Administration

Bunnell, FL 32110



www.flaglercounty.gov Phone: (386)313-4001 Fax: (386)313-4101

Written by: Julie Murphy, PIO, MPIO Flagler County Communications Coordinator (386) 313-4039 Email jmurphy@flaglercounty.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County driver named Transportation Disadvantaged for the Driver of the Year

September 7, 2023 – Flagler County Transportation Driver Richard Briggs was selected by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for the Driver of the Year Award.

"I'm not at all surprised that Richard Briggs received the Driver of the Year Award," said County Administrator Heidi Petito. "We have a wonderful staff and Richard is a prime example."

The Department of Transportation invited Briggs to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Awards Ceremony held at SeaWorld at the end of August.

"It was difficult to keep the news a secret until after the ceremony as they had asked," said Transportation Manager Pia Thomas, who nominated Briggs. "I was so excited for him."

In her nomination, Thomas spoke of Briggs's work ethic, dedication, and trustworthiness.

"Richard is a tremendous asset to our transportation team," she wrote. "He is liked and respected by his customers, fellow operators, supervisors, and management."

Briggs, who has worked for Flagler County for six years, has transported more than 31,300 passengers over 281,000 miles without a complaint or accident.

"Richard also helps to train new operators," Thomas wrote. "(He) is very kind and easygoing with a lot of patience, making him an excellent trainer and coach."

Flagler County Public Transportation is a paratransit bus system that is demand response, shared ride, and provides door-to-door service (there is no fixed route). It focuses on the elderly as well as people with disabilities, and transportation disadvantaged.

It provides quality-of-life transportation for:

- Doctors' Offices
- Banks
- Stores
- Gyms
- Nail Appointments

Costs within Flagler County are \$2 per ride. Medical trips to Volusia, St. Johns, Jacksonville, and Gainesville available on select days at set roundtrip rates.

For more information, go to <u>www.flaglercounty.gov/departments/transportation</u>, or call 386-313-4100 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.

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