

THE



**FLORIDA  
BEACH PATROL  
CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

AND THE



**UNITED STATES  
LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHEAST REGION**

PRESENT THE

**2014 LIFESAVING AWARDS BANQUET  
SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2015**

//

**RAMADA PLAZA BEACH RESORT  
1500 MIRACLE STRIP PARKWAY, SE  
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL. 32548**

HONORING THE

**"LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR"**

**"BEACH PATROL OF THE YEAR"**

**JESSICA EARL  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**OKALOOSA COUNTY  
BEACH SAFETY**

**THE FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION AND THE UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION, SOUTHEAST REGION CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE TWENTYFIRST ANNUAL LIFESAVING AWARDS AND DINNER BANQUET. COME CELEBRATE OUR 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH FOOD, FUN, MUSIC AND CAMARADERIE.**

## **PROGRAM**

**6:30 PM - 7:15 PM RECEPTION / MEET and GREET**  
**7:15 PM - 7:30PM WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**  
**7:30 PM - 8:45 PM BANQUET DINNER / AWARDS PRESENTATION**  
**8:45 PM - 9:00 PM CLOSING THOUGHTS**  
**9:00 PM - 10:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR**

### **FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS 2013 - 2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**PRESIDENT - ERIC HELLSTROM**  
**V. PRESIDENT (N) - EMILY HALL**  
**V. PRESIDENT (C) - JAMES SCALA**  
**V. PRESIDENT (S) - JOE TAYLOR**  
**V. PRESIDENT (W) - PATRICK BRADFORD**  
**V. PRESIDENT (P) - MATTHEW KENNY**  
**TREASURER - PHIL WOTTON**  
**SECRETARY - BRECK BALLOU**  
**ADVISOR - BRECK BALLOU**

### **U.S.L.A. SOUTHEAST REGION 2014 - 2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**PRESIDENT - GERRY FALCONER**  
**VICE PRESIDENT - JIM McCRADY**  
**TREASURER - JO WAGENHALS**  
**SECRETARY - JEREMY WATKINS**  
**ADVISOR - JOE McMANUS**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> EXEC DELEGATE - KARISSA ICKES**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> EXEC DELEGATE - SASHA MEDINA**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> EXEC DELEGATE - EISEN WITCHER**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> EXEC DELEGATE - ALAN HOLT**  
**COMPETITION - JIM McCRADY / ERIK SCHWARZ**  
**JUNIOR LG'S - CHRIS HOCH / CHRIS NOWVISKIE**  
**MEMBERSHIP - JO WAGENHALS**  
**PUBLIC ED. CHAIR - JOE McMANUS**

# **FLORIDA OCEAN LIFESAVING AWARDS – 2014**

- **2014 F.B.P.C.A. & U.S.L.A. S.E.R. PRESIDENTS AWARD**  
RECIPIENT: *U.S.L.A. S.E.R - John Fletemeyer*
  
- **F.B.P.C.A. 2013 - 2014 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – RECOGNITION**
  
- **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. 25+ YEAR LIFESAVING SERVICE AWARDS**  
RECIPIENTS: *Giles Most - Miami-Dade County // Craig Pollock - Town of Palm Beach // Grant McCosh, Brendan Leen, Mike Clark, Tony Bazant, Paul Wilson - Boca Raton // Christian McCrady, William Radwanski - Ft. Lauderdale // John Frazier - Indian River County // Sam Mahoney, Brad Beckett, John Handlen - Martin County // Mark Henkle - Delray Beach*
  
- **F.B.P.C.A. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
RECIPIENT: *Dave Lill - Palm Beach County*
  
- **F.B.P.C.A. MERITORIOUS ACT AWARD**  
RECIPIENT: *Ragnar Mendez - Miami-Dade County*  
RECIPIENT: *Justin Walton - Delray Beach*
  
- **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. MERITORIOUS ACT AWARD**  
RECIPIENT: *Ragnar Mendez - Miami-Dade County*
  
- **NATIONAL COMPETITORS – RECOGNITION**
  
- **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. REGIONAL - TEAM / MALE & FEMALE HIGH POINT WINNERS**
  
- **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. 2013-14 WINTER SERIES COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS**
  
- **F.B.P.C.A. HEROIC ACT AWARD**  
RECIPIENT: *Wyatt Werneth*
  
- **FLORIDAS “LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR” PAST / PRESENT – RECOGNITION**
- **FLORIDAS “BEACH PATROL OF THE YEAR” PAST / PRESENT – RECOGNITION**



# **FLORIDA BEACH PATR** **UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASS**

## **LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR - 2014**

**Recipient: Jessica Earl / St. Johns County**

### **Nominees:**

**Greg Okonski - Palm Beach County**  
**Roman Strohmenger - Deerfield Beach**  
**Crystal Haire - Ft Lauderdale Beach**  
**Chris Nowviskie - Pompano Beach**

Lt. Jessica Earl currently serves as a Fire Rescue Lieutenant assigned to the Marine Rescue Division responsible for the daily operational management of the Marine Rescue program. This includes operational supervision of seasonal lifeguards from March-September and training and management of career fire rescue staff year around. In addition to her full-time duties with SJCFR, Lt. Earl serves as a board member for the St. Augustine Lifesaving Association and a career member of the USLA. Lt. Earl is a highly decorated USLA athlete competing locally, regionally and at the national level in support of the traditions of lifeguarding competition.

Lt. Earl holds an Associates Degree from St. Johns River Community College and a Bachelors Degree from Flagler College in Public Administration and certifications to include: USLA Open Water Lifeguard, Florida Certified Firefighter II, Florida State Certified Paramedic, National Registry Emergency Medical Technician, Wilderness EMT, Swiftwater Rescue Technician, Personal Watercraft Operator and Instructor Certified, USAR Rope Rescue Technician, Open Water Dive and Rescue Diver.

Lt. Earl has spent her entire life on the beaches of St. Johns County, growing up in the water as an avid surfer. Lt. Earl won surfing championships up and down the east coast to include the NSSA East Coast Championship in consecutive years from 1993-1998 adding the NSSA National Women's Championship in 1998. Lt Earl began her professional career with SJC Marine Rescue at the age of 16, and has since been a constant face of the ocean lifesaving community rising through the ranks to her current position as a Lieutenant with St. Johns County Fire Rescue assigned to the Marine Rescue Division. She has been responsible for training and mentoring many of our current and alumni lifeguards, and through her efforts has helped grow SJC Marine Rescue into the program it is today. Through her efforts as a lifeguard you can be assured that countless lives have been saved whether by her hands or by the hands of employees who were trained and taught through her efforts. Lt. Earl has dedicated countless hours to the forward progression of the Department, the SALA and the competition team in St. Johns County. She has always been willing to donate her time and abilities to help others become better. This is a true testament to her legacy and dedication to the lifesaving community.

# COAST GUARD CHIEFS ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION – SOUTHEAST REGION



## BEACH PATROL OF THE YEAR - 2014

### **Recipient: Okaloosa County Beach Safety**

#### **Nominees:**

**Palm Beach County / Deerfield Beach / Santa Rosa Island Authority / Pompano Beach**

Okaloosa County Beach Safety's primary area of responsibility are the beaches of Okaloosa Island on the Emerald Coast. Okaloosa Island is a seven-mile-long barrier island that stretches between and connects Fort Walton Beach to Destin. The beautiful emerald colored water and white sandy beaches of Okaloosa Island is protected year round and draws an estimated 1.4 million visitors annually from all over the world. The number of tourists visiting Okaloosa Island is on the rise, steadily increasing year after year. OCBS's is comprised of 24 employees.

The Beach Safety Chief is responsible for administration and oversees operations. The Beach Safety Captain manages all operations. The Training / Quality Assurance Officer oversees and reviews all training for the department, as well as conducts quality assurance assessments for the Chief. Two Senior Lifeguards supervise daily operations in absence of the Training Officer or Captain. Each Senior Lifeguard is also responsible for a specialized duty, either public education or technical rescue. 19 seasonal lifeguards are assigned to zones from March to November.

The 3 mile, undeveloped, federally protected stretch of beach on the east side of the Island is known as Gulf Island National Seashore. We offer response and conduct limited patrols to this area of beach. The remaining 4 mile stretch of Okaloosa Island is heavily developed and populated. This area we divided into 4 zones, in order to best manage operationally. "Ocean West" is the name for our "Command" tower. This tower is a fixed structure on the Okaloosa Island Pier. The pier divides zone 1 and zone 2 which historically are our most populated areas. From here, lifeguard supervisors effectively manage all beach safety operations. Inside the command tower are high powered binoculars that watch over our entire guarded area, a computer that logs all daily activity, and 2 portable radios; 1 for lifeguard communications and the other for EMS communications. Each zone has a patrolling rescue unit assigned, as well as tower lifeguards. A rescue unit is comprised of: a 4-wheeler modified with an aluminum rack designed to carry our standard rescue and medical equipment. Our department is also responsible for flood & technical rescue throughout the county and will respond to other counties requesting assistance.

Mission: "To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our beach visitors by providing top quality prevention, rescue, and emergency medical response services to the public."  
We set the standard in reliability, responsiveness, and professional service on and off the beach.

## **F.B.P.C.A. // U.S.L.A. S.E.R. – AWARDS**

### **PRESIDENTS AWARD for OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OCEAN LIFESAVING**

**RECIPIENT: U.S.L.A. S.E.R. – John Fletemeyer** has been involved in beach safety all of his adult life beginning in 1972 as a lifeguard on Ft. Lauderdale beach. Shortly thereafter, he became a supervisor and then a lifeguard chief. John has served in several elected, leadership positions including chairman and vice chairman of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Chairman of the National Aquatics Coalition, President of the SE Region of the USLA and National Education Chairman for the USLA. John has received numerous awards including the Paragon Award, the Judge Martin Award and the CDC Distinguished Service Award. John graduated with two master's degrees from the U. of Wisconsin and the U. of Cape Town and a doctorate in coastal science from FIU. He is the author of two books about drowning and rip currents and over 100 articles. John is currently the cultural ambassador to West Australia and executive director of the International Rip Current Symposium Program.

### **F.B.P.C.A. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**RECIPIENT: Dave Lill - (Palm Beach County)** Dave's career started in 1971 as a lifeguard for Ocean City NJ Beach Patrol (OCBP), founded in 1898. He worked 8 seasons, two as a Lieutenant. Dave rowed in six South Jersey Beach Patrol Championships, 3 of which were won by Ocean City. Dave was inducted into the OCBP Hall of Fame in 1993. In 1978, Dave became a Lieutenant for Palm Beach County and in 1982 he became an OR District Supervisor. When Dave became the Aquatic Supervisor in 1986, he assumed responsibility for PBC's swimming pools and world class water ski facilities. As a Charter Member of the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association, Dave served as Secretary, Vice President and President of FBPCA. In 1993, Dave accepted the National Excellence in Aquatics Award in Austin, Texas on behalf of the PBC Parks and Recreation. A 990' fishing pier, two waterparks, a third 50 meter and two 25 yard pool facilities, a competitive water ski school and lake and five new beach parks came on line under Dave's supervision. In 2006, the Aquatics Section was made a Division with Dave as the Director. After the loss of the Chief's position, Dave returned to the FBPCA as an active member in 2010, contributing to the revision of the By-Laws and initiating video conferencing of meetings.

### **F.B.P.C.A. MERITORIOUS ACT AWARDS**

**RECIPIENT: Ragnar Mendez - (Miami-Dade County)** responded to a missing diver incident offshore at Haulover Beach. He was transported by PWC over one mile from shore to a boat with the last known location of the diver. Ragnar spotted the motionless body of the victim on the ocean floor approximately 50 feet below. With only a single breath, he dove down and grabbed the victim and brought him to the surface using only mask and fins. He assisted by placing the victim on the rescue sled and was driven to an awaiting police boat. On that vessel, he performed CPR until reaching the marina. The patient was transferred to the ER by a MDRF rescue unit, but unfortunately did not survive. The success of this recovery was due largely to Lifeguard Mendez's recognition of the urgency of a quick recovery, his superb utilization of skills, training, quick thinking and selflessness. Well done !!

**RECIPIENT: Justin Walton - (Delray Beach)** responded to a capsized and rapidly sinking vessel in open seas on July 27, 2014.. The quick response and rescue demonstrated outstanding lifeguard skills that saved multiple lives of those caught in this life-threatening scenario. In the course of this response Ocean Rescue Officer Walton dove underneath the capsized vessel several times while attempting to recover the last missing crew who was found pinned underneath the vessel. Justin voluntarily placed himself in peril for the good of another. His actions personify the essence of public service at its highest level and he deserves recognition and praise. Justin started with Delray Ocean Rescue in 2011 and worked full time until recently hired by West Palm Beach Fire Rescue. He has remained on staff as a part-time employee and continues to serve the public with distinction.

### **F.B.P.C.A. HEROIC ACT AWARD**

**RECIPIENT: Wyatt Werneth** served 15 years with Brevard County Ocean Rescue as Lifeguard Chief. In July, Wyatt was conducting a **Rapid Diver** training course with a Texas fire department aquatic rescue team. They were asked to respond to a capsized vessel with two persons (a 65 year old grandfather and 15 year old grandson) trapped inside. Upon arrival to the scene and upon entering the vessel, both victims were found in an air pocket in the bow of the boat and were able to talk with the rescue team. The occupants were extricated from the boat and shown the way to the surface. The rescued were helped out of the water onto the fire rescue boat. They were treated but not transported. During his many years of professional service, Wyatt was involved in saving many patrons from an unforgiving ocean while on and off duty. Now as a civilian, he continues to save lives. Great job !!

**FLORIDA BEACH PATROL  
CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

THE BEACH "CHIEFS" FORMED IN 1983 TO PROMOTE PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN FLORIDA'S OCEAN LIFESAVING AGENCIES. THE FOUNDING MEMBERS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG FLORIDA'S PROFESSIONAL OCEAN LIFEGUARDS. WORTHWHILE PROJECTS BEGAN TO EMERGE FROM THE "CHIEFS" INCLUDING PUBLIC EDUCATION, PROMOTING LEGISLATION RELATED TO OCEAN LIFESAVING AND RAISING STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION. THE LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR AND BEACH PATROL OF THE YEAR AWARDS WERE CREATED TO HONOR THE BEST LIFEGUARDS AND LIFEGUARD AGENCIES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.



**UNITED STATES LIFESAVING  
ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHEAST REGION**

USLA IS AMERICA'S NON-PROFIT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BEACH LIFEGUARDS AND OPEN WATER RESCUERS. USLA WORKS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF DEATH AND INJURY IN THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION, NATIONAL LIFEGUARD STANDARDS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, PROMOTION OF HIGH LEVELS OF LIFEGUARD READINESS AND OTHER MEANS.

THERE ARE OVER 100 CHAPTERS OF USLA NATIONALLY. EACH IS AFFILIATED WITH A LIFESAVING SERVICE LOCATED WITHIN A GEOGRAPHICAL REGION. EACH USLA REGION HAS A PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY USLA HAS BEEN AN ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEER LIFEGUARDS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIFESAVING PROFESSION AND PROTECTING THE BEACH-GOING PUBLIC.



LIFEGUARDS FOR LIFE



## **FLORIDA'S LIFEGUARDS OF THE YEAR**

1986  
ROB CALDWELL – LANTANA

1987  
CHUCK PRICE – PALM BEACH COUNTY

1988  
ERIK JERSTED – TOWN OF PALM BEACH

1989  
KEN GUNTHER – PALM BEACH COUNTY

1990  
BRIAN RICHARDSON – MARTIN COUNTY

1991  
GERRY FALCONER – POMPANO BEACH

1992  
JERRY HUTTON – PALM BEACH COUNTY

1993  
NAJIM MUSTO – DEERFIELD BEACH

1994  
PHIL MIRKIN – MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

1995  
VINCE WIERNICKI – ST. LUCIE COUNTY

1996  
PHIL WOTTON – BOCA RATON

1997  
JULIA LEO – PALM BEACH COUNTY

1998  
ERICK BARBOSA – MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

1999  
STEVE ZICKL – DELRAY BEACH

2000  
CHRISTINE McCRADY – FORT LAUDERDALE

2001  
MIKE BROWN – DEERFIELD BEACH

2002  
LUIZ MORIZOT- LEITE – MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

2003  
PATRICK McGLAMERY – BOCA RATON

2004  
JO WAGENHALS – DELRAY BEACH

2005  
JIM McCRADY – FORT LAUDERDALE

2006  
DENNIS WARD – PALM BEACH COUNTY

2007  
GIOVANNI SERRANO – FORT LAUDERDALE

2008  
MATTHEW PARNASS – FORT LAUDERDALE

2009  
JEFFREY WEBB NOELL – DEERFIELD BEACH

2010  
JOE McMANUS – INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

2011  
CYNTHIA AGUILAR – CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

2012  
MITCH McCRADY – FORT LAUDERDALE

2013  
JOHNATHAN BILLINGS – INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

2014  
JESSICA EARL – ST. JOHNS COUNTY

## **BEACH PATROLS OF THE YEAR**

1993  
TOWN OF LANTANA

1994  
CITY OF HOLLYWOOD

1995  
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

1996  
PALM BEACH COUNTY

1997  
CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH

1998  
CITY OF BOCA RATON

1999  
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

2000  
CITY OF HOLLYWOOD

2001  
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

2002  
CITY OF POMPANO BEACH

2003  
CLEARWATER BEACH

2004  
SARASOTA COUNTY

2005  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

2006  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

2007  
TOWN OF PALM BEACH

2008  
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

2009  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

2010  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

2011  
CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

2012  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY

2013  
BREVARD COUNTY

2014  
OKALOOSA COUNTY

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND OCEAN RESCUE AGENCIES WHO HELPED US OFFICIATE OUR SPECIAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE 2014 LIFEGUARD COMPETITION SEASON.**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS -- (PAST AND PRESENT) THAT HAVE WORKED SO TIRELESSLY ON THE "SPECIAL RISK" STATUS AND OCEAN LIFEGUARD INITIATIVE FOR FLORIDA'S OCEAN LIFESAVERS.**