



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.,

I am honored to announce the selection of Brother Alexander Rodriguez as the recipient of the 2025 Robert DeKorte Memorial Award. This distinguished recognition represents the highest honor bestowed upon a Coral Gables Police Department police officer and serves to acknowledge exceptional dedication, professionalism, and exemplary service.

Officer Rodriguez began his law enforcement career in 2015 and has proudly served the Coral Gables community since 2018. During his tenure, he has earned numerous commendations, including multiple Officer of the Month awards and multiple Life Saving awards. His consistent commitment to duty, service to the community, and professionalism clearly demonstrates why he is deserving of this prestigious honor.

We would also like to take this opportunity to 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 21, 1971, after being attacked by two armed robbery suspects. His sacrifice continues to serve as a lasting reminder of the courage and dedication embodied by those who wear the badge.

On behalf of the entire membership, I extend our sincere congratulations to Officer Rodriguez and look forward to his continued success and many years of outstanding service.

Respectfully,

Joseph Cramer

President

Good morning,

I am writing this to formally nominate Officer Alex Rodriguez for the **Robert DeKorte Memorial Award**.

We all know the DeKorte Award is special, it's not just about one good bust or one specific case. It's about the "whole package." It honors courage, devotion to duty, and the kind of character that promotes brotherhood and morale among the shift. Looking at the run Alex has had in the second half of 2025, I honestly can't think of a better candidate to represent those values.

Alex has demonstrated incredible versatility this year. He has shown he can handle high-intensity tactical situations just as effectively as he handles delicate, human crises.

Back in **July**, he showed his **dedication and proactivity** regarding the stolen vehicle from Kindred Hospital. He didn't just take a report; he went hunting. He used his intuition to locate the vehicle outside our jurisdiction on Oak Ave, sat on it, and apprehended the offender who was also holding narcotics. He received an Honorable Mention for that, but to me, that arrest set the tone for his work ethic: he doesn't wait for calls to come to him.

Then in **August**, we saw his **courage** during the pursuit of that grey Cadillac Escalade. That was a nightmare scenario—subjects driving the wrong way on US1 and weaving through traffic. Alex kept his composure, relayed clear information, and coordinated a massive perimeter with Miami PD and SWAT that got two dangerous burglars off the street. He earned Officer of the Month for that, and it proved that when things get chaotic, Alex is the guy you want on the radio.

But what really makes him a DeKorte candidate is the **compassion and positive image** he displayed in **October** (referencing the Sept 20th incident).

Perhaps most telling of his character was the incident on September 20, 2025 (Life Saving Award). Responding to a suicidal juvenile on the ledge of a parking garage at 6701 Red Rd requires a completely different skill set than chasing a stolen car. It requires profound empathy. Alongside Officer De La Milera, Alex didn't just secure the scene; he connected with a young man in crisis. He showed patience and genuine humanity, talking a terrified 16-year-old back from the edge. This incident exemplifies the "positive public image" and "courtesy" the DeKorte award seeks to honor.

I also know Sergeant Zaccheo just submitted him for another Life Saving Award for an incident on November 25th. Even though that's still pending validation, it proves that Alex's performance isn't a fluke. He is consistently in the right place, doing the right thing.

Alex promotes morale because the rest of us know we can rely on him. Whether it's a hot call or a mental health crisis, he shows up, he acts professional, and he represents the City of Coral Gables exactly how it should be represented.

He is a credit to the uniform, and I strongly recommend him for the Robert DeKorte Memorial Award.

Respectfully,

Christopher Challenger