



GERALD M. BAILEY
COMMISSIONER

Home

A-Z Index

About Us

Quick Facts
Publications
Audio & Video Content
Organizational Chart
Commissioner's Bio
FAQ's

Alerts

View Current Amber Alerts
View Current Missing Child Alerts
View Current Silver Alerts

Search Our Systems

Sexual Offender Database
Criminal History Records
Missing Children
Endangered Persons
Wanted/Missing Persons
Unsolved Homicides
Stolen Property
Career Offenders

Councils

Contact Us

FDLE Contacts
FDLE Regional Contacts
Florida Fusion Center



News

Governor Rick Scott, First Lady Ann Scott Missing Children's Day Ceremony

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Contact: media@fdle.state.fl.us

Governor Rick Scott, First Lady Ann Scott and FDLE Day Ceremony

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott, First Lady Ann Scott and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commission members, law enforcement personnel, public officials and citizens gathered for the annual Missing Children's Day ceremony in Tallahassee. The annual event is an important day to recognize the state's efforts in child safety and abduction prevention.

Governor Rick Scott said, "Today we join Floridians in supporting the efforts of our children of our state. We come together with their families for comfort and support. It's important that we never forget the importance of child safety and work to ensure that every child reported missing is found."

First Lady Scott said, "As a mother and grandmother, I appreciate everything possible to protect our children. I appreciate the Florida law enforcement agencies who work to maintain a safe return when a child goes missing."

"Those of us who are parents understand that the love never stops loving them, and law enforcement will not stop searching for them," Commissioner Gerald Bailey said.

During 2012, approximately 41,000 incidents of missing children were reported to law enforcement agencies. Since its inception statewide, the program has been instrumental in the rescue of 53 children.

This past weekend, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and its member companies donated billboard space as part of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of missing children and adults. Lamar Advertising, Premium Outdoor, Clear Channel, and others featured 28 missing children and adults on digital billboards across the state. At the event, children participated in a safety presentation, and a formal ceremony, Governor Scott and Commissioner J. Martinez presented awards to trailing teams and law enforcement officers for their efforts in these investigations.

The following individuals are recipients of the 2013 FLETC Awards:

Young Hero Award Winner – A’Nari Taylor– Miami-Dade Police Department

Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Lieutenant Robert Smith, Miami Police Department

State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Trooper Michael Smith, Florida Highway Patrol

Combatting Human Sex Trafficking Award-Narcotics Section, Miami-Dade Police Department

Law Enforcement Task Force/Team of the Year – Miami-Dade Police Department, Office, Juvenile Services Section

The Jimmy Ryce Trailing Team of the Year – Dorado Police Department, Southwest Florida K-9 Search Unit

Essay Contest Winner – Victoria Zimmerman, Da

Department of Justice Poster Contest Recognition

FDLE invites the public to sign up to receive Missing email or text message by visiting www.missingchildren.org, visit www.fdle.state.fl.us. For more information Children's Day Foundation, visit www.fmcd.org.

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