

For Immediate Release July 31, 2023

Henry Nash, one of 9 Chiefs at North Collier Fire District collects \$607,395 in a fake retirement pension bonus!

Fake Retirements Give 22 SW Florida Bureaucrats and Politicians \$3.4 Million in cash pension bonuses in July 2023



Lisa Tuten, Tax Collector of Madison County and Judge Phyllis Galen are the July 2023 Top Florida Politician Triple Dippers. Collecting a paycheck and pension at the same time to do the same job and not paying 3% of salary into the Florida Retirement System.



Lisa Tuten, Tax Collector



Judge Phyllis Galen

Henry Nash, one of 9 Chiefs plus 2 Deputy and 2 Assistant Chiefs at North Collier County Fire District is taking \$607,395 in a fake retirement pension bonus this July 31, 2023. Henry Nash filed fake retirement paperwork on August 1, 2018 and for 5 years was collecting a salary now \$138,700 salary and a pension at the same time to do the same job and not paying 3% of his salary \$4,161 into the retirement system like other Public Employees shifting personal responsibility to taxpayers. Henry Nash's outrageous pension bonus of \$607,395 was the 5th highest pension payout in Florida in July of 2023. Taxpayers will continue paying Henry Nash's pension of approximately \$121,479 each year and health care benefits for the rest of his life. "How many gourmet lunches, luxury cars and vacation homes can one person reasonably use? This money should be used to pay for victims of Hurricane Ian and tutors for school children.", said Dave Jaye, Researcher, www.tripledippers.org The full sortable list of Pension cash bonuses paid out to Triple Dippers in July are at <https://tripledippers.org/fl-cash-outs-july-2023/>.

Giving "Public Servants" a paycheck and a pension at the same time to do the same job has led to \$39 Billion in unfunded Florida Retirement obligations, a \$1,725 liability for every man, woman and child in Florida! Instead of reducing this abuse of taxpayers, on June 5, 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed legislation (SB 7024) that extends the time Politicians and bureaucrats can collect retirement pension payments and a salary at the same time by 60% from 5 to 8 years and 10 years for school employees! Every dollar needed to shore up the state's pension obligations is a dollar that can't be spent elsewhere.

<https://thecapitolist.com/floridas-pension-fund-facing-serious-structural-challenges/#:~:text=That%20figure%20is%20reached%20by,actuarial%20liability%20of%20%2435.6%20billion>.

Politician Democrat Lisa Tuten, Tax Collector of Madison County became one of the first Florida Politicians to announce they are extending their Fake Retirement Pension program by 60% from 5 to 8 years under the New Florida Law (SB 7024) signed by Governor Jim DeSantis on June 5, 2023. Politician Lisa Tuten (850) 973-6136 MCTC@madisoncoannex.com had earlier selected to take her Pension cash bonus of \$354,523 on July 31, 2023. However, the \$354,523 pension cash bonus was not enough for Politician Lisa Tuten, she now wants to take an astronomical fake retirement cash bonus of \$567,236! On

July 24, 2023, Tuten emailed “The DROP has been extended to 8 years so I am continuing.” to Dave Jaye. Tuten takes a salary of \$116,502 Benefits of \$9,936 and is shifting her personal responsibility to the taxpayers by not paying 3% of her salary \$3,495 into the Florida Pension system.

“Triple Dippers are Florida Public Employees who take a salary and a pension with interest at the same time to do the same job!” said Dave Jaye, “Triple Dippers *are the only* Florida Public employees who don’t pay 3% of their salary into the Florida retirement system-cheating taxpayers out of \$62.8 Million! No private company allows such abuses.” The June 2023 Fake Retirement Pensions cash bonus list is attached. See the Statewide list of Florida’s Triple Dippers at <https://tripleddippers.org/fl-statewide-2023-june-28537-tripleddippers/>

SB 7024 giveaway of taxpayer money will cost an extra \$3.1 Billion in the first fiscal year 2023-2024. The Legislature and Gov. DeSantis increased the taxpayer-paid interest rate from 1.3% to 4% for accruing pension cash bonuses and permits politicians and bureaucrats to collect fake retirement pensions and salaries earlier. The Monthly taxpayer-paid health benefit increases to \$225 up from \$150. <https://thecapitolist.com/frs-double-dip-retirement-expansion-will-make-it-harder-for-private-sector-to-compete-with-state/>

Add the Cherry on the top – these Triple Dippers are cashing out their unused days off at their final highest salary, not the salary when the days were earned taking more money from taxpayers and artificially increasing the final year’s pay on which their pensions are calculated. Collecting a paycheck and a pension at the same time, Triple Dippers can afford to delay Social Security which then increases 8% per year to age 70. That’s about a 40% increase in Social Security payments! Triple Dippers are formally called the **Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**¹.

The SW Florida Triple Dippers who are scheduled to receive a fake retirement cash bonus in July 2023 are:

	First	Last	Employer	Fake Retirement Date	Pension Cash Bonus Date	Pension Cash Bonus	Email
1	HENRY	NASH	NORTH COLLIER FIRE CONTROL	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 607,395	henrymnash@gmail.com
2	PHYLLIS	GALEN	Sarasota Politician Judge	6/1/2019	7/31/2023	\$ 438,713	pgalen78@gmail.com
3	ANDRES	PEREZ	LEE CO COMMISSIONERS	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 411,661	laaperez@outlook.com
4	JOHN	CONTI	COLLIER CO COMMISSIONERS	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 219,319	john.conti@colliercountyfl.gov
5	DENNIS	OSTERHOUSE	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 202,555	dennis.osterhouse@gmail.com
6	TERRI	CHASE	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 177,475	terriac@leeschools.net
7	RENEE	WILLIAMS	DEPT OF HEALTH -	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 157,781	renee.williams@flhealth.gov
8	SUSAN	GOWER	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 140,720	samsamiam2@aol.com
9	JAMES	LAPOINT	LEE CO COMMISSIONERS	11/1/2019	7/31/2023	\$ 124,941	junglejl@hotmail.com
10	JOHN	COSTELLO	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 120,021	johnmc@leeschools.net

¹ <https://myfrsguide.com/drop-info/>

11	CHARLOTTE	DAVIS	LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 118,006	
12	STEPHANIE	HARRIS	CHARLOTTE CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 83,839	stephanie.harris@yourcharlotteschools.net
13	DEBBI	MAXON	COLLIER CO COMMISSIONERS	4/1/2021	7/28/2023	\$ 81,781	dmaxon64@gmail.com
14	DANNY	WHITE	CHARLOTTE BD COMMISSIONERS	6/1/2020	7/3/2023	\$ 80,867	dwhite181@gmail.com
15	KIM	SWANSON	LEE CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	6/1/2021	7/3/2023	\$ 78,844	beachbummm79@yahoo.com
16	GAIL	BUBOLTZ	COLLIER CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2018	7/31/2023	\$ 71,576	buboltga@gmail.com
17	SILVIA	RODRIGUEZ	LEE CO COMMISSIONERS	1/1/2019	7/12/2023	\$ 56,686	silviarod57@comcast.net
18	VERNELL	BARNES	COLLIER CO SCHOOL BOARD	12/1/2018	7/28/2023	\$ 56,362	veemays@live.com
19	CYNTHIA	PIPER	COLLIER CO COMMISSIONERS	5/1/2019	7/7/2023	\$ 53,518	cynthiapiper@icloud.com
20	REBEL	BALKMAN	CHARLOTTE CO SCHOOL BOARD	1/1/2021	7/2/2023	\$ 53,420	reb1559@gmail.com
21	BEVERLY	DEARBORN	LEE CO COMMISSIONERS	8/1/2022	7/6/2023	\$ 51,381	bevdearborn@yahoo.com
22	SANDI	CHERNOFF	COLLIER CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE	6/1/2022	7/10/2023	\$ 30,445	icandive@aol.com
	Total					\$ 3,417,306	

“Although they never really retired, approximately **28,573 Florida** Public Employees and Politicians just file paperwork pretending to retire but keep on working and pocket approximately \$1 Billion in salaries and \$4.63 Billion in pension payments at the same time to do the same job and are the only Florida Public employees who don’t pay 3% of their salary into the Pension System,” stated Dave Jaye. “No Retirement Party, No Speeches, No Gold Watch, and No break in Employment! A major reason the Triple Dippers Program is expanding is that many Triple Dippers work for the Florida State Senate, State House, and Governor’s office and are Elected Politicians. There are 61 Triple Dippers who work for the Florida Legislature and 10 for Governor DeSantis. These Public Employees in conjunction with their supervisors are perpetrating fraud. The Public Manager or Politician simply signs off on the Fake retirement. If the paperwork is in order that’s good enough. Even though the public employee and Politician never really left their job”.

“Hurricane Ian destroyed the financial security of thousands of Florida retirees whose life savings were invested in houses and condos lost to the storm’s winds and flooding”², said Dave Jaye, Researcher, tripledippers.org “Hurricane Ian has displaced thousands of Floridians whose homes are now uninhabitable, taking not only their shelter but their financial safety nets.” Replacing the approximately **28,573** Statewide over-the-hill retired Triple Dippers with freshly educated and trained employees would save approximately 40% around \$902.8 Million” stated Dave Jaye.

“This abuse of taxpayers must stop”. “We need to create opportunities for young people to move into these jobs to buy a home and start a family replacing these overpriced-cum-golden oldie Triple Dippers who are just putting \$763,622 or more of cash bonuses into the bank. Young people have much lower health care costs, are better educated and have much more energy than these Senior Citizen Triple Dippers,” noted Dave Jaye.

Law enforcement employees typically collect huge amounts of overtime which results in even higher pension cash bonuses.

² <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/hurricane-ian-destroyed-retirees-life-savings/>

“The Florida Legislature and Governor should require Triple Dippers to contribute 3% of pay to the State Pension program just like every other ‘Public Servant’ and increase the ‘Public Servant’ contribution from 3% to 5% as proposed by then-Governor Rick Scott. Retirement cash bonuses should be eliminated”.
<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2011-02-01-fl-scott-announces-pension-reforms-20110201-story.html>

The public employer (taxpayer-paid) match of DROP Triple Dippers’ salary to the Florida pension system has increased to 21.13% compared to 16.57% for regular-class employees. In 2012 the Employer match for DROP employees was 4.33%. <https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/fl/2022/bills/FLB00027524/>
The Employer contribution rate (taxpayer paid) for Legislators, the Governor and the Florida Cabinet is 65.72% . <https://employer.frs.fl.gov/forms/ir23-229.pdf>

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Exposing Public Corruption and Wasteful Spending

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