

Okaloosa County News Release

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Photo Cutline: *Commissioner Dave Parisot receives Marlene Young Presidential Advocacy Award from Broward Co. Commissioner and FAC President Ilene Lieberman. Also pictured, FAC Executive Director Chris Holley.*

FAC awards Commissioner Dave Parisot with its most prestigious award *-Dave Parisot awarded the Marlene Young Award for efforts to protect counties-*

ORANGE COUNTY, FL – The Florida Association of Counties presented Okaloosa County Commissioner Dave Parisot with the Marlene Young Presidential Advocacy Award during the 2011 FAC Annual Conference & Exposition in Orange County. Commissioner Parisot was awarded the Marlene Young Presidential Advocacy Award for his efforts to save taxpayer dollars to save Florida's pretrial release programs.

In thanking the FAC leadership for this award, Commissioner Parisot commented that he "viewed himself as the messenger, that his county staff members, particularly Kelli Huckabee, pretrial release coordinator, and Larry Caskey, director of the Okaloosa County Corrections Department, deserve the credit." "Our staff work pretrial issues on a daily basis and have saved county taxpayers millions of dollars," Parisot added. "This program has also resulted in safer communities."

The Marlene Young Presidential Advocacy Award is presented to that county elected official who has shown extraordinary leadership and commitment to the mission of the Florida Association of Counties.

This past year, Parisot was commended for his consistent efforts to reach out to legislators and visit Tallahassee during crucial times during the legislative session. Parisot was committed to saving pretrial release programs which save tax payer dollars while improving public safety.

"FAC and Okaloosa County are privileged to have such a dedicated public servant that recognizes many decisions affecting his citizens are made in Tallahassee," said FAC Executive Director Chris Holley, "Commissioner Parisot recognizes that unfunded mandates from Tallahassee and efforts to eliminate pretrial release programs are hurting his community and he is dedicated to fight not only for Okaloosa County but all of Florida's counties."

The Marlene Young Presidential Advocacy Award is named after the late Marlene Young who served as a County Commissioner in Polk County from 1988-2000. During her public service in Polk County Commissioner Young was very active in the Florida Association of Counties and served as President from 1993-1994.

For 80 years, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has represented the diverse interests of Florida's counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule – the concept that communities and their local leaders should make the decisions that impact their community. *The Florida Association of Counties helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration.*

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