



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Flagler County Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Mark Strobridge **Named Veteran of the Year**

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that Chief of Staff Mark Strobridge has been selected as the 2025 Colonel Gary E. DeKay Veteran of the Year, an honor recognizing exceptional service to both our nation and our community.



Photo 1: Marine Corps veteran Jeff Kingdon (right) presents Chief of Staff Mark Strobridge (center) with the 2025 Colonel Gary E. DeKay Veteran of the Year Award. Also pictured, Veterans Services Officer David Lydon (left).

Photo 2: Flagler County Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Mark Strobridge holding 2025 Colonel Gary E. DeKay Veteran of the Year Award and plaque.

The announcement came at a Veterans Day ceremony, held at the Flagler County Government Services Building, following the 3rd Annual Veterans Parade that kicked off on Tuesday morning in Bunnell. Veterans Services Officer David Lydon led the annual ceremony, celebrating local heroes and their ongoing contributions to the community.

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During the ceremony, Jeff Kingdon—a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who was named Flagler County's 2024 Veteran of the Year—presented the 2025 DeKay Award to Chief of Staff Strobridge, recognizing more than four decades of combined military and law enforcement service. Chief of Staff Strobridge served a total of six years in the United States Marine Corps, where he meritoriously attained the rank Corporal within his first two years and served an additional four years on inactive reserve before beginning his law enforcement career in 1981. Over the course of more than 40 years, he has held leadership roles across Central Florida and currently serves as Chief of Staff for the Flagler County Sheriff's Office.

"There are so many people I could name that are more deserving than I am of this award," said Strobridge. "Every veteran wrote that check — 'send me, I will go and stand between you and danger.' I've been fortunate to work alongside incredible people throughout my life, including Sheriff Rick Staly, who's mentored me for more than four decades. I've had great examples to follow and am truly grateful for all of them."

The Colonel Gary E. DeKay Veteran of the Year Award honors the legacy of Colonel DeKay, a U.S. Army Reserve officer and community leader who devoted more than 46 years of service to his country and to Flagler County. Established to recognize veterans who exemplify patriotism, leadership, and selfless service, the award is presented annually on Veterans Day to one deserving Flagler County veteran.

"Chief of Staff Strobridge has dedicated his entire life to service," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "From his years in the Marine Corps and then in the Navy, to his decades in law enforcement, he represents the very best in leadership. This recognition is well deserved, and I'm proud to have him on our team. Congratulations!"

Since its inception, the DeKay Award has highlighted the enduring impact of Flagler County's veteran community. Past recipients include Captain Sisco Deen (2017) and Randall Stapleford (2023), among other distinguished local veterans who have continued to serve long after their military careers ended.

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