

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



For Immediate Release: February 5, 2009  
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### **A trooper and sergeant to be awarded highest honors by Patrol for pulling woman out of burning car**

**What:** The Ohio State Highway Patrol will honor two troopers with the distinguished Citation of Merit for their heroic and lifesaving actions that saved the life of a woman after a fiery crash.

**When:** Friday, February 6, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Medina Post  
3149 Frantz Road  
Medina, OH 44212

**Who:** Colonel Richard H. Collins, Patrol Superintendent  
Captain John Bistor, Massillon District Commander  
Lt. Josh Swindell, Medina Post Commander  
State Representative William Batchelder, Minority Leader, 69<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorees: Tpr. Byron D. Foxx and Sgt. Matthew D. Witmer

On December 11, 2008, Sgt. Matthew Witmer and Tpr. Byron Foxx from the Patrol's Medina Post helped to save a Parma woman's life by pulling her from a burning vehicle following a fiery two-vehicle crash on State Route 3 at Interstate 71 in Medina Township.

The two Officers pulled Deborah Berry, 52, from the passenger side of the 1997 Chevrolet Lumina, which her husband was driving. Both Deborah and her husband, James Berry, 50, were transported by EMS to Medina General Hospital.

Dash cam video of this incident is available at [www.statepatrol.ohio.gov](http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov).

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