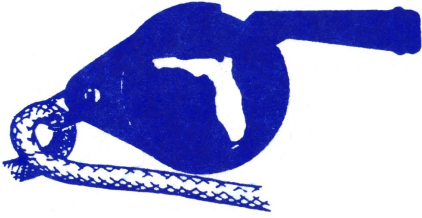


LIFESAVING AWARDS BANQUET 2021

Presented by
Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association
&
United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region



Hosted by the
FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION



and the
UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION
SOUTHEAST REGION

We Welcome you to the
2021 LIFESAVING AWARDS BANQUET

We appreciate your travel to this event
and
Taking part in our celebration.



Cover Photo:

Joe Westerman took this photo October 25, 2004 in Manatee County on Coquina Beach. Pictured Lifeguard Tower #2.

The Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association and the United States Lifesaving Association, Southeast Region cordially welcomes you to the **twenty-eighth Annual** Lifesaving Awards and Banquet dinner.

Tonight's Itinerary

6:00 PM - 7:00	COCKTAIL HOUR
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM	WELCOME
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM	BANQUET DINNER
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	AWARDS PRESENTATION
10:15 PM	CLOSING THOUGHTS

Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs 2021 - 2022 Executive Board

PRESIDENT

Joe Westerman - Manatee County

VICE PRESIDENT (North Region)

Jessica Earl— St Johns County

VICE PRESIDENT (Central Region)

Clint Tracy - Boca Raton

VICE PRESIDENT (South Region)

Gerry Falconer - Miami Beach

VICE PRESIDENT (West Region)

Scott Montgomery— Sarasota County

VICE PRESIDENT (Panhandle Region)

Will Spivey—Panama City Beach

TREASURER

Phil Wotton - Delray Beach

SECRETARY

Matthew Sparling - Miami-Dade

ADVISOR

Eric Hellstrom - St Johns County

U.S.L.A. Southeast Region 2020- 2021 Executive Board

PRESIDENT – Alan Holt

VICE PRESIDENT – James McCrady

TREASURER – Jo Wagenhals

SECRETARY – Joe McManus

ADVISOR – Gerry Falconer

1ST EXEC DELEGATE – Tom McGibeny

2ND EXEC DELEGATE – Eric Hellstrom

3RD EXEC DELEGATE – Bruce Wilkie

4TH EXEC DELEGATE – Alexander Miller

Competition – Jim McCrady

Juniors – Vacant

Membership– Karissa Ickes

Public Education – Jo Wagenhals

2021 FLORIDA OCEAN LIFESAVING AWARDS

- ♦ **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. Recognize 2020 - 2021 Executive Officers**
- ♦ **In Memory of ...**
- ♦ **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50+ Year Lifesaving Service Awards**
- ♦ **National Competitors - Recognition**
 - U.S.L.A. S.E.R. National Open Champions**
 - U.S.L.A. S.E.R. National High Point Open Women**
 - U.S.L.A. S.E.R. National High Point Open Men**
 - U.S.L.A. S.E.R. Regional - Team Male/Female High point winners**
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Lifetime Achievement**
Scott Montgomery, Brad Beckett, Joe Taylor
- ♦ **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. Joan Falconer Memorial Award**
Coach Kevin Kearns
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Special Recognition Award** (Lantana Marine Safety)
Ryan Fullerton, Marc Fichtner
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Special Recognition Award** (Martin County Ocean Rescue)
Emily Shepherd, Alex Filipovski, Abbey Brieske, Ian Montgelas, Taylor Roberts
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Special Recognition Award** (Martin County Ocean Rescue)
Ian Albertson , Mike Hartman, Jason Minix
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Meritorious Act Award** (Martin County Ocean Rescue)
Matthew Sutterfield, Kyle Lee, Brittney Kane
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Heroic Act Award** (Martin County Ocean Rescue)
Dennis Heald, Bennett Ricardson, Derick Brown
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A. Heroic Act Award** (Miami-Dade Ocean Rescue)
Luis Andrade
- ♦ **F.B.P.C.A & U.S.L.A. S.E.R. President's Award** (St. Johns County)
Eric Hellstrom
- ♦ **U.S.L.A. S.E.R. Special Recognition Award**
Glen Keuhner
- ♦ **Florida's "Lifeguard of The Year" Past and Present – Recognition**
Jeremy Watkins 2021(St. Johns County)
- ♦ **Florida's "Beach Patrol of The Year" Past and Present – Recognition**
Miami-Dade Ocean Rescue 2021

U.S.L.A S.E.R. 2020 - 2021 Executive Officers- Recognition

PRESIDENT

Alan Holt

1ST EXEC DELEGATE

Tom McGibeny

Competition

Jim McCrady

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim McCrady

2ND EXEC DELEGATE

Eric Hellstrom

Juniors

Chris Nowviskie

TREASURER

Jo Wagenhals

3RD EXEC DELEGATE

Bruce Wilkie

Membership

Karissa Ickes

SECRETARY

Vacant

4TH EXEC DELEGATE

Alexander Miller

Public Education

Jo Wagenhals

ADVISOR

Gerry Falconer

In memory of:



**David Baker - Palm Beach County
October 9 1982 – August 23, 2021**

**Tommy "Tar Toe" Hogan - Town of Palm Beach
March 30, 1935 – May 12, 2021**



U.S.L.A. S.E.R. 25 Year Lifesaving Service Awards

Andrew Ritchie

St. Lucie Beach

U.S.L.A. S.E.R. 30 Year Lifesaving Service Awards

Sam Mahoney

Martin County

F.B.P.C.A. Lifetime Achievement (See Addendum for Bio)

Scott Montgomery

Brad Beckett Martin County

Joe Taylor Hallandale Beach

National Competitors - Recognition

U.S.L.A. S.E.R. National Open Champions

April O’Gorman – Volusia County

Chris Hoch – Fort Lauderdale

Jose Luis Bolivar – Hollywood

Casey Francis – Fort Lauderdale

Kevin Jones – Boca Raton

Lucy Noble – Volusia County

Hallie Petersohn – Palm Beach County

Sherry Griffith – Boca Raton

Alexandre O’Connor – Fort Lauderdale

Tiffany LaCasse - Palm Beach County

Shelley Griffith – Boca Raton

U.S.L.A. S.E.R. National High Point Open Women

(1st) Casey Francis – Fort Lauderdale Overall High Point!

(8th) Alice Henley – Dania Beach

(4th) Hallie Petersohn – Palm Beach

(9th) Lucy Noble – Volusia County

(5th) April O’Gorman – Volusia County

(10th) Alexandre O’Connor – Fort Lauderdale

U.S.L.A. S.E.R. National High Point Open Men

(8th) Chase Robertson – Palm Beach County

U.S.L.A. S.E.R. REGIONAL - Team / Male & Female

2021 USLA SER Regional

Top 10 Team Results:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Palm Beach County | 6. Fort Lauderdale |
| 2. Volusia County | 7. Dania Beach |
| 3. Boca Raton | 8. Deerfield Beach |
| 4. Clearwater | 9. Sarasota |
| 5. Hollywood | 10. Miami Beach |



LIFEGUARDS FOR LIFE™

2021 USLA SER Regional

Top 10 Male overall points:

Men

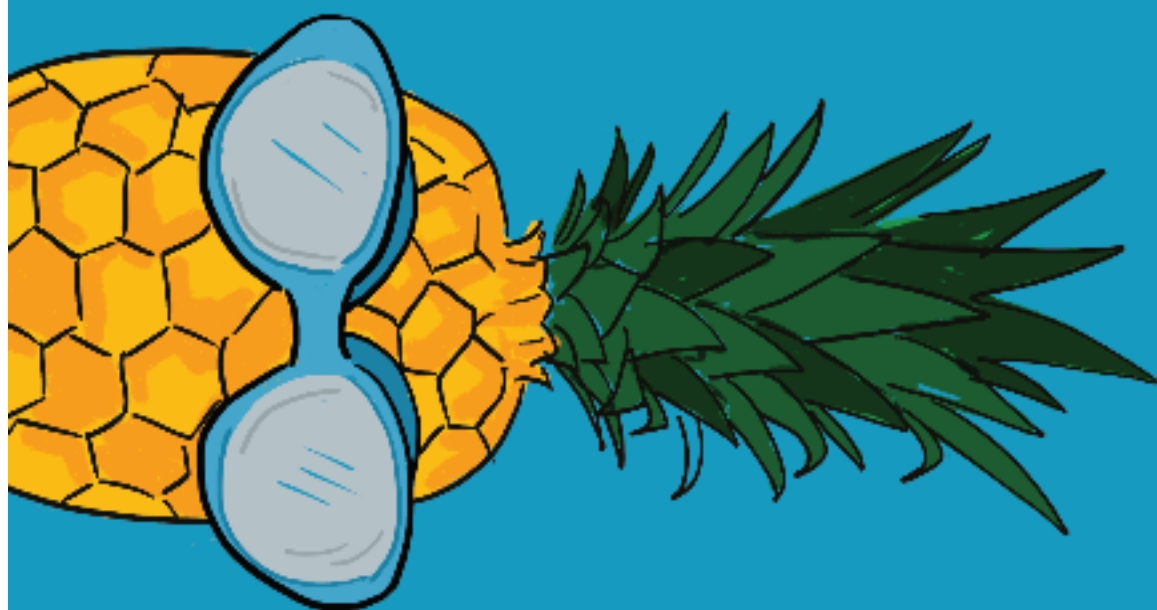
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chase Robertson | Palm Beach County |
| 2. Boki Corsovic | Hollywood |
| 3. Michael Vasta | Dania Beach |
| 4. Konrad Ciolko | Clearwater Beach |
| 5. John Livingstone | Delray Beach |
| 6. Roman Strohmenger | Deerfield Beach |
| 7. Ian Montgelas | Martin County |
| 8. Bruce Wilkie | Hollywood Marine |
| 9. J.P. Atherholt | Clearwater Beach |
| 10. Chase Harris | Palm Beach County |

2021 USLA SER Regional

Top 10 Female overall points:

Women

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Casey Francis | Fort Lauderdale |
| 2. April O’Gorman | Volusia County |
| 3. Tiffany LaCasse | Palm Beach County |
| 4. Hallie Petersohn | Palm Beach County |
| 5. Alice Henley | Dania Beach |
| 6. Brooke Bennett | Clearwater |
| 7. Lesley Rickerson | Pompano Beach |
| 8. Sherry Griffith | Boca Raton |
| 9. Kellyn Baconcini | Hollywood |
| 10. Jo Wagenhals | Pompano Beach |



LEAVE STRESS AT THE SHORE

Connect. Race. Explore.

www.floridaopenwater.com

U.S.L.A. S.E.R. Joan Falconer Memorial Award Coach Kevin Kearns

Coach Kevin Kearns has been not only a huge supporter to the ocean lifesaving community for close to 20 years but also a main staple to the Delray Beach community. He could be seen every morning holding down the fort on Delray Beach at the South 5 lifeguard tower until lifeguards went on duty and after watching the sun come up would cheer us on in our morning training. He not only supported us locally but could also be seen at our National Lifeguard Championships held around the nation. Coach Kevin has also been known to help fund the shipping our the Southeast Region's equipment to Nationals. Whether it



was for some training advice or even just life advice Coach Kevin could always be counted on to be there on the shoreline willing to support anyone who needed it. Coach maintains such a great love for the ocean and those who brave all manner of surf conditions to help others. For that we would like to recognize him for his devotion and support to

south Florida's lifeguards. Coach is supported by his beautiful wife, Nancy. Additionally, in 2013 he was recently inducted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame for his career spanning over 4 decades at the University of Maryland.



**Professional Water Safety Training and
Certification for Public Safety, Ocean Rescue,
Rivers, Flood Water, and Swimming Pool and
Waterparks, both Public and Private, Ocean**

LifeGuard Services “your best friend in the Water”



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 the standards of training and certification. The Lifeguard of The Year and The Beach Patrol of The Year awards were created to honor the best Lifeguards and Lifeguard agencies in the state of Florida.

F.B.P.C.A. Special Recognition Award

Ryan Fullerton, Marc Fichtner (Lantana Marine Safety)

It is an honor to work with two exceptional lifeguards from Lantana Marine Safety: Senior Ocean Lifeguard / Paramedic, Ryan Fullerton and Ocean Lifeguard / EMT, Marc Fichtner. They were recently awarded as Home Town Heroes by the Town of Lantana for their lifesaving actions while guarding Lantana Municipal Beach. On Thursday, October 21, 2021, Lifeguards Ryan Fullerton and Marc Fichtner were the only two guards on duty. At approximately 15:00 they observed a 67 year-old male surfer surface from the water and keenly realized that he was in distress. They entered the water and rescued him from the surf. They quickly determined the victim was unresponsive, not breathing and had no pulse and as a result immediately began CPR. The Lifeguards hailed Lantana Dispatch on the Police Radio to request Fire Rescue and the Police Department's assistance. Their resuscitation efforts continued, assisted by a Good Samaritan, off-duty Firefighter / Paramedic, Matthew MacCrae, who was also surfing when the incident took place. Their life-saving efforts continued, including defibrillating the patient twice with an AED which eventually resulted in the patient regaining a pulse. They continued their efforts until Palm Beach County Fire Rescue arrived and took over care of the patient. PBCFD transported the man as a Trauma Alert to the Delray Medical Center for additional treatment.

Ocean Lifeguards Ryan Fullerton and Marc Fichtner and Firefighter Matthew MacCrae's skill and keen observation, quick response, and teamwork saved this man's life that day. They acted with utmost professionalism, skill and selflessness, and should be honored accordingly.

F.B.P.C.A. Special Recognition Award

Emily Shepherd, Alex Filipovski, Abbey Brieske, Ian Montgelas, Taylor Roberts
(Martin County Ocean Rescue)

On Sunday, October 3, 2021, a beach patron suffered from an apparent shark bite on Jensen Beach. Immediately recognizing that there was an emergency, Martin County Ocean Rescue Lifeguards responded, established Incident Command, communicated for beach closure and Fire Rescue to Respond, and treated/packaged patient for transport via Martin County Fire Rescue.

The first Lifeguard to immediately recognize the emergency was Ocean Rescue EMT/Lifeguard Emily Shepherd. She immediately conducted a rapid trauma assessment and began successful treatment of patient on the shoreline. The second Lifeguard on scene to assist with bleeding and crowd control was Ocean Rescue Paramedic/Lifeguard Alex Filipovski. He immediately secured the scene, assisted with treatment and packaging of patient for transport. Arriving with the second Lifeguard on scene to assist was Ocean Rescue Paramedic/Lifeguard Abbey Brieske. She assisted with the safety and secured the scene while final preparations were made to patient for transport. She also conducted vital communication to the Incident Commander, Ocean Rescue EMT/Lifeguard Captain Ian Montgelas, who relayed info to Fire Rescue.

During the treatment and packaging of patient, the remaining Lifeguards; Ocean Rescue EMT/Lifeguard Taylor Roberts and Captain Ian Montgelas, covered and moved into positions to secure the scene and to remove swimmers from the water for closure. The conditions during that busy weekend Sunday were very challenging due to Rip Currents and medium sized surf.

During this low frequency high intensity emergency, the immediate and follow-on actions of all Lifeguards involved at Jensen Beach on October 3 were directly related to the positive patient outcome and are noteworthy of special recognition.

A special Thank You to the



**SURFING'S EVOLUTION
& PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION**



**Richey's Proudly Supports
The
Manatee County Beach Patrol**

**Hand Made
Chocolates**



**Family
Owned**

After the day at the beach stop in for a sweat treat!



**SWIM NEAR A
LIFEGUARD**

**Made possible with
a grant from**



**SURFING'S EVOLUTION
& PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION**



F.B.P.C.A. Special Recognition Award

Ian Albertson, Mike Hartman, Jason Minix (Martin County Ocean Rescue)

On Saturday, July 10th, 2021, a 9-year-old beach patron suffered from an apparent shark bite at Bathtub Reef Beach. Immediately recognizing that there was an emergency, Martin County Ocean Rescue Lifeguards responded, established Incident Command, communicated for beach closure and Fire Rescue to Respond, and treated/packaged patient for transport via Martin County Fire Rescue.

During this particular day, only 3 Lifeguards were stationed at Bathtub Reef Beach. Two Lifeguards; Ocean Rescue EMT/Lifeguard Ian Albertson and Ocean Rescue Paramedic/Lifeguard Mike Hartman, were first on the scene. Both Lifeguards immediately conducted a rapid trauma assessment, stopped the bleeding, and packaged the patient for Fire Rescue transport. Both Lifeguards calmed the patient and the patient's Mother down with charisma and professional experience gained over the course of their careers.

A third Lifeguard, Jason Minix, had the sole responsibility of closing the water, removing all beach patrons from harm, and communicating with Ocean Rescue Headquarters. The conditions during that busy weekend Saturday were very challenging due to Rip Currents and medium sized surf.

During this low frequency high intensity emergency, the immediate and follow-on actions of all Lifeguards involved at Bathtub Reef Beach on July 10th, were directly related to the positive patient outcome and are noteworthy of special recognition.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!

- Breck Ballou
- Tom Fogan
- Bob Maler
- Mike McKenna
- Rob Caldwell
- John Frazier
- Don May
- Wyatt Werneth
- Scott Montgomery

From the above supporting Alumni Members

SOLENTO ORGANIC TEQUILA



SOLENTOTEQUILA.COM



@SOLENTO_TEQUILA

MAUI RIPPERS

Trusted by the World's Best Watermen



PREMIUM BOARDSHORTS



Direct Pricing ♦ Always in Stock ♦ Fast Shipping

sales@mauirippers.com

808-573-0402

By Now You Know Who's
Got Your Back Covered!

www.mauirippers.com

F.B.P.C.A. Meritorious Act Award

Matthew Sutterfield, Kyle Lee, Brittney Kane (Martin County Ocean Rescue)

On June 6, 2021, Lifeguards Matthew Sutterfield, Kyle Lee, and Brittney Kane, were assigned to Bathtub Reef Beach. The crew recognized a 23' center console boat that had been trolling earlier which now appeared unmanned and drifting into the reef and guarded area where swimmers and snorkelers were present. Sutterfield and Lee were able to swim out to the vessel which they found abandoned and navigate the vessel outside of the reef to a safer location. The lifeguards found the vessel was unoccupied but appeared to have the belongings of two people now missing. Lifeguard Brittney Kane assumed Incident Command from the tower and requested additional resources from United States Coast Guard, Martin County Sheriff's Office and Martin County Fire Rescue. Sutterfield and Lee used the boat to start searching for the missing occupants by utilizing the onboard electronics and retracing the "breadcrumbs" of the GPS unit. MCSO Marine Unit, Lifeguards Sutterfield and Lee, located the two missing boaters floating in the water in front of sailfish country club without injuries. The actions of Lifeguards Sutterfield, Lee, and Kane should be recognized for their outstanding dedication and service saving the unmanned vessel from possibly injuring patrons at the beach, the vessel becoming a hazmat call damaged on the beach and helping retrieve the two boaters who had gone overboard. During our debriefing of the call at the beach, numerous beach patrons came up to say what an outstanding team of lifeguards we have.



UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION SOUTHEAST REGION

The 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

Always Ready, Proud to Serve



**INDIAN RIVER
COUNTY**



Lifeguards for Life!



F.B.P.C.A. Heroic Act Award

Dennis Heald, Derick Brown, Bennett Richardson (Martin County Ocean Rescue)

As an avid lifetime surfer, fisherman, and boater, I frequently begin my day coming to Jensen Beach early morning to check ocean conditions and/or workout in a different fashion other than surfing. This morning (9-25-21) during my routine beach/surf check, I met up with two of my former co-workers (Dennis Heald and Drew Rodidoux) who are still employed with MCFR, and a current MCFR Ocean Lifeguard(Derick Brown) who were also doing an early morning “surf conditions check”. As usual, a discussion began about where the surf may be better at a different beach. Sometimes this discussion will take a while and after a few minutes of observing the waves, Drew was satisfied with the conditions and paddled out at JB. Derick, Dennis, and I watched Drew paddle out in order to decide if we were going to join him or search elsewhere for better waves. In retrospect, I’m glad we decided to watch Drew for a few minutes. Soon after Drew paddled out, he caught a wave. Shortly after the wave he caught, the 3 of us on the beach noticed Drew was not acting normally in the water and we went down the beach to help him. While we were physically helping him out of the water and onto the beach, it was easy to see that Drew was having difficulty breathing and walking with a laceration on the side of his head near his eye. Drew could not speak well and was obviously in distress. Once we were on dry sand, Dennis asked Derick if he had keys to the building to get the medical equipment. We were “borderline” needing it immediately. I told Dennis to go ahead and dial 911 and get a rescue moving this way. At this point, three of us helped Drew get to the parking lot (it took us several minutes) with two of us assisting by holding him under each of his arms. We still had to stop about five times while moving up the beach toward the parking lot because of Drew’s difficulty breathing and his excessive expulsion of water from his lungs. In my experience, I was impressed by Drew’s ability to even walk at all due to the volume of water that was coming out of him on expiration. Q14 and R14 arrived shortly after we got him to the parking lot and 14 transported him to Martin North. As you know, I began with employment with Martin County as an Ocean Lifeguard a long time ago and have been friendly with the guys over the years who have worked at the beach. I have also witnessed the recent transition of your arrival here and am impressed by the positive direction in which the organization is moving. Thanks for your effort! The three of us who helped Drew this morning were extremely glad we were there to help him, most importantly, because he is “one of our own”! Thanks for implementing the positive improvements you already have out there! Best of luck going forward!

Bennett Richardson-Ret. MCFR

F.B.P.C.A. Heroic Act Award

Luis Andrade (Miami-Dade Ocean Rescue)

I would like to nominate Captain Luis Andrade for a Heroic Acts Award. On his days off, Captain Andrade loves to take out his ocean kayak and do some exercise and a little fishing to decompress from his work week. On Saturday April 17, 2021, there was no exception and Captain Andrade launched his kayak around 8:00 AM to get in his relaxation time. He paddled all around Key Biscayne and Stiltsville. He pulled up to the bay area of the Ocean Reef Club to get a little fishing in the mangroves around 14:30 when he heard someone yell out "Help!" Captain Andrade looked around and saw a lot of boats anchored with lots of people playing music and drinking and thought that someone was joking around as he did not see anything. Soon he heard someone yell out "Help!" again. After scanning the water, he saw a head in front of a boat holding onto the anchor line, Captain Andrade immediately responded. When he started getting closer, he noticed that the gentleman holding the anchor line was struggling to hold an unconscious woman afloat and her head kept going underwater. Captain Andrade was wearing his life vest and upon arrival he secured the woman in a cross chest hold. The man stated he was not a good swimmer and had to hold on to the anchor line in order to stay afloat. The captain tried to wave down a Good Samaritan but was unsuccessful. Having no choice, he decided to swim the unconscious woman to the back of the boat platform and assisted the gentleman get back in the boat and instructed him to turn off the engine.

Captain Andrade placed the unconscious woman on his shoulder and grabbed the platform that appeared to be about 2-3 feet above him from the water. It was a struggle, but he was able to get the woman inside the boat. He checked the woman's pulse, and she was not breathing and had no pulse, so he began CPR. The woman started foaming at the mouth and he had to turn her on her side to drain the water out of the woman's airway. Captain Andrade spoke to the man and asked him to drive the boat to Crandon Marina. The man was unaware on where to go, and Captain Andrade had to direct him while performing CPR. Captain Andrade continued CPR until the City of Key Biscayne Fire Rescue arrived and transferred care at the Marina. The City of Key Biscayne were able to intubate the patient and continue CPR and they stated to Captain Andrade that the woman had regained a pulse. They transferred the patient to a local hospital where she is currently in recovery. Captain Andrade had no idea where his kayak was or his fishing gear and now was in the Marina. He was able to hitch a ride out to the scene and thankfully a friend with a PWC was able to hold onto his gear until he arrived.

Captain Andrade is 61 years old on his day off and when he heard a distress call, he had no hesitation and responded to help with no regard for his personal safety. The man and woman on the boat were very lucky to have a man like him in the area to render aid. Captain Andrade performed the rescue, performed CPR for close to 15 minutes and came up with a plan that ultimately saved the woman's life.

F.B.P.C.A. & USLA SER President's Award

Eric Hellstrom (St. Johns County)

Eric Hellstrom began his lifesaving career at the early age of 15, lifeguarding and teaching swim lessons at the local YMCA. In 1992, he began working as a tower guard at St. Johns County Ocean Rescue while also assisting at his local volunteer fire department. Seeing his potential, the County quickly promoted Eric to Zone Commander. For many years, Eric continued to manage aquatics as well as coaching swimming at every level from Special Olympics to Division 1 College.

In 2006, Eric was hired full time at St. Johns County Fire Rescue as a Marine Rescue Lieutenant. Over the next several years, Eric and his team would expand the program to include 5 rescue/response stations, 18 vehicles, 7 PWC's, 2 flood rescue / response vessels, and a 30' SAFE vessel. Due to consistent hard work and determination, Eric was ultimately promoted to Battalion Chief.

Chief Hellstrom's educational background includes a Bachelors in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University and a Masters in Emergency and Disaster Management from American Military University. He also sits on multiple committees throughout the state and serves as a subject matter expert in several areas for the USCG.

Eric Hellstrom takes an active role as a champion of the Ocean Rescue profession. He is a long-time active member of the USLA SER and joined the F.B.P.C.A. in 2013. As a valued member of the Chief's Association, he has held several Executive Board Officer positions including President (4 years), Vice (President (2 years) and is the current Advisor (3 years).

Last year, Eric worked directly with members of the Florida Hotel and Conference Center Orlando setting up all aspects of the annual Chief's / USLA SER Florida Surf



Lifesaving Awards Banquet. This was the first time the banquet was held in Orlando, which encompassed lifesaver attendance from throughout the state. It was a great success. Eric also worked directly with Clear Channel regarding the purchase of billboard advertising space from both Associations on several billboards in north Florida to educate residents and tourists alike to the importance of our lifesaving mantra - SWIM

NEAR A LIFEGUARD. It is estimated that nearly one million vehicles passed by these billboards traversing our interstates.

This past year on behalf of the Chief's Association, Eric applied to the state of Florida's [Endless Summer - license plate program] and received the largest donation of public educational grant monies (over \$90,000) ever received. Thank you to the Surfing Evolution & Preservation Foundation and Ron Jon Surf Shop. As part of grant distributions, Eric has again secured multiple billboards with the sign below that will be posted throughout the state of Florida. Some of his initiatives will take place during Water Safety week and continue into the Summer. In addition, grant monies will purchase hundreds of educational Beach Warning flags and dozens of signs to be distributed to Ocean Rescue agencies statewide to help alleviate the burden on local beach patrols.

Battalion Chief Eric Hellstrom is a consummate Ocean Rescue aquatic professional that is constantly working to improve our profession. He is well deserving of the President's Award.



U.S.L.A. S.E.R. Special Recognition Award

Glen Keuhner

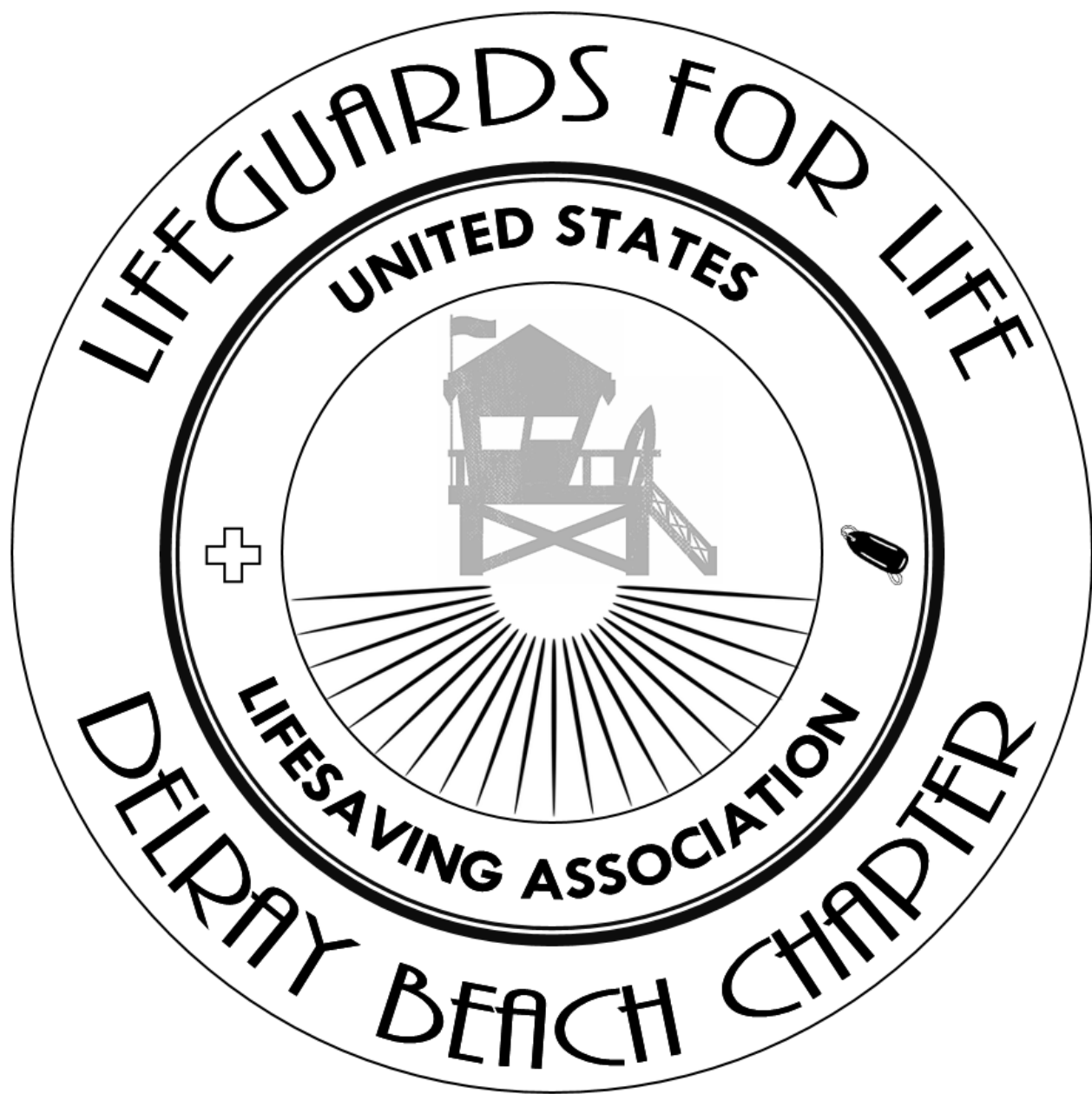
The 2022 USLA SER Special Recognition Award recipient is Glen Kuehner of South Walton Fire District. Since 2010 he has instructed over 150 USLA Personal Rescue Watercraft Operators through classes in Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale. This is only a fraction of the students he has taught. After Black Sunday on the Gulf Coast on June 8th 2003, Glen wanted to learn more about surf rescue. In the Winter of 2004, Glen attended a USLA Open Water Lifesaving Academy hosted by Destin Fire Control District and the Southeastern Region of the USLA. He started his career as a Lifeguard for Destin Beach Safety the following summer. He worked the very first shift for the newly established Beach Safety Division of the Destin Fire Control District. In 2005, during a hurricane swell in South Walton, Glen experienced a near miss operating as a crew person on a Personal Watercraft that was recovered from Walton County Deputies that had attempted a rescue. While attempting to make it out through the surf, the PWC operator made mistakes similar to the ones the deputies had made, which resulted in Glen and the PWC operator being capsized and now swimming in hurricane surf. Two other firefighters attempted to swim out to rescue Glen, his operator, and the two deputies. After more than an hour in the surf all of the “would be” rescuers made it to shore, with two firefighters and two deputies requiring transport to the hospital. Glen knew what they were trying to do was possible and necessary for beach safety, but the methods were all wrong. This ignited a passion for Glen to learn all he could from those mistakes. Later that winter, Chief D’Agostino hosted Captain Larry Giles and his PWC for a Surf Rescue course. This course provided instruction on the right way to handle surf rescue and to avoid



every mistake Glen had experienced earlier that season. Glen’s passion to perfect the skills he learned led him to purchase his own PWC and rescue sled and logging hundreds of hours practicing in the surf at Phillips Inlet. Glen began sharing his training and “lessons learned” with every local water rescue agency he could across the Panhandle. In 2006, Glen attended the Southeastern Region training officer’s academy, and

Academy Director Jim McCrady recognized the benefits of the training Glen was conducting. Through the support of Joe D’Agostino, Destin Beach Safety, SER USLA, and Jim McCrady, the South Eastern Region Personal Rescue Watercraft Operator Academy was born. Since then Glen has served as the Academy Director teaching over a hundred classes along southern beaches and in Puerto Rico.

Glen Served as a Shift Command Officer for Destin Beach Safety for 15 years with the majority of his assignments to “Surf 9,” the Rescue PWC in the Destin Harbor, and covering the infamous “Crab Island” of Destin. Glen has been a Paramedic for over 30 years, and a Firefighter for 26 years. He is a Fire Service Instructor, National Cave Rescue Instructor, and High Angle Rope Rescue Instructor. Glen is the recipient of the SWFD Medal of Honor for his active role in the Panama City Beach Sky Wheel rescue. He currently serves as a District Chief for South Walton Fire District.



**Congratulations to
Jeremy Watkins**

**for your recognition as the
2021 Lifeguard of the Year!**



ANCHOR LAW, PA



Saint Augustine Life Saving Association would like to congratulate our own Jeremy Watkins on his achievement of being named 2021 Florida State Lifeguard of The Year. Jeremy sets the standard on our beaches with his professionalism, athleticism, and passion for keeping our beaches safe. He is a leader on and off the sand and we could not be prouder. Congratulations Jeremy.





FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION 2020 LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR

Jeremy Watkins– St. Johns County

Jeremy started with St. Johns County Ocean Rescue the summer of 2000; with his first day of duty on his 16th birthday Memorial Day weekend. First working as a seasonal tower guard for 2 summers, Jeremy quickly moved up to a zone supervisor position. Soon after that summer Jeremy finished EMT school and was hired as a full time ocean lifeguard for SJCOR. For two years while on duty and 24 hour on call Jeremy responded to all marine/beach related emergencies in the county; a response area with 42 miles of coastline, intercostal water, and a major river. Additionally, Jeremy assisted with public information events, recruited and trained aspiring lifeguards, as well as conducted recurrent training for returning staff.



In mid-2004 Jeremy was called to serve his country in a different way by enlisting into the United States Coast Guard. From basic training Jeremy was recruited to be part of the



Presidential Honorguard for 2 and a half years; performing funeral details, Arlington National Cemetery Tomb Ceremonies, and Silent Drill Team Events. There Jeremy traveled the United States and abroad, marched in the 2nd Inauguration Parade for Pres. Bush, and acted as a body bearer for Pres. Fords State Funeral. Later Jeremy attended rescue swimmer school, served as a deckhand and Cutter Swimmer on the USCG Cutter Dallas; and finished his 7 years of service as an Aviation Maintenance Technician and

MH-60 Basic Aircrew member.

Upon his return from military service in 2011, he returned to St. Johns County Marine Rescue seasonal staff and was nominated as President of the St. Augustine Lifesaving Association. Jeremy maintained this position for eight years, and as President took pride in improving the

professionalism and work environment for St Johns County Lifeguards; as well as the coordination of multiple public safety and beach initiatives. Notable efforts during that time included Take a Toy-Leave a Toy, beach cleanups, public school events, and annual local surf lifesaving competitions and public Spring Fling events. In 2012 Jeremy was selected out of over 300 applicants as one of the first full time lifeguards for Hallandale Beach when the city took over the Ocean Rescue operations in 2012, and worked part time as a seasonal guard in Flagler Beach in 2013. Jeremy also became active in the USLA regional and national level at this time serving as the Southeast Region Secretary for 6 years.

Finally, in 2015 Jeremy was hired full time by St. Johns County Fire Rescue. As a Marine Rescue Lieutenant Jeremy is directly responsible for Emergency Response and directing Emergency Response for marine/beach environment call within the county. During seasonal operations Jeremy is responsible for staff issues up to and including disciplinary measures, managing maintenance issues on towers and vehicles, ensuring communication with Fire Rescue, and any other item affecting Marine Rescue daily operations. Additionally, Jeremy acts as an Instructor for lifeguard and fire rescue classes including New Hire Lifeguard, Recurrent Lifeguard, PWC, RHIB, 1670 Awareness, Operations, and Technician Courses. In 2021 with minimal notice due to an injury effecting division personnel, Jeremy also took on the busy task of assuming the role of Jr. Lifeguard Coordinator for the summer.



Jeremy is a dedicated husband and father of two boys. During Jeremy's tenure as a lifeguard he has saved countless lives, but more importantly he has been an inspiration and role model for current and future lifeguards. Jeremy never brags or boasts, manages his emergency scenes flawlessly, and ensures the wellbeing of crews post event. Jeremy Watkins epitomizes 'Lifeguard for Life.'

Additional education, certifications, and awards: Bachelor Degree from the University Florida in Fire and Emergency Services, PADI Open Water Diver, PWC Operator, Vessel Operator, Paramedic, Firefighter I/II, USAR Rope Technician, Swiftwater Rescue Technician, Fire Officer III, SJCOR Rookie Of The Year 2000, , USCG Honorguardsman Of The Year 2006, USCG Achievement Medal 2011, and SJCMR Captains Award 2013.

FLORIDA'S PAST LIFEGUARDS OF THE YEAR

1986 ROB CALDWELL LANTANA	VINCE WIERNICKI ST. LUCIE COUNTY	DELRAY BEACH	2014 JESSICA EARL ST. JOHNS COUNTY
1987 CHUCK PRICE PALM BEACH COUNTY	1996 PHIL WOTTON BOCA RATON	2005 JIM McCRADY FORT LAUDERDALE	2015 CRYSTAL HAIRE FORT LAUDERDALE
1988 ERIK JERSTED TOWN OF PALM BEACH	1997 JULIA LEO PALM BEACH COUNTY	2006 DENNIS WARD PALM BEACH COUNTY	2016 LAWRENCE RUSSELL PALM BEACH COUNTY
1989 KEN GUNTHER PALM BEACH COUNTY	1998 ERICK BARBOSA MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	2007 GIOVANNI SERRANO FORT LAUDERDALE	2017 ALEXANDRE O'CONNER FORT LAUDERDALE
1990 BRIAN RICHARDSON MARTIN COUNTY	1999 STEVE ZICKL DELRAY BEACH	2008 MATTHEW PARNASS FORT LAUDERDALE	2018 ROMAN STROHMENGER DEERFIELD BEACH
1991 GERRY FALCONER POMPAÑO BEACH	2000 CHRISTINE McCRADY FORT LAUDERDALE	2009 JEFFREY WEBB NOELL DEERFIELD BEACH	2019 RYAN KEITH PALM BEACH COUNTY
1992 JERRY HUTTON PALM BEACH COUNTY	2001 MIKE BROWN DEERFIELD BEACH	2010 JOE McMANUS INDIAN RIVER COUNTY	2020 BOGDAN CORSOVIC HOLLYWOOD BEACH
1993 NAJIM MUSTO DEERFIELD BEACH	2002 LUIZ MORIZOT- LEITE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	2011 CYNTHIA AGUILAR CITY OF MIAMI BEACH	2021 JEREMY WATKINS ST. JOHNS COUNTY
1994 PHIL MIRKIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	2003 PATRICK McGLAMERY BOCA RATON	2012 MITCH McCRADY FORT LAUDERDALE	
1995	2004 JO WAGENHALS	2013 JOHNATHAN BILLINGS INDIAN RIVER	

2021 Lifeguard of the Year Nominees

Lesley Shahan Rickerson Pompano Beach Wade Rickerson Fort Lauderdale Wesley Price Palm Beach County

FLORIDA'S BEACH PATROLS OF THE YEAR

1993 TOWN OF LANTANA	2003 CLEARWATER BEACH	2013 BREVARD COUNTY
1994 CITY OF HOLLYWOOD	2004 SARASOTA COUNTY	2014 OKALOOSA COUNTY
1995 CITY OF DELRAY BEACH	2005 CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE	2015 VOLUSIA COUNTY
1996 PALM BEACH COUNTY	2006 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	2016 PALM BEACH COUNTY
1997 CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH	2007 TOWN OF PALM BEACH	2017 MANATEE COUNTY
1998 CITY OF BOCA RATON	2008 CITY OF DELRAY BEACH	2018 CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH
1999 CITY OF DELRAY BEACH	2009 INDIAN RIVER COUNTY	2019 CITY OF HOLLYWOOD
2000 CITY OF HOLLYWOOD	2010 CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE	2020 FBPCA MEMBER AGENCIES
2001 CITY OF DELRAY BEACH	2011 CITY OF MIAMI BEACH	2021 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
2002 CITY OF POMPAÑO BEACH	2012 ST. JOHNS COUNTY	

STOP LIGHTNING BEFORE IT STRIKES

Highly effective, cost-efficient lightning protection for all environments on land and sea. Easy to install, low maintenance and large coverage areas to protect your assets and people.



EMP | SOLUTIONS

www.PreventLightning.com





FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION 2020 BEACH PATROL OF THE YEAR

Recipient: Miami-Dade Ocean Rescue

Miami-Dade County Ocean Rescue guards about 4 miles of beach at two locations, Haulover Park on North Miami Beach and Crandon Park on Key Biscayne. There is a total of 30 Towers at both locations. Miami-Dade County Ocean Lifeguards have been working for the Marine Service Bureau inside the Miami Dade Fire Rescue Department for the last 17 years. Being assigned to the Fire Department brought Ocean Rescue better equipment, training and high-risk retirement. Miami-Dade County currently has 83 employees that work year-round and consists of 3 Captains, 7 Lieutenants, 30 Full Time Staff, 3 Dispatchers, and 40 part-time lifeguards. Miami Dade County is a United States Lifeguarding Association, accredited Open Water Agency and follows all requirements needed for employment as an accredited agency. That includes having staff be 18 years of age, with at least a high school diploma, be at least an Emergency Medical Responder, full time staff are either EMT or Paramedics, must possess an American Heart Association CPR/BLS Card, have a Lifeguard Certification from an accredited agency and pass a 500 m swim performance test annually as well as a Run Swim Run test annually. Miami-Dade County runs an annual Jr. Lifeguard Program and has a robust schedule of local school visits to speak to children about water safety. Miami-Dade County also is involved in the community by hosting monthly beach cleanup events.

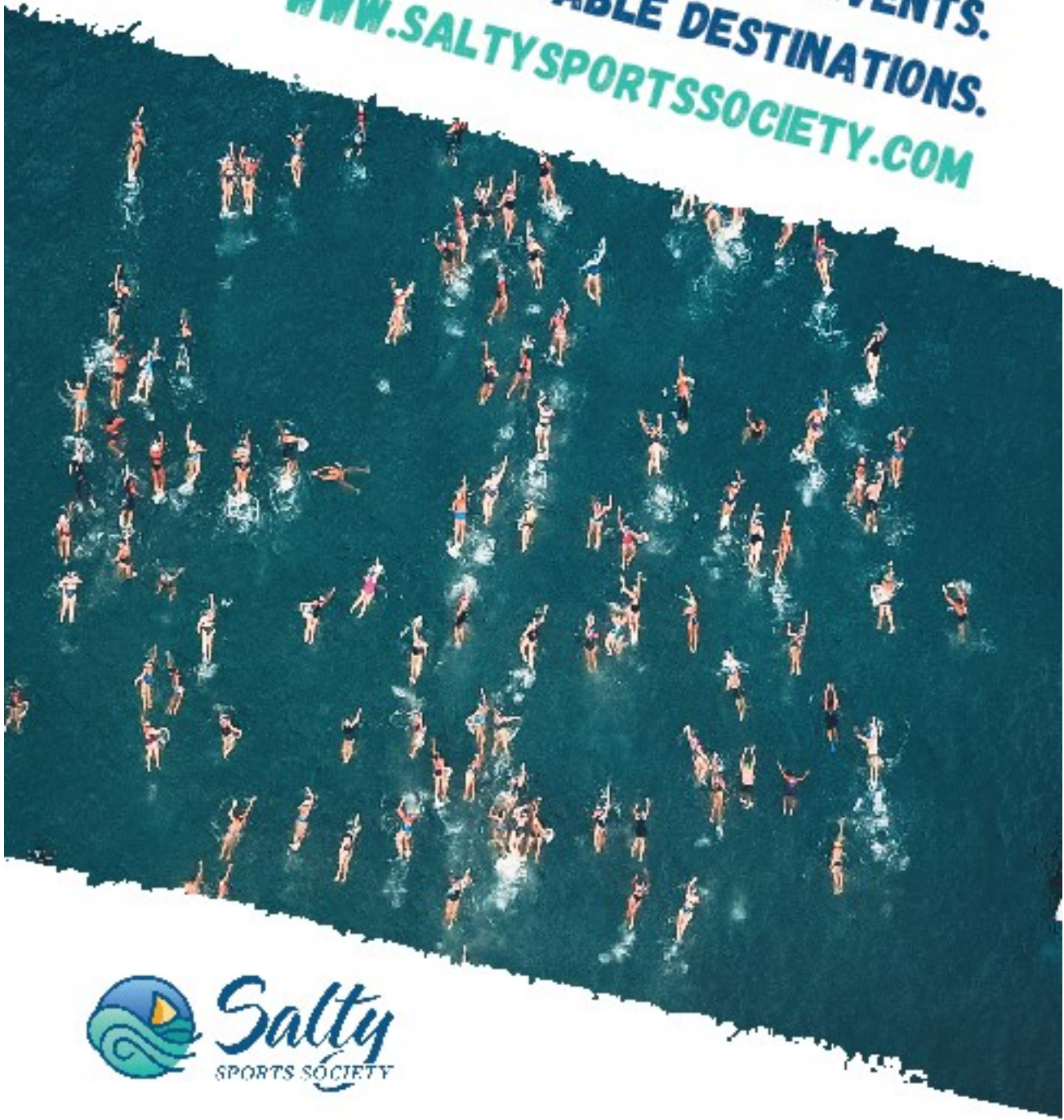
When the Covid-19 Pandemic started hitting Florida hard in 2020, Miami-Dade Fire Ocean Rescue Bureau became involved in many aspects of Miami-Dade County's Emergency Response Plan to include testing home bound seniors and the disabled. The lifeguards and staff were involved in testing Firefighters, inmates, County Employees and the general public at large as well as continually protect the public at the beaches. Moving into 2021, The Covid-19 Vaccine became available for the public. Since Ocean Rescue Staff had helped create and worked on the In-home testing initiative, they were trained to administer the vaccine to the same populations they had been serving the previous year. All Ocean Rescue Paramedics were trained and took on this task and delivered hundreds of vaccines. The mayor of Miami-Dade County was finding that there was some resistance and vaccine hesitancy in population areas within Miami-Dade County. A program called "VACS NOW" was made to have individuals go door-to-door and hand out vaccine information and locations for individuals to get vaccinated. Miami-Dade County Ocean Rescue Staff again volunteered and went door to door handing out information. Ocean Rescue Staff registered thousands of individuals for appointments to get vaccinated. On Thursday June 24, 2021, a tragedy occurred in the Town of Surfside when a condo collapsed that

ultimately took the lives of 98 people. The collapse occurred just 20 blocks south of Haulover Beach. Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue took control of the search and recovery efforts for the following days. The individuals working at the site parked at Haulover Beach and where bused in daily to the site.

Miami-Dade County Ocean Rescue were asked to assist in the search and recovery operation in a logistical standpoint to free up more rescuers for actual search and recovery. Miami-Dade Lifeguards worked 12-hour shifts night and day 12-12, getting fuel, transporting equipment, helping in food distribution, payroll and FEMA Forms, as well as cleaning and maintaining the work sites and apparatus. The year 2021 was the first year that Miami-Dade County Ocean Rescue tied all of their responses to a 911 Call/Alarm Number. This system showed Miami-Dade Fire that we do more than just rescues and medical responses and helped budget staff understand the amount of work performed daily on the beach by ocean lifeguards. The alarm numbers decreased the overall response times for the Miami-Dade Fire Department as most calls are happening in real time reported by our staff that are already on the scene. The motto of Miami-Dade County is “Always Ready, Proud to Serve,” and Miami-Dade Fire Ocean Rescue continues to diversify and do just that. Miami-Dade Fire Ocean Rescue continues to strive to serve the public and show others that we have more to offer the public than just doing our usual jobs of safeguarding our beaches. Lifeguards should be viewed by all as professional public safety employees that serve their communities in many ways.



UNIQUE EVENTS.
MEMORABLE DESTINATIONS.
WWW.SALTYSPORTSSOCIETY.COM





P2P+

YOUR HARD WORK IS DONE IN THE WATER
SO IS OURS



Custom Rescue
Boards



10' & 11'
Hybrid & Soft Tops



9' Junior
Boards



Inflatable Rescue
Boards & Sleds



10'6"
Race Boards



Rescue Sleds



NOW OFFERING
Rescue
BAGS, TUBES, ETC.



WWW.P2PRESQUE.COM





Banquet Program Addendum

F.B.P.C.A. Lifetime Achievement

Scott Montgomery
Sarasota County

Brad Beckett
Martin County

Joe Taylor
Hallandale Beach

Scott Montgomery is being honored tonight by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association for a **Lifetime Achievement Award**. His life safety career has spanned nearly 45 years. Longer than some of us (well some of you) have been alive. Scott began his lifesaving career by receiving his WSI certification in 1976. He began working at various Boy Scout and Department of Natural Resources summer camps in Michigan until 1979.

In school, Scott swam on the varsity swim team. Upon graduation from Ferris State College in Michigan in 1982, he moved to Sarasota, Florida. He was hired by Sarasota County Parks as a seasonal beach lifeguard in February 1983. He quickly became full time in October of that same year. He was promoted to Senior Lifeguard in 1984 and Assistant Chief in 1985. In 1988 he became full time Chief and remained in that position for over 30 years until his retirement in 2021.

During his tenure as Chief, some of his accomplishments were as follows:

- Sarasota County Lifeguards became USLA certified in 1996 - a certification held ever since.
- In 1997, Ocean Rescue became part of the Sarasota County dispatch system.
- He increased beach lifeguard staffing levels in 1998.
- He coordinated and managed State of Florida Special Olympics swim meet in Clearwater 1998 and 1999.
- He increased the Beach Lifeguard fleet to include trucks, 4X4 ATV and jet skis.
- In 1988, he created the first summer swim league for the Parks Department summer

camps to help get interested individuals into lifeguarding.

- In the year 2000, he assisted with the transition of beach lifeguards from Parks into the Fire Department. In 2003, they became a “stand alone” Department within Emergency Services (adding in Parks & Recreation pool lifeguards).
- He structured an EMT certification into several job classifications which included pay incentives.
- Sarasota County was awarded the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association Beach Patrol of the Year award in 2004.
- He increased water rescue training schedules. Established response and rescue protocols relating to water rescue with local fire and law enforcement departments.
- He planned, coordinated and held Lifeguard tournaments at Siesta Beach in 1995, 2006, 2016 and 2021.
- He assisted Boy Scout agencies on training lifeguard instructors from the year 2000 through 2018.
- Worked as Emergency Operations Chief from 2010 through 2021.
- He also participated in the Hollywood tournaments in December 1984, 1985, 1986 and the USLA Southeast Region tournament in Delray 2017.

Scott is an outstanding individual with a long professional career and is well deserving of this award.

Joe Taylor is being honored tonight by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association for a Lifetime Achievement Award. His life safety career has spanned 47 years and is still going strong. Longer than some of us (well some of you) have been alive.

Joe, at 15 years old, began his lifesaving career in 1975 working at North Wildwood Beach Patrol. Hiring lifeguards so young was a normal practice at that time. He continued to work summers lifeguarding and winters attending Wildwood Catholic High School and St. Mary's University playing basketball. During this time Joe was promoted to Lieutenant. Joe competed in numerous competitions, tournaments and races throughout his career all over the United States. Each time he would return back to the beach and teach what he had learned about racing and interacting with fellow lifeguards, Chiefs and officials.

After spending the 1983 winter season at Hollywood Beach Safety as a part time lifeguard he returned to North Wildwood as a Lieutenant. Joe has kept his supervisor's position and continues to work part time for North Wildwood Beach Patrol, even to this day. At the end of that summer, it was back to Hollywood where he was offered a fulltime Marine Safety Officer position in 1984. Joe worked at Hollywood Ocean Rescue for 26+ continuous years (20 of those as a Lieutenant), until his retirement in 2011.

In 2012, it was time for a new beginning and Joe was hired on and worked part time at both Pompano Beach and Ft. Lauderdale Ocean Rescue. He stayed with Pompano Beach for several years leaving in 2014. Later, Joe worked as the junior lifeguard head coach at Pompano Beach from 2015 through 2019. Joe continues to work as a part time lifeguard at Ft. Lauderdale Ocean Rescue to this day.

Continuing his love for aquatic life safety, Joe took an opportunity that he could not refuse. Joe was hired into the Head lifeguard (Captain) position at Hallandale Beach in 2012 and started the Ocean Rescue lifeguards from scratch. He remained in

that position for 9 years and retired in May of 2021.

Joe was a member of the USLA board from 1994 through the year 2000. He was an active member of the Florida Beach Patrol Chief Association from 1997 through 2009 and again from 2012 through 2020 and is currently a Chiefs alumni member.

During his career, Joe competed in numerous Regional Competitions, 12 National Tournaments and 4 national rowing age group championships. During the 1994 Nationals in Cape May, New Jersey, Joe scored gold by meeting his future wife of nearly 20 years, Barbara. Joe was a USLA, SER delegate at national board meetings in Texas, Florida, California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

Some of his proudest moments were being part of the USLA, SER liaison group, his involvement with the U-19 high performance team, taking young SER athletes to New Zealand and South Africa while representing the USA. Joe's daughter Isabella, was one of those U-19 athletes who once said as a young lady, "I don't want anything to do with lifeguarding." Ironically, she now follows in her father's footsteps and works as a lifeguard. So, Joe says - don't ever give up on the kids! As the apple does not fall far from the tree, Isabella is a 15 time junior guard national champion and has represented the USA on the high-performance team in New Zealand and South Africa.

Joe continues to work part time for Ft. Lauderdale and in New Jersey. This summer in New Jersey, he will split time between Diamond Beach and North Wildwood Beach Patrol working as a Supervisor and Training Officer with the same duties. Proudly, he will also be working with his daughter for the first time, as she returns from UCLA to work her 4th summer.

Joe is an outstanding individual with a long professional career and is well deserving of this award.

Brad Becket is being honored tonight by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association for a Lifetime Achievement Award. His life safety career has spanned 35 years. Longer than some of us (well some of you) have been alive.

Brad began his lifesaving career as a pool lifeguard in 1986 at the local YMCA in Toms River, New Jersey. He was hired by New Jersey Ocean Beach Unit III as an Ocean Lifeguard 1987 and worked there until 1988.

After the of 1988 summer season in New Jersey, Brad had planned to drive to Florida in August to pursue his goal of year-round lifeguarding by going from beach to beach looking for a job. After coming to his senses, he made contact through a friend with Raymond Szeffski who worked for Martin County. Ray called him in November of 1988 and informed him of an opening and that he should make it down there as soon as possible. Brad was hired soon afterwards by Martin County in December of 1988.

A few months later and still employed with the County, Brad was approached by someone at Palm Beach County with an offer to work there. The pay was over a dollar more per hour. He declined the offer for two reasons. The first reason, he had met Robert Phillips who owned a beautiful, varnished ASAY surf boat and they both began to compete in rowing events across Florida. The second reason was that Martin County EMS was working to get legislation passed to include EMT's and Paramedics in the Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System. The Ocean Rescue Chief at that time implemented incentives for EMT and by 1993 made EMT mandatory for employment. Legislation had been passed in 1999 and Martin County Ocean Rescue applied. After several failed attempts and lots of legal fees, Martin County Ocean Rescue obtained Special Risk Class in 2004 - retro back to 1999. Brad knew this would ultimately make a significant difference in his retirement. Brad had become an Ocean Rescue Lifeguard / EMT in 1990 and remained in that position until he became the Captain in July of 2015. Three months later he was promoted to Ocean Rescue Chief in October of 2015 and remained until he retired in 2021.

Brad's major accomplishments during his career

as a lifeguard included the creation of Martin County's PWC Rescue Team. The County incurred little cost as he sourced jet skis for Ocean Rescue from a manufacturer with a testing site in Martin County. The lifeguard staff essentially were testing the skis for them and they would use the data on repairs for research and development.

Brad was also instrumental in the removal of Martin County's wooden lifeguard towers and replacing them with fiberglass towers sourced from a local vendor. The new towers provided increased comfort and much greater visibility.

As Ocean Rescue Chief, Brad was able to implement policies and procedures that truly increased professionalism within Martin County. He created a training program that consisted of 18 weeks including drills, lifeguarding techniques as well as medical training. By using state of the art audio / visual and training tools, Martin County's program would rival the best statewide. In addition, most of the training modules were approved as CEU's for their EMT recertifications.

Brad also started Martin County's first Drowning Prevention Task Force which included members from Emergency Services, Law enforcement, Non -Profits and stakeholders within the community. During his tenure as Chief, he was able to quadruple the equipment inventory, including all-terrain vehicles and medical equipment. All of the all-terrain vehicles were standardized to include a full set of BLS gear and rescue equipment. He was also able to acquire multiple vehicles at each beach location.

Brad was also an integral part in the planning and construction of the new state-of-the-art Ocean Rescue Headquarters. Brad worked with multiple County and state entities to see the project through to its completion. Last year, Chief Beckett retired after 35 years in the Ocean Rescue profession.

Brad is an outstanding individual with a long professional career and is well deserving of this award.

The Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association
and
The United States Lifesaving Association
Southeast Region
would like to say “THANK YOU” for the many years of support!



A special “THANKS” to all of those individuals (past and present) that have continued to work tirelessly for the inclusion of “Special Risk Retirement” for all of Florida’s Ocean Lifeguards.