



Silver ALERT

SUPPORT COMMITTEE

AARP Florida

Alzheimer's
Community Care, Inc.

Alzheimer's Disease
Initiative (ADI)

Carlin Rogers
Consulting

Florida Adult Day
Services Association

Florida Association
of Area Agencies
on Aging

Florida Council
on Aging

Florida Department of
Children and Families

Florida Department
of Elder Affairs

Florida Highway
Patrol

Florida Department
of Law Enforcement

Florida Department
of Transportation

Memory Disorder
Center/North
Broward Medical
Center

Palm Beach County
Association of
Chiefs of Police

University of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida Silver Alert Support Committee

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Stay Alert for Florida's Silver Alert

(Florida; May 14, 2010)— The Florida Silver Alert Support Committee is launching a state-wide campaign to educate citizens and promote the benefits of the Silver Alert Program. The Silver Alert is a plan to aid local law enforcement in the rescue and recovery of a missing senior who is afflicted with an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties. For a Silver Alert to be issued, the senior citizen must be over 60 years old, have a clear indication of dementia and be driving.

The Silver Alert provides a coordinated response between local and state law enforcement to quickly and effectively broadcast important information to the community, including dynamic message signs posted along major roadways. Says Mary M. Barnes, Chair of the Silver Alert Support Committee, "Individuals with dementia are at the greatest risk for wandering, and they make judgmental errors such as driving into wooded areas or water, driving the wrong way on the road, and not recognizing road signs. The Silver Alert is vital to protecting a very fragile and vulnerable population in Florida, and it may help prevent a tragedy."

Over 4 million Floridians are aged 60 or older, and more than 500,000 of them have some sort of dementia. Local and state law enforcement, along with the Florida Silver Alert Support Committee, urges residents to look after friends and family with dementia, and to stay alert for Silver Alert signs along the roadways. If a senior citizen with cognitive impairment goes

missing, make sure to contact local authorities with the make, model, year, and color of the car, along with the tag number and tag state. For more information about Florida's Silver Alert, please visit www.fdle.state.fl.us or call the Elder Helpline at 800-963-5337.

Mission Statement:

To advance and support the Florida Silver Alert program through effective and efficient practices and eliminate tragic outcomes associated with cognitively impaired drivers.

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