

Florida Law Enforcement Officers' Hall of Fame
2021 Inductees



Born in 1943 and raised in poverty in segregated Jacksonville, Florida, a young **Nathaniel Glover's** love of radio programs like *Dragnet* led to his dream of becoming a police detective. Glover joined the Jacksonville Police Department in 1966. Three years later, as the city consolidated the sheriff's office and police department, his dream of becoming a police detective was realized. Detective Glover rose to sergeant in 1974 and was appointed as the city's first hostage negotiator. His role was critical in defusing life-threatening situations, putting an entire team in place to respond to crises, including suicidal individuals. In 1991, Glover became the first African-American to serve in a top position at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, first as deputy director of police services, and then as director. Duval County voters elected Glover to sheriff in 1995, making him the first black sheriff in Florida since the Reconstruction era. His 1999 reelection garnered

national recognition for Glover for his community policing, banning of chokeholds and displaying of officer's names on their vehicles. President Bill Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno praised his initiatives during a community walk-along with Glover in Jacksonville. Under Glover's leadership, JSO received the coveted National Sheriffs Association Triple Crown Award. Glover went on to serve as president of his alma mater, Edward Waters College. He was awarded a "Great Floridian" designation in 2016 for his dedication to law enforcement, higher education and the city of Jacksonville.



Irving Heller's commitment to serve others began at the age of 18, when he joined the U.S. Air Force. He attained the rank of sergeant, and eventually moved into the Air Force Reserve and later the Coast Guard Reserve, while pursuing a career in law enforcement. He was hired as a patrol deputy in 1958 with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), originally known as the Dade County Sheriff's Office. As he rose through the ranks, he became well-recognized for his tremendous heart for the community. His dedication fueled many successful community-oriented efforts, including the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, the Police Athletic League, and several others. For 10 years, he led police football games known as the "Pig Bowls," which raised funds for charity while strengthening relationships between participating agencies and members of the community. He also co-founded MDPD's Chaplaincy

Program in 1997, to offer confidential support and guidance to the department's officers. Prior to his retirement from MDPD, he was promoted to the rank of assistant director. In 2001, he went on to serve as the chief of the North Bay Village Police Department. He retired in 2004 with a total of 46 years in law enforcement, over 44 years in military service and numerous awards recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to his local community. Chief Heller's inspiring career stands as a powerful reflection of his dedication to serving others.

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Sidney R. Klein began his law enforcement career in 1963 with the Miami-Dade Police Department, after serving in the U.S. Navy for three years. In 1966 he was assigned to internal affairs where he worked in a special investigations unit called “the Sheriff’s squad,” which reported directly to Sheriff E. Wilson Purdy. This squad specifically worked cases involving organized crime and political corruption. In 1968 he began working undercover in the narcotics unit. In 1970 he moved to Colorado to join the brand-new Lakewood Department of Public Safety. Named agent of the year in 1970 and 1971, he was promoted through the ranks to assistant director in 1978, while also earning his master’s degree in criminal justice. In 1981 he applied for and was selected as Clearwater’s chief of police, where he served for 29 years. Chief Klein distinguished himself with innovative programs such as the Clearwater Homeless Intervention

Project, Hispanic Outreach Program and countless community policing initiatives which won national recognition. He applied for and received the first federal grant to create a human trafficking task force, a program that has been duplicated all over the world. He retired from the Clearwater Police Department in 2010, after 47 years in law enforcement. Chief Klein’s passing in 2020 leaves behind an incredible legacy of leadership and countless contributions to the communities he served.



Edward M. Spooner began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer with the Tallahassee Police Department, immediately upon graduation from The Florida State University in August 1973. His dedication quickly led him to the position of director for the Quincy Department of Public Safety in 1979, at only 29 years old. He began serving on numerous commissions with the Florida Police Chiefs Association, and at the age of 38 he was the youngest person elected president in the Association’s history. Spooner served on the Florida Parole Commission for seven years, was chief deputy of the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office for six years and spent five years as an administrator with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). In 2009, Governor Charlie Crist appointed him as sheriff of Okaloosa County, after the removal of the prior sheriff. Spooner was tasked with conducting an internal

investigation on several members of the agency’s administration, who were ultimately convicted of multiple federal crimes of corruption. After a thorough investigation was complete and a new sheriff was elected in 2010, Spooner returned to FDLE as assistant special agent in charge of the Investigations and Forensic Services Program. The very next year, Spooner was presidentially appointed U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Florida by President Barack Obama. Spooner concluded his remarkable career in 2016, after 43 years of service in law enforcement.

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John M. Spottswood was born in Key West, Florida, on June 17, 1920. Prior to entering the law enforcement profession, he served his country in the U.S. Army with the rank of captain during World War II. He was elected sheriff of Monroe County in 1952, and was heavily involved in numerous efforts with the Florida Sheriffs Association. One of these was the establishment of the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch in Suwanee County, for which he served as chair in the 1950s. Spottswood was named the Association's president in 1957, served as its legislative chair in 1961, and served on the *Sheriffs Star* editorial board throughout the 1950s and '60s. One of his many notable accomplishments as sheriff was the proposal of Florida's first ever statewide law enforcement standards, including standardizing sheriff's office uniforms and colors throughout the state. When Hurricane Donna struck in 1960, Sheriff Spottswood provided the leadership necessary to guide his shaken

community through the disaster on the path toward recovery. His engagement in the community extended beyond law enforcement, however; he was also a fierce civil rights advocate, served as the head of civil defense, and was the assistant fire chief for Key West for 10 years. In 1963, he was elected to the Florida Senate, and went on to serve for four terms. Spottswood passed away in 1975, leaving behind an incredible legacy of historic accomplishments visible to this day.