

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 18, 2010

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**Annual Boots & Badges Competition Concludes – The Community Declared the Winner**

Sarasota The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Boots & Badges blood drive competition concluded on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> with Assistant Fire Chief Mary Boutieller (Boots) relinquishing the trophy to Sheriff Tom Knight who accepted the award on behalf of Law Enforcement (Badges). Sheriff Knight remarked that "this annual competition is a great way to build camaraderie among the agencies. Badges may have received the trophy this year, but everyone is a winner when it comes to blood donation."

SCBB's CEO & Medical Director, Dr. Mark J. Magenheim, presided over the presentation noting that "The competition has collected over 3000 units of blood since it began in 2006."

Dr. Magenheim then introduced honored guest Mr. Larry Frederick a retired police officer who was critically wounded in the line of duty and received over 100 units of blood. Mr. Frederick spoke about his harrowing ordeal and his commitment to recognizing the importance of blood donation. "I don't know the 110 people who donated the blood that helped save my life. But I want them to know that they not only save lives, but they save families as well." Mr. Frederick's nation-wide blood drive awareness campaign is chronicled at [www.lifeacrossamerica.com](http://www.lifeacrossamerica.com)

13 agencies supported the 2010 Boots & Badges competition:

Sarasota County Fire Department  
Sarasota Police Department  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office  
North Port Fire Department  
North Port Police Department  
Longboat Key Fire  
Englewood Fire District  
DeSoto County Sheriff  
DeSoto County Fire Department  
Venice Police  
Venice Fire Department  
Florida Highway Patrol  
Nokomis Fire Department

Firehouse Subs provided the food for both the kick-off and wrap-up events.

Please see attachment for photos of the event.

**About SCBB** For more than 60 years, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) has been saving lives by providing blood collection and transfusion services to our community. Much has changed in medicine since 1949, revolutionizing how we save lives. What remains the same is the need for human blood. There is no viable substitute for the selfless act of donating it. Now as then, we can't operate without you.

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