



# FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

## Walter F. Stathers Memorial Lodge No. 7

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*Dedicated to the advancement of the law enforcement profession through education, communication and an informed program of legislation*

Dear Chief Edward J. Hudak, Jr.,

It is with immense pride and honor that I announce the selection of Brother Velier Zaccheo as the recipient of the 2024 Robert DeKorte Memorial Award. This esteemed award, the highest honor bestowed upon a Coral Gables Police Officer, recognizes dedication and exemplary service.

Brother Zaccheo, with nearly 24 years of dedicated service to our community and his fellow officers, embodies the values that this award upholds. His two Officer of the Year awards stand as a testament to his exceptional contributions.

We take this moment to also honor the memory of Officer Robert Dekorte, a 19-year veteran of the Coral Gables Police Department who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on January 21st, 1972, while bravely confronting armed robbers.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Brother Zaccheo and look forward to honoring him at an upcoming commission meeting.

Respectfully,

Christopher Challenger  
President

It is with great honor that I nominate Sergeant Velier Zaccheo, who is a 23-year veteran of the Coral Gables Police Department, for the prestigious Robert De Korte Award. Throughout his distinguished career, Sergeant Zaccheo has consistently exemplified the courage, dedication, and devotion to duty that this award seeks to recognize.

Sergeant Zaccheo has faced countless challenging situations with bravery and determination, demonstrating the same valor that Officer De Korte displayed in his service. Whether responding to dangerous emergencies, leading complex investigations, or mentoring younger officers, he has always prioritized the safety and well-being of his fellow officers and the community. This is evident, as he has been selected for Officer of the year in 2006 and 2018. Along with numerous Officer of the Month Awards.

In addition to his professional excellence, Sergeant Zaccheo consistently displays courtesy and respect, earning the admiration and trust of both the public and colleagues. He embodies a positive police image for the Coral Gables Police Department, fostering strong relationships with community members through outreach, empathy, and a genuine commitment to service. His actions serve as a reminder of the critical role law enforcement plays in building and maintaining public trust.

Within the Coral Gables Police Department, Sergeant Zaccheo is a unifying presence, promoting a sense of brotherhood and morale among fellow officers. Through his mentorship, support, and dedication to teamwork, he has inspired colleagues to strive for excellence, creating a culture of mutual respect and collaboration.

With 26 years of outstanding police service, Sergeant Zaccheo has left an indelible mark on the Coral Gables Police Department and the community he serves. Sergeant Zaccheo represents the courage, selflessness, and dedication to duty that Officer Robert De Korte stood for, making him a deserving recipient of this esteemed award.

Detective Daniel Sotolongo