

NEWS

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FLORIDA LAW ENFORCERS WIN STATEWIDE HONORS

FDLE Special Agent Named Retail Officer of the Year

Runners-Up Honored from Orange County Sheriff's Office and Naples Police Department

(TALLAHASSEE) - **Special Agent Terry Corn** is a consummate professional whose integrity, ethics and commitment to criminal justice have contributed significantly to his success in solving crimes. This past year, in addition to other duties, he directed two multi-jurisdictional cases involving complex organized theft rings that accounted for millions of dollars in retail losses within the State. His diligence helped substantially fracture organized retail theft in Central Florida and earn him the prestigious distinction of being named the **2009 Florida Retail Federation (FRF) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (LEOY)**. Special Agent Corn will receive a check for \$3,000 and an attractive custom-crafted medallion and plaque when he is honored at FRF's annual awards banquet on **Tuesday, November 10, 2009**, at the **Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida**. His name will be added to a plaque that lists each LEOY recipient since the program's inception in 1974. **Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey**, who nominated Special Agent Corn, will accept the plaque on behalf of the department. **Dan Doyle**, senior vice president of Beall's, Inc., and chairman of FRF's LEOY committee, will make the presentation on behalf of FRF's nearly 10,000 member companies.

Two officers were also selected as runners-up from the field of outstanding nominees that represent various law enforcement entities from throughout the state. They will also be honored at the November 10th event. They are: **Deputy Sheriff Antwan A. Daniels of the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando, and Master Officer Steve Walden of the Naples Police Department**. Each officer will receive a memento designating the honor and a certificate of commendation for their outstanding work.

*"The Florida Retail Federation is proud to continue its 36-year tradition of recognizing Florida's finest law enforcement professionals and to highlight the outstanding efforts of Special Agent Corn as well as Deputy Sheriff Daniels and Master Officer Walden. Each of these officers contributes significantly to the retail community as well as to Florida's citizens as a whole. We are extremely grateful for their efforts," says **Richard A. McAllister, FRF president and chief executive officer**. "All of our nominees are very deserving and are a credit and inspiration to law officers and law-abiding citizens throughout our state."*

2009 RECIPIENT – SPECIAL AGENT TERRY R. CORN, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

In the fall of 2008, **Special Agent Corn** was called upon to coordinate an investigation with loss prevention representatives from multiple retail chain stores as well as various law enforcement entities following the arrests of several individuals involved in a baby formula theft ring in Polk County. Through evidence review, surveillance and other techniques, several mini-warehouses were identified as "stash" locations for stolen baby formula. An Orlando-area theft ring organizer was also identified, which ultimately led to the ring's primary organizers who were located in another state.

In March 2009, after countless hours of investigation, fifteen individuals were arrested in the Orlando area for charges relating to Organized Scheme to Defraud and Organized Retail Theft. Over 2,000 cans of baby formula were seized. All fifteen individuals pleaded guilty and were subsequently deported.

In May 2009, Special Agent Corn identified a second organized theft ring that was stealing health and beauty products, primarily razors and razor blades, from major retail chain stores in a five-county radius. The products were then sold to a pawn shop owner, who knowingly resold the stolen goods at a lesser price than the retailers. It is estimated that these actions resulted in more than \$300,000 in losses to area stores. After successfully making several undercover transactions, both the owner and manager of the pawn shop were arrested on charges related to Grand Theft and Dealing in Stolen Property. In addition, the main "booster" responsible for recruiting other participants in the scheme was also arrested.

(more)

Florida Law Officers Win Top Honors, Page 2

November 10, 2009

Florida Retail Federation, 1.888.357.3824

Special Agent Corn is currently assigned to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center. He has worked in law enforcement for 33 years and has been with the FDLE for more than 14 years.

Special Agent Corn joins 39 previous LEOY recipients who represent various branches of law enforcement including police departments and sheriff's offices, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the former Florida Marine Patrol.

2009 RUNNER-UP - DEPUTY SHERIFF ANTWAN A. DANIELS, ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Whether it's apprehending a gun-toting shoplifter, cracking retail theft rings, or spending hours comforting a lost child, **Deputy Sheriff Antwan Daniels'** desire to help people has translated into a successful law enforcement career that benefits many.

Deputy Sheriff Daniels has worked for the Orange County Sheriff's Office for five years. For the last two years, he has been assigned to the Florida Mall where he is responsible for 270 retail stores, 1.87 million square feet of retail space, The Florida Mall Hotel, with 510 guest rooms, and an even larger parking area. He handles retail theft, auto burglary, and auto theft cases on a daily basis, investigating each incident thoroughly to ensure a conclusion whenever possible. In the past year, he answered 753 calls for service at the Mall and made 269 arrests.

Deputy Sheriff Daniels is lauded for his proactive approach to crime prevention and working in partnership with retail loss prevention specialists and other mall employees. From local residents to scores of international tourists who visit the Florida Mall annually to crime victims and criminals, Deputy Sheriff Daniels is known for treating everyone with whom he comes in contact with courtesy and respect. *Deputy Sheriff Daniels was nominated by Corporal Chris Greenier of the Orange County Sheriff's Office.*

2009 RUNNER-UP - MASTER OFFICER STEVE WALDEN, NAPLES POLICE DEPARTMENT

A member of the Community Policing Unit, **Master Officer Steve Walden** is currently assigned to an area that includes the Coastland Mall. All retailers located in the mall benefit from his dedication to thwart retail theft. This includes his successful efforts to educate mall store employees and work with retail loss prevention teams regarding "booster bag" thefts that were occurring this past year. Employees were trained to identify booster bags, and then quickly notify police officers through cell phone contact, which resulted in the arrest of numerous booster bag perpetrators. Master Officer Walden is always looking to identify crime trends, such as the booster bag thefts, and then arranges training programs for retailers, other police officers, and even representatives from the State Attorney's Office as warranted.

Master Officer Walden's diligence also creates a safer shopping environment for patrons. He works cooperatively with representatives from the mall management team and road patrol officers as well as staff members from the high school and a park that border the mall. These proactive crime prevention initiatives, among others, have contributed to a nearly 20 percent reduction in calls for service at the mall this past year, and an overall reduction for the past three years.

Master Officer Walden has been a member of the Naples Police Department for 14 years. *He was nominated by Detective Sergeant John Barkley of the Naples Police Department.*

THE LEOY PROGRAM

The Florida Retail Federation Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program has been an annual event since its inception in 1974. The purpose of the program is to support and encourage outstanding law enforcement work throughout the state, and to recognize the important contributions made by Florida's law enforcement professionals in promoting safety and security. The program's time-tested campaign theme, "*Often taken for granted, they never stop serving ...because they care,*" remains as relevant today as when LEOY was first introduced.

For more information on the awards event or the LEOY program, please contact Brenda Grindstaff, awards coordinator, at 1.888.357.3824 or FRFAwards@frf.org or visit FRF's Web site at www.frf.org.

The Florida Retail Federation is a statewide trade association that represents Florida's most important industry – retailing – and has served as "The Voice of Florida Retailing" since its inception in 1937. Florida retailers pay more than \$35 billion in wages annually, provide one out of every five jobs in the state, and collect and remit approximately \$22 billion in sales and retail-related taxes for Florida's government each year. Visit FRF on the Web at www.frf.org.