy" Echaverry, was born in Hialeah

on December 8, 1992, and after graduating from Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) Class 117, joined the Department in April 2017. Echy sacrificed his life on August 17, 2022, while protecting his community from a dangerous felon.

Echy's mother, Sandra Virginia Echaverry, and sister, who shares the same names as the mother, also visited headquarters, and met with members of the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office's Homicide Bureau, including members of the Bureau who responded to the scene during that tragic night, including Detective Daniel Aiken, Sergeant Waldo T. Lorente, and Sergeant Zubair Khan.

"I enjoy being present here today," said Echy's sister. "Being part of this family, the Sheriff's Office, makes me feel closer to my brother. It doesn't take away the pain, and I can't really find the words to describe it, but I feel closer to him here."



Cesar Echaverry Sr. donated blood on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, January 9, 2025, in honor of his son.



Distinguished Officer, and Civilian of the Year, 2024

By Brian Ballou

AWARDS

Gold Medal of Valor and Lifesaving Award



Officer Bradley M. Chang, South District Distinguished Officer of the Year.

On Monday, March 18, 2024, while off-duty, Ms. Jones was at the Marathon Gas Station, at 3199 NW 62 Street, and saw a woman crying and visibly distressed. She recognized her from a news broadcast, reported as an endangered missing person, after she was last seen around 2 a.m. on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Ms. Jones learned from the news that the family of the missing person was in Broward County making a public plea for her safe return. The female was missing from Monticello, Indiana, and was described by family members as having an intellectual disability and other medical conditions requiring medication. Ms. Jones approached the female, who told her that she was missing and needed help. Ms. Jones called 911, and ensured the woman was attended to. Ms. Jones gave her food and water, and stayed on the scene for four hours until her family arrived.

In remaining cognizant of her surroundings and being vigilant, Ms. Jones helped reunite an endangered missing woman with her family. She is a credit to the Miami-Dade Police Department and the community she serves.

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024, Officer Chang, along with fellow South District Officers Jocelyn Arevalo, Mario D. Bianchi, Jonathan E. Burdette, Nikolas A. Infante, and Israel Rodriguez, were dispatched to 22291 SW 162 Avenue, Miami, Florida, in reference to squatters inside the residence with potential firearms.

The officers tactically approached and surrounded the residence in an attempt to make contact with the occupant. As the units were at the rear door, they announced themselves as Miami-Dade Police Officers and were immediately confronted by a man armed with a shotgun. The subject failed to comply with multiple verbal commands to drop the weapon, and then fired, striking Officer Bianchi on the left side of his face, neck, left arm, and left hand. Officer Infante was struck on his left shoulder, and Officer Arevalo was observed with blood on her chest area.

Officer Chang immediately identified and neutralized the threat and began to render emergency medical aid to his fellow officers. Officer Chang's efforts, combined with the efforts of his fellow officers, saved lives. His performance exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and service to the community.

Exceptional Service Award



Ms. Kimberly A. Jones, Police Records Tech 2, Central Records Bureau Civilian of the Year.



The WELLNESS CORNER



Breaking the Stigma: First Responders and Mental Health Awareness

Every day, first responders put their lives on the line to protect and serve others. They are the ones who answer the call when others are in crisis, run towards danger, witness tragedy, and carry the weight of responsibility that few can truly understand. But who protects them? The reality is that mental health struggles are common in this line of work. Despite this, the issues surrounding mental health often goes unspoken, and many first responders hesitate to seek mental health support due to the stigma surrounding mental health care, fear of judgment, or the pressure to “tough it out.” It’s time to break the stigma.

Mental Health Awareness in First Responders

In the general population, mental health has gained prominence as a major public health issue and is being recognized as a significant concern. Why is this not the case for first responders? When comparing first responders to the general population, studies reveal that first responders are at an increased risk of mental health issues as a result of the dangerous nature of the job, the greater the likelihood that they experience numerous critical incidents, environmental hazards, traumatic events and high stress environments (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, 2018).

A survey conducted on a sample of 2,833 active police officers intended to measure work related stress revealed that 83% reported that their mental health has negatively impacted their day-to-day life. Additionally, 71% reported suffering from sleep disturbances, 50% experienced heightened anger, 50% indicated relationship or familial issues, 39% reported experiencing depression, 36% experienced anxiety or panic attacks, 35% reported symptoms of PTSD and an alarming 11% harbored suicidal thoughts specifically linked to work stress (Black, 2024). These statistics reveal a concerning trend which indicates a need for building awareness into the mental health concerns that are affecting the men and women who protect and serve others.

Breaking the Stigma

For far too long, the stigma surrounding mental health care in the first responder population has been viewed as a weakness. Despite the prevalence of mental health concerns, many first responders avoid seeking mental health care due to the negative stigma, fear of career repercussions, or the “tough it out” culture that exists within this population. In reality, seeking mental health care is a sign of strength and resilience. Just like physical training prepares a deputy for duty, mental wellness assists to promote longevity and overall wellbeing in this profession. Below are a few tips to help break the stigma surrounding mental health care:

- Talk openly about mental health – Encourage open and honest dialogue to help normalize the conversation about mental health and routinely check in with yourselves and others.
- Educate yourself on mental health concerns - Familiarize yourself with signs of mental health issues. This can include education on the realities of living with a mental health condition and the truth that mental health struggles are not indicative of an individual’s character or capabilities.
- Compassion and empathy - Help cultivate a culture of understanding and acceptance. This can include listening, showing kindness, and reinforcing the message that it’s okay to struggle and seek assistance (McElhinny, 2023).

Seeking Help

All of us have a role in building awareness and breaking the stigma around mental health. Checking in on a colleague, leading by example, and normalizing the conversation all help to create a significant shift. Just as you wouldn’t ignore a serious physical injury, don’t ignore

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First Responders and Mental Health Awareness

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psychological and emotional wounds. You are not alone, and help is available. The Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, Psychological Services Section, provides licensed mental health clinicians available to address and assist with mental health concerns for all agency employees.

Additionally, the peer advocate program, Backing our Brothers and Sisters in Blue (BOBS), consists of trained peers who are able to assist in addressing mental health needs. For more information or assistance, call (305) 591-1106.

CHAPLAIN'S

A Look at the Chaplains

By Chaplain Tom Hanlon

January 31st, 2001 is the day that seven men became Miami Dade Police Department (MDPD) Chaplains. We came from different faith traditions and were not only Pastors, Deacons, and Rabbis but were united by one title, Chaplain. By the way, a chaplain is a religious leader who provides spiritual service for a non-religious organization. We came willingly and without the expectation of salary or benefits as we were all volunteers. We were prepared to provide spiritual help to the men and women of one of the finest police departments in the United States. Who were these men, selected to be a part of original Chaplain Corps? Isaiah Williams, Dennis Walker, Thomas Hanlon, Ralph Gazitua, Robert Smith, David Weberman, Shaya Weberman and Eddie Rivero. When we joined the MDPD chaplaincy we united with the department's only other chaplain, Walter T. Richardson. Since 2001 others have joined and some of the original members have left us due to relocation, retirement, and some have transitioned to receive their heavenly reward. I ask you to remember

the chaplains who are no longer with us, that served and sacrificed for the benefit of others.

There are now seventeen Chaplains representing the Sheriff's Office. We are Christians (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox), Jews, and Muslim. Our faiths are celebrated in different ways but we all serve and worship the same God. We willingly and voluntarily minister and pray for the deputies and civilians.

The chaplains have been active when deputies have been injured on the job. Notably, the chaplains responded daily for weeks in 2018 when the bridge at Florida International University collapsed. The chaplains were present and actively counseling, consoling, and assisting with victim notifications in 2020 at the building collapse at Surfside. The chaplains are available to anyone that needs us or just wants to talk about life issues. We maintain confidentiality and never discuss any person's issues with anyone but God. Get to know the chaplain for your district, bureau, center or unit. We are here to serve, not to be served. Amen!

CORNER

Spring 2025 Religious Holidays

March 2025

March 1 – Islamic: Ramadan begins
A holy month of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Muslims.

March 5 – Christian: Ash Wednesday
Marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

March 14 – Hindu: Holi

The festival of colors, celebrating the arrival of spring. The Baha'i New Year, celebrated with joy and festivities.

March 31 – Islamic: Eid al-Fitr
Marks the end of Ramadan, celebrated with a feast and prayers.

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Spring 2025 Religious Holidays *Continued from page 10*

April 2025

April 13-20 – Jewish: Passover

Celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.

April 14 – Sikh, Hindu: Vaisakhi

Marks the Sikh New Year and celebrates the spring harvest.

April 20 – Christian: Easter

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

May 2025

May 5 – Buddhist: Buddha's Birthday

Celebrates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism.

May 12 – Buddhist: Vesak

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha.

May 16 – Jewish: Lag BaOmer

A festive day marking the end of a plague during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime.



Thank You Blood Donors!

The Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office and OneBlood held a successful blood drive at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Major George S. Perera Jr.

Sergeant Jerry W. Davila Garcia

Deputy Antonio R. Llaneras

Deputy Justiniano E. Munoz

Deputy Valentin J. Revueleta

Deputy Johnpaul Valentin

Deputy Jackie M. Yuen Jr.

Public Service Aide Sheila Marquez

Personnel Technician Oneida Ortega

Secretary Yvonne D. Rodriguez

Intelligence Analyst Rodrigo A. Sepulveda

Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson

Mr. Cesar Echaverry

Mr. Eduardo Merino

Mr. Jarel Monteserin

Mr. Alejandro Peniche

Mr. Jose Rodriguez



Recent Retirements

MDSO recently said farewell to 37 employees (33 sworn officers and 4 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 19 to 42 years. Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz, the Agency's Command Staff, and the entire MDSO family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

Director Stephanie V. Daniels	32
Chief Arnold Palmer	34
Major Luis M. Almaguer	36
Major Samuel O. Bronson	31
Major Vanessa Holden-Knapp	26
Major Jesus Ramirez	32
Lieutenant Paul De Bodor Angulo Xxvii	22
Lieutenant Miguel A. Maldonado	30
Sergeant Angel R. Alvarez	29
Sergeant Joseph Curl	25
Sergeant Beatriz S. Dominguez	25
Sergeant Victor R. Evans III	27
Sergeant Darren Handy	30
Sergeant Ana Lopez	19
Sergeant Enrique Miranda	19
Sergeant Joanne M. Oro	28
Deputy Sheriff Estaban Abreu	24
Officer Darnell Carson	23
Officer Isabel Casero	35
Officer Perla Cedeno	25
Deputy Sheriff Damian Colon	19
Officer Jack Exter	31
Deputy Sheriff Ava Heiden	25
Officer Jorge L. Milan Jr.	29
Officer Nestor Montesino	30
Officer Kimberly Nanney	31
Deputy Sheriff Fredy Rojas	29
Officer Erika Rolle	31



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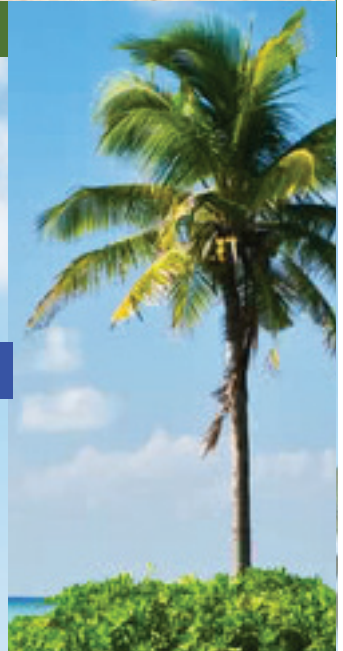
Recent Retirements

Sworn

Officer Carl Sanabria	31
Officer Leon Sanon	31
Officer Nelson Silva Jr	30
Deputy Sheriff Tricia Sire	33
Officer Michael D. Smith	28

Professional Staff

MDPD Court Support Specialist 1 Roberto Alvarez	42
MDPD Community Education Specialist Mavis Cole	19
Police Complaint Supervisor 1 Irela Evans	25
Police Crime Analysis Specialist Anelis Gutierrez	35



Help is Available



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS CLOSE TO HOME

Learn more at [miamidade.Gov/humantrafficking](https://miamidade.gov/humantrafficking)

Human trafficking hotline at 1-888- 373-7888

or text help to 233733





OPERATIONAL SHIELD

Devotional



Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office

THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 am

Any questions please contact:
Ofc. Carla Ginebra De Garcia 305-281-0760

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