



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Renames District 1 Office and Marine Unit in Honor of Captain Grady Prather Jr.

This morning Sheriff Rick Staly hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the FCSO District 1 Office at 69 Mala Compra Road dedicating the newly renovated office in honor of Captain Grady Prather Jr.



Pictured Above: Sheriff Rick Staly with Deputy Jason Prather, his family, and Flagler County Commissioners cutting the ribbon for the renovated District 1 Office.

One year ago, Sheriff Rick Staly announced that the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) would be re-launching a full-time Marine Unit in Captain Grady Prather Jr.'s honor, complete with land and water vehicles to patrol Flagler County's 85-miles of water and 18-miles of ocean shoreline.

"We launched our full-time Marine unit one year ago and we are so happy to finally be unveiling this new signage in honor of Captain Prather," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Captain Prather was responsible for

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launching the full-time Marine Unit in modern history and was discontinued as a full-time unit after he retired, so it is fitting that his name be on the walls of the District Office.”



LEFT: Sheriff Rick Staly and Captain Prather's son, Deputy Jason Prather, unveiling the new signage outside of the District 1 office.
RIGHT: Memorabilia located inside the District 1 office.

Captain Grady Prather was a 33-year veteran of the FCSO who led the Marine Unit, which he also created. Captain Prather retired on January 31, 2008 and passed away on November 17, 2009. Additionally, Sheriff Staly also unveiled the new COP Volunteer Marine Patrol and the new Dive Team Pontoon style boat that will further aid in FCSO's mission to protect our waterways.

Grady's wife Caryn and Captain Prather Jr.'s son, Jason Prather, who is a Flagler County Deputy along with Jason's recently added son, Grady James Prather, III, and many more were all in attendance.



Left: C.O.P.s pose with the newly refurbished C.O.P. Marine Patrol boat. Right: The newly refurbished FCSO Marine Dive Pontoon boat.

“In many regards, the boat that the Dive Team was using before was not functional. So, we decided to make it into a patrol boat for C.O.P.'s who wish to help aid in our efforts to keep our waterways safe,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “We purchased a refurbished pontoon boat for the Dive Team that will serve as a much more appropriate vessel for them when they are called into action. I am very happy to say we

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now truly have a fully functional and fully operational Marine Unit.”

This event also marks the beginning of the FCSO’S summer boating safety initiative, which starts Memorial Day Weekend. During this time, FCSO will have an increased presence on the waterways to make sure that everyone operating a boat is following the proper safety guidelines.

For more information on boating safety visit <https://myfwc.com/boating/>

For more information on becoming a C.O.P. visit <http://www.flaglersheriff.com/join-fcso/volunteers/cop>

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