



## **Thankful for Heroes**

Vivian, Meaghan, Janet and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving as we look forward to an enjoyable holiday season. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10556 will present its annual Veterans Day program beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, November 11, 2019, at Veteran's Memorial Park in Boca Raton; 9400 West Palmetto Park Road, between Lyons Road and State Road 7. This ceremony honors veterans of our armed services and will feature a procession of colors, guest speakers and patriotic music. Sponsored by Palm Beach County (PBC) and coordinated jointly by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the PBC Parks and Recreation Department/Special Events Section, this event is open to the public and I hope to see you there.

Recently installed and dedicated at this park is a Gold Star Memorial plaque. Gold Star family members and relatives are those who have lost a loved one in military service. Honored to be present, I am further pleased that this plaque will be in place for these families and the many future observances held at this park, such as Memorial Day. I commend the work of Lauren Berkson who manages this program in PBC. The Gold Star Family Memorial was created by Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams to remember those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Station 57 in Western Boca Raton received this year's "Station of the Year" honors at the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Firefighter Breakfast. Station 57's crew went out of their way to follow up with a little baby who had almost drowned. They rescued her, revitalized her and then kept in touch with her family for months afterwards until she was released from the hospital. Station 57 continues to support the fight for a cure for Muscular Dystrophy and their "A shift" was the highest collecting station for the MDA boot drive that takes place every Labor Day weekend. For these reasons and more, this station received this great honor.

Each year Sheriff Bradshaw hosts the PBC Sheriff's Office Annual Awards Ceremony to honor deputies, volunteers and civilians essential to the work PBSO accomplishes every day and to recognize their efforts to help our citizens. This year, the Samaritan Award went to two men who rescued a newborn baby girl from a dumpster in suburban Boca Raton, Yusdani Gonzalez-Delgado and Sergio Vega, for their outstanding act, achievement, or exceptional service to his or her fellow man and community.

This season, I am thankful for all the heroes in our community. My wish for all of you is to feel thankful, grateful and blessed.

As always, I invite your comments on any issue of interest to you. As your Commissioner, I am here to help you. You may write me at 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401 or at [MBerger@pbcgov.org](mailto:MBerger@pbcgov.org). You can call me or my staff at 276-1310 or toll free at 877-930-2205. Please visit me on the Web at [www.pbcgov.com/d5](http://www.pbcgov.com/d5).

Yours in Public Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Lou Berger".