



December 13, 2013

For Immediate Release

Contact: Barbara Petersen, 850.224.4555

Or sunshine@floridafaf.org

FLORIDA'S FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THE 2013 PETE WEITZEL/FRIEND OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

The First Amendment Foundation is pleased to announce it has awarded **Senator Joe Negron**, R-District 32, the **2013 Pete Weitzel/Friend of the First Amendment Award**.

The nomination for the award was based on actions taken by **Senator Negron** during the 2013 legislative session. The passage of CS/SB 50 guarantees members of the public a reasonable opportunity to speak before their elected and appointed representatives. By those actions, **Senator Negron** has set a standard all those in government should emulate.

"**Senator Negron's** unwavering determination to ensure the passage of CS/SB 50 restores a fundamental constitutional right to the people of Florida - the right to speak before their elected representatives at public meetings," said Barbara Petersen, FAF President.

The award will be presented at the Foundation's annual Sunshine Recognition luncheon on Tuesday, March 18, 2013, at the Governor's Club in Tallahassee during Florida's annual Sunshine Week celebrations. A letter informing Senator Negron of the award has been sent to the Senator's district office.

The Pete Weitzel/Friend of the First Amendment Award was created in 1995 to recognize the significant contribution made by Pete Weitzel, former managing editor of *The Miami Herald*, and founder and past president of the First Amendment Foundation, in the area of open government. The Award is given annually to someone in Florida who has made a significant contribution to the cause of furthering open government. Past recipients of the award can be found on the Foundation's website, www.floridafaf.org.