Making traffic safety personal
ON THE COVER
Sergeant Erika Englund was outside of her cruiser at a crash scene when she was hit by a vehicle traveling too fast for icy road conditions on a snowy November night in 2013. Please see story on page 4.

4. #MOVEOVER
Sergeant Erika Englund helps bring attention to Ohio’s Move Over Law.

6. 158TH GRADUATION
Forty-four new troopers join the sworn ranks.

8. YOUTH OUTREACH
Troopers help students explore law enforcement careers through the Buckeye Boys and Girls State and Junior Cadet programs.

9. TORCH RUN
Patrol personnel ran and walked in the 2015 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, traveling through all types of weather from all corners of the state to the Special Olympics of Ohio Opening Ceremony on June 26.

14. AROUND THE STATE
Traffic safety partnerships, charitable activities, speech details, special events and more: see what’s happening in your area of the state.
As members of the law enforcement community, we may often reflect on why we do what we do. Why do we put ourselves in harm’s way for those who seem to have little regard for us or what we stand for? Why do we endure the struggle, both physical and emotional, as we pick up and move on after bearing witness to tragedy, chaos and devastation?

I want to draw your attention to a message received through the OSP Facebook:

“This is going to sound awkward but here goes. I was recently pulled over for OVI in Stark County and although I lost my job over it and will have to pay fines I am so thankful that this happened. I feel like I can now get the help that I need. The arresting officer was very nice as well. I’m just thankful I did not kill someone or myself in the process, so thank you OSHP, keep up the good work!”

That’s when you know you’ve made a difference in someone’s life: when you restrict a person’s freedom and his response is gratitude.

Removing impaired drivers from the roadway, stopping speeding motorists, interdicting dangerous and aggressive drivers and reminding countless motorists to buckle up are all actions we take to prevent an unnecessary loss of life. The fact is, if you don’t intercede and convince motorists to change their behavior, more of them will perish on our roads. The Ohio State Highway Patrol’s primary functions include promoting traffic safety and removing criminals from Ohio’s roadways through strict enforcement of Ohio’s traffic and criminal laws. Each of you are making a difference and every single person across the Division, uniform and professional staff alike, are to be commended for the work that is being done. Ohio is definitely a safer place because of the work you have done and are continuing to do.

This issue of the Flying Wheel has numerous examples of messages that thank us for doing our job. If you’ve had a bad day—or week, or month—I might suggest that you reflect on those messages and be encouraged. The people of this great state are thankful for you and for the hard and dangerous work that you do. They recognize the value in your work and are grateful for your willingness to be of service to your fellow citizens. At the heart of those messages is the recognition that “we do what we do because it’s the right thing,” as we emulate the values of Strength, Courage and Character.

In the last quarter of 2015, I encourage you to be diligent in your efforts to promote traffic safety and close the year strong. To steal a phrase from the recently graduated 158th Academy Class: “Finish what you’ve started.” 2015 has been a very good year for the Ohio State Highway Patrol and you are responsible for that!

Let’s close out the year strong. Keep up the hard work and remember you are appreciated, by the citizens and by your colonel. I continue to be honored to serve with you.

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent
Sergeant Erika Englund was outside of her cruiser at a crash scene when she was hit by a vehicle traveling too fast for icy road conditions on a snowy November night in 2013.

The motorist was approaching from the opposite side of the highway, lost control and slid through the grassy median towards Englund and another pedestrian. Englund was slammed into her cruiser and thrown away from it. Englund’s left leg was amputated because of injuries she sustained from that night, forcing her to retire from the Highway Patrol.

The prosthetic leg below her left knee, decorated with an orange and yellow sunset, is both a bright counter to the scene of her crash and a stark reminder of the dangers highway workers face every day on the job. Despite attempts nationwide to protect these workers, such as the passing of Move Over laws in all 50 states, the Officer Down Memorial Page reports that a majority of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during the first half of 2015 were killed in car crashes.

Because of such high stakes, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) launched an educational campaign in the summer of 2015 that has reached thousands of Ohioans and beyond.

According to Englund, revisiting that night is worth it if she can prevent crashes like her own. “The most important thing to remember is when you see flashing lights, to slow down,” she said. “We’re people. We have families. We want to come home every day.”

Englund’s story has been shared in numerous ways to show motorists the devastating consequences of driving without caution. A striking portrait of her in uniform, with her left pant leg stopping just above her knee, was displayed at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus during July and August. The photo and her story were shared on social media and featured on WBNS-10 TV in Columbus.
Englund is a mother of two—a role she credits for her ability to persist through the long road to recovery. She underwent 13 surgeries within one year and is currently in physical therapy.

Her story ties in with the #moveover campaign, which has brought attention to move over laws nationwide. Ohio's Move Over Law requires motorists to move over one lane when passing any vehicle with flashing or rotating lights parked on the highway. If moving over isn't possible because of traffic or weather conditions, motorists need to slow down and proceed with caution. Motorists who break this law can be ticketed.

A Patrol cruiser damaged in a move over crash this year was also on display at the Ohio State Fair. A trooper was making a traffic stop when an impaired driver drifted to the right side of the roadway onto the shoulder, striking the cruiser on the right. The crash, like all other “move over” crashes, was completely avoidable. The motorist made two mistakes: driving impaired and not moving over.

From 2010 to 2014, move over crashes involving OSHP patrol vehicles resulted in one civilian death, 22 injured officers and 34 injured civilians.

“Every single move over crash is preventable,” said Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent. “We're using both enforcement and education to reach as many people as possible. If we save one life, it’s worth it, but we want to save them all.”

For more information on Ohio's Move Over Law and the national #moveover campaign, visit http://state-patrol.ohio.gov/moveover.htm or search #moveover on Twitter.

Opposite page: Retired Sergeant Erika Englund's story has been used to bring attention to Ohio's Move Over Law. In July, she was interviewed by WBNS-10TV in Columbus.

This page, top and middle: Englund served as an instructor at the OSHP Academy from 2008-2011. She currently serves as a public safety intelligence analyst for Ohio Homeland Security.

This page, bottom: A Patrol cruiser damaged in a move over crash this year was on display at the Ohio State Fair.
158th Academy Class Graduation
44 new troopers join sworn ranks

After 25 weeks of intense paramilitary training, the Patrol’s 158th Academy Class graduated on Sept. 18. Senator Joe Uecker, Ohio Senate District 14, provided the keynote. He reminded the new graduates of their newfound responsibilities when taking on roles in public service.

“You will be a superhero to a child,” he said. “You’ll be the knight in shining armor to a family stranded on the side of the road.”

Additional remarks were provided by Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent, Director John Born, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and Captain Shawn Lee, Academy commandant. The Oath of Office was issued by Judge Peter B. Abele, Fourth Appellate District, Ohio Court of Appeals.

Courses completed by the 158th class included core values, crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, detection of impaired drivers, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense and emergency vehicle operations.

Class speaker Tpr. Sheldon A. Goodrum of Columbus, Ohio congratulated his fellow graduates and thanked the family and friends who provided guidance and support.

He also thanked the Academy instructors who helped prepare the graduates for the upcoming phase of their careers.

“The men and women at this academy have worked tirelessly, day in and day out, to equip us with the tools we need to make Ohio a safer place,” he said.

Five graduates received special honors for top performance in various fields of study at the Training Academy.

- Overall performance – Tpr. William G. Bogantz III of Johnstown, Ohio
- Top performance in academics – Tpr. Lindsay J. Barrett of Buckeye Lake, Ohio
- Top performance in driving – Tpr. Andrew M. Shellhouse of Tiffin, Ohio
- Top performance in firearms – Tpr. Adam B. Dickerson of Crooksville, Ohio
- Top performance in physical fitness – Tpr. Ashley R. Ross of Canal Fulton, Ohio

Each of the graduates reported to their posts on Sept. 20. The graduates’ first 60 working days will be a field-training period under the guidance of a veteran officer. The new graduates are assigned to 23 of the Patrol’s 58 posts.

The Patrol’s 158th Academy Class graduated on Sept. 18, 2015. Above left: Troopers take the Oath of Office; right: Trooper Sheldon A. Goodrum was the class speaker.
Three conferences in Queen City

The Ohio State Highway Patrol hosted three national conferences this summer in Cincinnati, drawing law enforcement from across the country to discuss the most pertinent topics in traffic safety.

DRE Conference

The 21st Annual DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) Conference, hosted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office, was Aug. 10–12. The conference focused on drugs, alcohol and impaired driving and was attended by over 700 people. Colonel Paul Pride and Staff Lieutenant Steve Rine provided opening remarks; Public Safety Director John Born gave a keynote speech on impaired driving; and Crime Lab Director Joseph Jones led a breakout session on the use of suboxone.

MVCI Conference

The Patrol hosted the 25th Annual Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction (MVCI) Conference from Aug. 30 – Sept. 3. Over 700 people attended to discuss every aspect of motor vehicle related crime detection.

Several employees instructed at the conference. Trooper Al Romero taught how to dominate a courtroom; Trooper Nick Lewis taught about body couriers and pill trafficking; Staff Lieutenant Bill Stidham taught about managing criminal interdiction teams; Sergeant Archie Spradlin taught about domestic violence in motor vehicles; Sergeant Rich Barrett taught about K9 challenges and ethics in law enforcement.

At the conference’s opening ceremony, Director Born and Lieutenant Colonel George Williams gave remarks. Major Michael Black acted as master of ceremonies. Other employees involved in the opening ceremony were Pastor Kelly McInerney, Sergeant Shaun Smart, Sergeant Stacey Arnold and the OSHP Color Guard.

Division employees were also proud recipients of several awards at a banquet, in which Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Teaford was master of ceremonies. Sergeant Shaun Smart received a Lifetime Achievement Award and Sergeant Stacey Arnold and Trooper Al Romero each received an Individual Excellence Award. The Patrol also won the Top State, Organization or Department Recognition Award.

CARE Conference

The 2015 CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) conference was hosted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol from Sept. 13 – 17. CARE focuses on the top three causes of fatal traffic crashes, which are unsafe speed, impaired driving and failure to use a safety belt. This year’s conference also included discussions about drugged driving. Christi Phillips, GIMS Database Administrator with the Statistical Analysis Unit, gave a presentation on data driven approaches to traffic safety. Opening remarks were provided by Director Born.

New District Structure

In July of this year, OSHP restructured the district map to reintroduce the Warren District, bringing the district number to a total of nine. Doing so has established a consistency in command among all the districts and ultimately increased the level of service provided in Ohio’s communities. This was accomplished without any additional cost by moving a vacant GHQ Captain’s position to the field to fill the district commander position, now staffed by Captain Joshua Swindell.

In addition, OSHP will return to referring to each district by number, rather than name, to reduce technological hurdles.
Buckeye Boys & Girls State

Buckeye Boys and Girls State celebrated another year of successful program completion with a class size of 1,984 delegates collectively. This summer program sponsored by the Ohio American Legion allows young men and women to participate in a democratic form of government, even running for and electing their own government officials. The Ohio State Highway Patrol collaborates with both programs to teach participants about the value of law enforcement by training Highway Patrol forces at Boys State and Girls State.

Boys and Girls State teach participants about the value of law enforcement by training a Highway Patrol force for each state.

“It's an amazing experience to be a part of their lives, because you are what they may aspire to be,” said Sergeant Tiffany Coriell, who is involved in Girls State training.

Many students apply for a role with the Highway Patrol for the week, and after a lucky handful is selected, training begins. A lot of their work is practical, but it also includes the teaching of core OSHP values, dedication and the duty to protect and serve Ohioans across the state. After training, the new troopers perform law enforcement responsibilities around the program.

“There is really nothing more rewarding than working with youth who want to be involved and learn new things,” said Sergeant Pablo Cruz, who is involved in Boys State training.

OSHP and the American Legion Auxiliary of Ohio have partnered for almost 80 years since the start of Buckeye Boys State to teach select delegates about the value of government involvement and OSHP service.

“The cohesive partnership between OSHP and the American Legion shows these students the honor we give to state and country, and we're thankful for that,” said Coriell.

The Buckeye Boys State program was hosted this year from June 14-21 at Bowling Green State University, and the Buckeye Girls State program was hosted June 14-20 at the University of Mount Union.

Junior Cadet

Students with an interest in law enforcement spent five days at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy for Junior Cadet Week, a mini-training course for both young men and women. This program is available to participants of the Buckeye Boys and Girls State programs, sons and daughters of Patrol personnel and students sponsored by a Patrol member.

Funding for Junior Cadet Week is provided by OSHP as participants train in unarmed self-defense, criminal law, weapons familiarization and other topics. Junior Cadet Week is made possible through the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio American Legion, Buckeye Boys State, Ohio American Legion Auxiliary, Buckeye Girls State and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary.
Patrol personnel ran and walked in the 2015 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, traveling through all types of weather from all corners of the state to the Special Olympics of Ohio Opening Ceremony on June 26.

Teams began in Athens, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Marietta, Toledo and ended in Columbus for the final leg from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy to Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University.

The run supports Special Olympics Ohio’s mission of providing opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to compete and train for sports year-round. More than $30,000 was raised by the event.


Middle: Members of the 158th Class with one of the 2015 athletes.

VEHICLE THEFT AND FRAUD UNIT

Three stolen vehicles at an estimated value of $177,000 were discovered as a result of search warrants executed by the Reynoldsburg Police Department, National Insurance Crime Bureau, Columbus Division of Police and the Columbus Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit on June 2.

During a residence search, they discovered a 2014 Dodge 3500 Dually, a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee and a 2013 Mercedes E350 which had been “chopped,” meaning parts of the vehicle were removed to be sold. The Mercedes was missing the hood, trunk, all of its interior and all of its doors. In addition, evidence of VIN tampering was discovered. The owner was located during a search of the residence, and it was discovered he was driving a stolen 2015 Ford F-350 “King Ranch Edition” which had its VIN changed to disguise its identity.

The suspect is being charged with receiving stolen property, VIN tampering and criminal tools.

CRIMINAL PATROL

Troopers seize pills and marijuana in Warren County

July 21: Troopers stopped a rented 2015 Dodge Charger for a following too closely violation in Warren County at 7:20 a.m. The passenger was asked to exit the vehicle at which time 419 Oxycodone pills fell from his pant leg. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed five grams of marijuana. The contraband has a street value of $10,056.

Troopers seize pills in Scioto County

July 3: Troopers stopped a 2014 Chevrolet Malibu for speed and marked lanes violations in Scioto County at 9:04 p.m. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. During a pat-down of the driver, troopers discovered a lump that felt like contraband. She surrendered 454 Oxycodone pills. After questioning the passenger, she surrendered 798 Oxycodone pills. The contraband has a street value of $26,520.

Troopers find marijuana worth $50,000 in Wood County

June 10: Troopers stopped a 2006 Infiniti G35X in Wood County at 9:50 a.m. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed two duffle bags containing approximately 11 pounds of hydroponic marijuana and a small amount of marijuana paste in the vehicle. The contraband has a street value of $50,000.
An investigation by federal, state and local law enforcement in Butler County led to the arrest of 14 people on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States, wire fraud, illegal use of food stamp benefits, theft of public money, money laundering and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance – including near schools and playgrounds. In all, nearly $2 million in fraud was uncovered.

Federal, state and local law enforcement officials executed 19 search warrants, 14 arrest warrants and four seizure warrants against the owners, operators and employees of Butcher Shop Food Distributors, LLC, and US Beef of Cincinnati, LLC, both located in Fairfield.

Locations searched included business premises, residences and vehicles. The search warrants culminated an 18-month undercover investigation into the suspected criminal practices of both of these retail meat home delivery services that operate in an approximate 50-mile radius of Fairfield. Their door-to-door retail sales of beef, poultry, pork and sea food products have impacted residential customers in Butler, Hamilton, Warren, Montgomery and Greene counties.

Court documents allege that since 2011, individuals associated with Butcher Food Shop Distributors, LLC, and U.S. Beef Cincinnati, LLC, actively engaged in illegal/fraudulent SNAP electronic benefit transfer (EBT) transactions in exchange for cash. It is alleged that the owners, managers and other employees of the door-to-door meat retailers repeatedly, continually and illegally acquired and redeemed SNAP benefits in exchange for ineligible items, including money, Oxycodone, heroin and marijuana.

USDA records show that between December 2011 and May 2015, approximately 8,145 SNAP EBT transactions were completed via voucher for U.S. Beef employees for a total amount of approximately $1.1 million. The total estimated fraud for the Butcher Shop is approximately $382,000 and the total estimated number of SNAP EBT transactions for that shop is 7,912.

United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio Carter M. Stewart; Agent-in-Charge Harold Torres; United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Inspector General Special Agent in Charge Anthony Mohatt; United States Secret Service Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Porter; Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones; Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil; Fairfield Police Chief Mike Dickey; Cincinnati Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell and Warren County Sheriff Larry Sims, as well as other members of the Southern District of Ohio Task Force announced the arrests that took place on Aug. 26.

An Ashtabula County grand jury indicted four individuals who were found to have played a role in a fatal crash in June. The Ohio Investigative Unit and the Ohio State Highway Patrol conducted the investigation. This is the first time since the trace-back program began that an investigation has resulted in involuntary manslaughter charges.

Agents and troopers determined that Tracie T. Pascoe, Marilou Tipton and Jacob Pascoe hosted a party with underage individuals consuming alcohol on June 3, 2015, at their Geneva residence.

Tracie T. Pascoe, 49, was indicted on one count of involuntary manslaughter and two counts of furnishing alcohol to underage persons. Tipton, 71, was indicted on one count each of involuntary manslaughter and furnishing alcohol to an underage person. Jacob Pascoe, 18, was indicted on one count each of involuntary manslaughter, obstructing justice, obstructing official business and furnishing alcohol to underage persons.

The grand jury also indicted Adam R. Wright, 18, of Geneva, on two counts each of aggravated vehicular homicide and operating a motor vehicle under the influence as well as one count of underage consumption. Wright ran a stop sign, struck another vehicle, and killed the driver, Alexandria M. Struhar. Prior to the crash, Wright was at a party at the home of Tipton and Pascoe.

Trace-back investigations involve tracing the source of alcohol, whether it is sold or provided to an underage or an already intoxicated individual, following a serious injury or fatal crash, or an alcohol-related incident.

Four indicted in Ashtabula County crash

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OIU Assists in Search for Suspects

On Aug. 15, a trooper’s cruiser was shot by a suspect vehicle while traveling northbound on I-75. OIU Assistant Agent-in-Charge Sarah Valasek overheard the radio traffic, hearing the trooper call out two male suspects fleeing the scene west of the interstate, who should be considered armed and dangerous. While driving south on I-75, Valasek passed a male subject matching the description of one of the suspects walking along the roadway. Valasek radioed the location of the male subject, who was then apprehended by a trooper and a Wood County deputy.

AAIC Valasek then reported to the scene so criminal patrol troopers could utilize her night vision goggles to check the nearby roadside for the second suspect. The second suspect was apprehended by a trooper and a Perrysburg Township police officer on Aug. 16, when they received a burglary call from a house near where the incident occurred.
Trooper Byron D. Foxx was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for lifesaving efforts in a dangerous situation.

On May 5, 2015, Trooper Foxx was flagged down by a motorist who reported a woman standing on the outside portion of the Carnegie Avenue Bridge in Cleveland. Trooper Foxx called for assistance and then approached the suicidal woman, who moved completely over the bridge rail to hold onto a light post. Trooper Foxx remained calm and positive, trying to reassure the young woman to keep her from jumping while he waited for assistance. Eight minutes later, when Cleveland Police and Fire arrived on the scene, Trooper Foxx and members of the rescue team distracted the woman from one side while other rescuers simultaneously rushed in, grabbed and secured her with Trooper Foxx's rescue rope. She was eventually brought to safety and transported to a hospital for evaluation.

Trooper Ryan L. Brillhart was awarded the Superintendent's Citation of Merit for lifesaving efforts.

On March 17, 2015, Trooper Brillhart witnessed a serious crash on southbound Interstate 75. He quickly approached the passenger side of the vehicle, which had come to rest on its roof with smoke pouring from the engine compartment, and called to the driver. Receiving no response and noting flames in the engine compartment, Trooper Brillhart retrieved his fire extinguisher and expended it on the fire, but it had little effect. While damage to the roof prevented him from getting the passenger door open, he continued calling to the occupant until he finally heard a response. Trooper Brillhart again turned his attention to the door, wedged his fingers at the base and pried it away from the frame. Crawling inside, he found the driver pinned upside down in his seat.

When thick smoke forced Trooper Brillhart to temporarily retreat, he saw the fire was growing and consuming more of the vehicle. He entered the burning car again, used his pocket knife to cut through the seatbelt and pulled the victim out. A bystander helped move the victim to safety just as the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames.
Today at Riesbecks, the trooper conducting the canned food drive (I didn't get his name) around let my 8-year-old grandson sit in the cruiser and turn on the lights! My grandson has said that he wants to be a trooper since he was 4! It may seem like a small thing to most people, because of a hereditary eye defect, probably never get to live out his dream. I just wanted to thank the trooper for being so nice to my grandson and taking the time to talk to him and get his picture! It made his day! THANKS AGAIN! Sincerely, Richard Lahmers

I work at Nachurs Alpine Solutions in Marion and wanted to give a HUGE shout out to the Ohio State Highway Patrol from one of our truck drivers. He came in earlier today from Georgia and said that as he travels the various states, he ALWAYS sees the Ohio State Highway Patrol helping stranded motorists. He sees everything from changing tires (on a regular basis) to looking under the hood and said that he sees Ohio's troopers doing it way more often than any other state he travels. He was obviously not a Buckeye fan, but said that we have the best troopers in the nation as far as he is concerned. I thought this would help make your day to receive some positive feedback for a change.

Not sure what the trooper's name was that followed the tail end of Pelotonia on Saturday to the 25 mile, but his encouragement was outstanding! It was my first ride and I came in last, but he let me go and kept encouraging me! So I wanted to thank him and all the men and women who helped keep us all safe, thank you!

I want to thank you for giving me many opportunities this summer. Trooper Trout, Sergeant Hayes, and Sergeant Coriell were great role models at Buckeye Girls State. They taught us so much and I'm very grateful they were selected to be mentors to us. Lastly I would like to thank the OSP for allowing me to attend Junior Cadet Week. It was a great experience, and just speaking for the female cadets, they were very helpful and friendly. Everyone I met was a true inspiration. You should be proud to have great employees like you do at the OSP. Thank you for opening my eyes to this field. Seeing a variety of the jobs throughout OSP is awesome. I can't wait to come back as a cadet in a few years. Once again thank you so much! – Junior Cadet Bentfeld

Just saw one of your officers changing a tire for a motorist on I-675 just north of Bellbrook. Nice to see him going above and beyond. Good job.

Nothin but love for OHSP... Saved me from freezing one cold February day when my piece of a van was broken down on the turnpike. No hate for the CO plates, just goodness and making a girl feel safe and warm. Stay safe and THANK YOU!!

With all the bad publicity right now concerning law enforcement I want to let you know that I think the Ohio Highway Patrol is one of the most professional law enforcement organizations I have seen. Keep up the good work. I appreciate your efforts.

Regarding the Devers Video

Trooper Eric J. Devers earned a Certificate of Recognition for his lifesaving efforts on April 28, 2015. Please see page 12 for a summary of the event.

Your Highway Patrol should be exceedingly proud of Trooper Eric Devers. He did an incredible job in saving the life of the commercial driver, the dash cam video of which is circulating. Trooper Devers is a true hero and congratulations to the Ohio State Highway Patrol for being the employer of such an incredible human being!

Sending love and wishes all the way from the UK, to your officer that saved the lorry driver's life! And all the other officers that I am sure would have done the same.

I'm a family physician in Colorado and take care of the Arvada Police Department. I can't even describe how proud Eric Dever's actions made me feel. Arvada cops are exceptional. I'll always feel safer now driving through Ohio. Best regards to all of you – Ed Shuherk, MD.

Good morning, your men and women are angels. Your officers put on their uniforms every day with the prayer of coming home safe and sound. As a lifelong truck driver, so do I. The actions of Trooper Eric Devers are nothing short of pure heroism and selflessness. Law enforcement doesn't usually get the credit they deserve for all of these acts that do not make it to the press. In short, thank you so much.

Devers did a fantastic job. He should receive the highest honor. That truck driver was not only a truck driver, he was more than likely someone's father and someone's friend. Love goes out on my behalf for this man's courage and strength in time of need.
Auxiliary

**Doty promoted to Colonel**

Bryon M. Doty of the Delaware Post has been promoted to Auxiliary Colonel effective July 1 following the retirement of Auxiliary Colonel Dennis Hite after more than 20 years of service to the Patrol.

Doty joined the Auxiliary in 2011 and has volunteered more than 1,600 hours each year to the Patrol. He won multiple district awards along with the Auxiliary’s three top awards: the State Officer of the Year Award, the Duffy Award and the Earl Ulmer Award. Doty regularly rides with Troopers and works a large number of special details, including Ohio State games and the Ohio State Fair.

Doty lives in Columbus with his wife of 32 years, Janet. They have a son, daughter and multiple grandchildren.

**Auxiliary Officer Slone passes away**

Auxiliary Officer Larrisa Slone of the Granville Post died unexpectedly on August 16 at her home in Heath. Slone, who joined the Auxiliary after graduating in this year’s March class, was 34 years of age and leaves behind her husband Russell, her teenage son Russ, and many family and friends.

While Officer Slone was new to the Auxiliary, she volunteered for a number of details, including the Ohio State Fair and OVI checkpoints. Slone worked in accounts payable at the Big Lots Corporation in Columbus and was a Hilliard Darby High School graduate.

Cleveland District

*Note: The image contains a photo of a group of people in uniform, likely from the Cleveland District. The text mentions a birthday reception hosted by Cleveland DHQ in July to honor Reverend Richard Ellsworth. REV also made stops to the Canton, Medina, Ashland and Ravenna posts during the month of July.*

Cleveland DHQ hosted a birthday reception to honor Reverend Richard Ellsworth in July. “Rev” also made stops to the Canton, Medina, Ashland and Ravenna posts. Rev spent the month of July visiting all of the districts and as many posts as possible. Rev’s ninetieth birthday was on July 16, when the senior staff hosted him for lunch.
Warren

Trooper Matthew Abbey coordinated a Cram the Cruiser event in August to collect school supplies for the Trumbull County Educational Service Center. From there, they were distributed to children throughout Trumbull County. The cruiser was filled three times and still had supplies spilling out. From left: Lt. Brian Holt, Tpr. Ben Barnard, Sophie and Tara Barnard, Valerie Maffitt, Teddy Trooper (Terry Maffitt), Tpr. Abbey, Kaylynn Barco, and Sgt. Pat Abel.

Xenia

Several former Xenia Post units were given a tour of a new OSHP cruiser and learned about the technological advances of the past few years on July 23. Standing (from left): Ed Waltz, Terry Payer, Bill Hinkle, Dan Hon, Bill Baugus, Jim Debevec, Don Freshwater, Joe Eblin. Kneeling: Mark Sigler, Dave Albrinck, Rob Hartsell, Don Mack, Terry Thompson.
Lima

The Lima Post partnered with the Lima Allen County Safe Community Coalition and Ohio Cycleworx for a Motorcycle Safety Event on August 15. Factory trained mechanics and professional law enforcement riders, including the OSHP Motorcycle Unit, answered motorcyclists’ questions about safety, equipment and riding.

Mansfield

Trooper Jason Beck demonstrated field sobriety tests at the Richland County Fair.

Granville

Sergeant Paul March recently performed Beethoven’s 9th Symphony (Ode to Joy) as a tenor with the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus in front of a Blossom crowd of 10,000 patrons. Musical talent runs in the family; his son, Daniel March, traveled the country this summer competing with Drum Corps International’s Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corps. Sergeant March worked with members of the OSHP Drum and Bugle Corps to sponsor the 135-member drum corps with Gatorade for a day. The students were impressed by both the drinks and a poster about the OSHP Drum and Bugle Corps.

Trooper Brandon Dean, New London Officer Kevin Verberg and Teddy Trooper visited with 81 New London children ages 4-9. They taught the children about the importance of wearing safety belts in a motor vehicle and wearing a helmet while riding their bikes. They also spoke to them about stranger danger and looking both ways before crossing the street. This event was held at the New London Firehouse and sponsored by Firelands EMS.

Elyria

Digital Message Boards

OSHP and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) joined forces this July in a new initiative utilizing ODOT digital message boards to spread traffic safety messages. The 130 permanent boards primarily show travel-time estimates and traffic congestion warnings, but during nights and weekends, they now rotate between two messages: the year-to-date number of traffic deaths of 2015 and a traffic safety message such as Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

The goal is to curb an increase in traffic deaths in 2015; in the first six months of 2015, Ohio recorded 490 provisional traffic deaths, following a national trend of increased fatalities this year. Hopefully, the signs motivate motorists to exercise caution while behind the wheel, as most traffic crashes can be prevented if the driver slows down, avoids distractions and never drives impaired.
James E. Wernecke
Captain James E. Wernecke, commander of the Ohio Investigative Unit, retired on June 19, 2015, after 25 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his career as a Trooper assigned to the Massillon Post and was transferred to the Massillon District Headquarters in 1993 as a plain clothes investigator. He was promoted to sergeant within the Office of Investigative Services in May 1998, assigned to Bucyrus District Headquarters. In July 2000, Wernecke was promoted to lieutenant, assigned to the Mansfield Post. He was later assigned to the Ohio Inspector General’s Task Force investigating fraud and corruption in 2005. In 2006, he was promoted to staff lieutenant of the Office of Investigative Services and remained there when promoted to captain in December 2012. In 2013, he was assigned to the Ohio Investigative Unit.

He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 1992 and received the Trooper Recognition Award in 1997. He completed Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command.

Darrin L. Blosser
Staff Lieutenant Darrin L. Blosser, Fiscal Services, retired on August 19, 2015, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Circleville Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year and earned a Certificate of Recognition in 1993. In 1994, he transferred to the Lancaster Post, where he was again selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1995 and 1996. In 1997, S/Lt. Blosser was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marietta Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 1999, he transferred to the Lancaster Post. In 2008, he was selected to serve as a temporary spokesperson in the Public Affairs Unit at the Patrol’s General Headquarters. In 2009, he returned to the Lancaster Post, as an assistant post commander. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Granville Post to serve as post commander. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to his most recent assignment in Fiscal Services.

Clifton L. Spinner
Staff Lieutenant Clifton L. Spinner, Critical Communication Center, retired on June 29, 2015, after nearly 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 1987 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the St. Clairsville Post. He became a member of the 117th Academy Class in March 1988. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Batavia Post. In 1993, he transferred to the Office of Personnel. In 1996, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy to serve as an instructor. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Strategic Services. As a staff lieutenant, he has served in Risk Management, Policy and Planning, Regional Training, Recruitment and the Critical Communication Center.

He earned a master’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati and completed training at Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command.

Dianna E. White
Staff Lieutenant Dianna E. White, Office of Planning and Analysis, retired on August 28, 2015, after 26 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in June 1989 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Springfield Post. She became a member of the 119th Academy Class in January 1990. She earned her commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Portsmouth Post. In 1992, she transferred to the Granville Post. In 1997, she was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the New Philadelphia Post. In 1998, she transferred to LEADS System Operation Center. In 2000, she was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to the Technology and Communications Section. As a lieutenant she also served in Logistic Services and Facilities Management. In 2010, she was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and remained in Facilities Management. In 2011, she transferred to the Critical Communication Center. In 2013, she transferred to the Crime Lab and in May she transferred to her most recent assignment in the Office Planning and Analysis.

S/Lt. White earned a Bachelor of Science degree in social science from Urbana University and completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command. She also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Franklin University.
Sergeant Theresa A. Mikesh, Office of Criminal Investigations, Criminal Patrol, retired on August 21, 2015, after 22 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. She earned her commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post. She began serving as a canine handler in June 1997. In 2000, she transferred to the Criminal Patrol Unit and earned the Criminal Patrol Award every year from 2005 through 2010 and the Trooper Recognition Award for the Jackson District as a canine handler in 2003, 2009 and 2010. In 2010, she was selected as the State Trooper Recognition Award recipient. In 2011, she was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Office of Special Operations, Criminal Patrol, where she served as the Division's first canine training sergeant.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education in 1987 and a Master of Science degree in sport administration in 1990 from Iowa State University.

Trooper Charles R. Abbuhl, Wooster Post, retired on September 18, 2015, after 23 years of service. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and has been assigned to the Wooster Post throughout his career. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2002. He was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year in 2006 and 2007.

Trooper Kenneth Hall, Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on August 21, 2015, after 22 years of service. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. In 1994, he transferred to the Chardon Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1996 and 1997. In 2003, he transferred to the Ashtabula Post. In 2004, he transferred to his most recent assignment at Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Trooper Robert D. Hoelscher, Wapakoneta Post, retired on August 14, 2015, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1990 as a member of the 120th Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Milan Post, Piqua District Criminal Investigations and the Wapakoneta Post.

Trooper Robert A. King, Georgetown Post, retired on July 21, 2015, after 35 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1980 as a member of the 108th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and is assigned to the Georgetown Post. In 1989, he transferred to the Wilmington Post. In 1999, he returned to his most recent assignment at the Georgetown Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2001.

Trooper William E. Mack, Norwalk Post, retired on July 1, 2015, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and is assigned to the Swanton Post. As a trooper, he also worked at the Milan and Norwalk Posts.

Trooper Andrew G. Slezak, New Philadelphia Post, retired July 3, 2015, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission that June and has been assigned to New Philadelphia throughout his career.
Edwin A. Weigand
Trooper Edwin A. Weigand, Steubenville Post, retired August 20, 2015, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Ravenna Post. In 1992, he transferred to Steubenville.

Steven A. Wetz
Trooper Steven A. Wetz, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired August 7, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 1985 as a cadet dispatcher at the Marietta Post. He became a member of the 117th Academy Class in March 1988. He earned his commission in that September and was assigned to the Cambridge Post. In 1992, he transferred to the Marietta Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. In 2006, he transferred to the Athens Post. In 2007, he returned to the Marietta Post. In 2011, he transferred to his most recent assignment.

Ronnie L. Lewis
Stationary Load Limit Inspector Ronnie L. Lewis, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on August 7, 2015, after 23 years with the Patrol. He began his state career with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles in 1992 as a Computer Operator 1. He joined the Patrol in 1996 as a Stationary Load Limit Inspector assigned to the Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 1996, he transferred to the Medina Post. In 1998, he returned to the Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2012, he transferred to the Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In July 2015, he transferred to his most recent assignment at Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Bret A. Roberts
Portable Load Limit Inspector Bret A. Roberts, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on June 25, 2015, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1986 as a stationary load limit inspector assigned to Wilmington District Headquarters. In 1996, he transferred to the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2014, he was promoted to a portable load limit inspector and remained at Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Betty A. Tatum
Dispatcher Betty A. Tatum, Capitol Operations at the Statehouse, retired on July 31, 2015, after 15 years with the Patrol. She began her Patrol career in January 2000 as a dispatcher assigned to Capitol Operations at the Statehouse where she has been assigned throughout her career. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2002, 2005, 2009 and 2011.

Timothy M. Carrabine
Database Administration Specialist 2 Timothy M. Carrabine, Computer Operations, retired on June 26, 2015, after more than 11 years with the Patrol. He began his career with the Patrol in November 2003 as a Database Analyst 4 assigned to System Operations/LEADS. In 2010, he was promoted to Database Administration Specialist 2 and remained in System Operations/LEADS. In 2012, he transferred to his most recent assignment in Computer Operations.

Ellen V. Wilkinson
Secretary Ellen V. Wilkinson, Milan Post, retired on August 14, 2015, after more than 33 years of service to the Patrol. She began her career in May 1982 as a patrol clerk assigned to the Castalia Post. She relocated to the Milan post in 1989 and was reclassified as a secretary in 2004.
Trooper Ryan Wilson

Trooper Ryan Wilson died on July 24, 2015 after a brave battle with cancer.

He was dedicated to his career and took great pride in his work as a plainclothes investigator with the Bucyrus Office of Investigations, with his main responsibility being Mansfield Correctional Institution.

Trooper Wilson graduated with the 132nd Academy class and was assigned to the Lima Post. He transferred several months later to the Findlay Post, where he was awarded the Ace Award in 2001, the Criminal Patrol Award in 2002 and the Certificate of Recognition in 2008. He transferred to Investigations in 2010 and received the District Trooper Recognition Award there in 2011. Prior to joining the Patrol, he was a 1995 graduate of Findlay High School.

Trooper Wilson was known as someone willing to offer his help whenever needed, as well as a skilled interviewer with a talent for getting confessions.

He maintained a positive attitude about his illness even as it progressed. After he needed surgical removal of his eye, he fought to return to work, requalifying for driving and shooting in a matter of months.

“He felt like it was his duty to keep the people hurting others behind bars,” said Trooper Bryan Butler, who worked with Trooper Wilson at the Bucyrus Office of Investigations since 2010.

Trooper Wilson is missed by his peers, who describe him as witty, articulate and fun to be around. He will be remembered for his ability to make others laugh, whether for the countless one-liners he delivered with a straight face or the gallon jug of water he brought to work every day.

Trooper Wilson married his longtime girlfriend, Mandy Radcliff, in late July. He is survived by her, a stepdaughter and a stepson.

Richard Baron
Ohio Homeland Security, Executive Director

Ohio Homeland Security Executive Director Richard Baron passed away after an honorable battle with cancer on July 28, 2015.

Executive Director Baron had a total of 31 years of service in the public safety and emergency services field. He was named Executive Director of Ohio Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Advisor for Ohio in September 2011.

Previously, he served as a captain with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. After 25 years of service to the Patrol, he retired in April 2012. During his tenure, he worked in various capacities and sections including Homeland Security and in the Office of Investigative Services, with primary assignments in northeast and central Ohio. He commanded investigatory and intelligence operations in the Patrol’s Warren District Investigations section, as well as Criminal Intelligence and Computer Crimes Unit.

He was instrumental in the development and implementation of Ohio Homeland Security’s Fusion Center - the Strategic Analysis and Information Center - and was the center’s first chief of operations.

Prior to joining the Patrol in 1987, Baron was a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the city of Cocoa Beach, Florida, as well as a police officer with Hubbard Township Police Department in northeastern Ohio.

“He was an inspirational leader ... a good man in every sense,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born. “Rick was always thinking about how we could work with other agencies in Ohio. Rick lost his battle, but his contributions to a safer Ohio, safer country and safer world will continue.”

Governor John Kasich posted a tweet honoring Executive Director Baron, saying “Ohio has lost a great public servant ... Prayers for him and his family.” Governor Kasich ordered that flags at the Ohio statehouse and Shipley Building be flown at half-staff on August 4, 2015, in honor of Executive Director Baron’s contributions to Ohio.

Executive Director Baron will be greatly missed by his many colleagues within and from outside the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
Recently I was approached by the postmaster of our post office as he thanked me for having a ninetieth birthday. He indicated that the U.S. Postal Service might be in the black operationally because of all the postage purchased to mail the many cards to me. He indicated that there were days when my mail delivery was about equal to all of the rest of the mail being handled by my carrier. Of course it had nothing to do with me. It was all of you in the Patrol family who were so gracious in acknowledging my journey across the 90-year line. Every greeting meant more to me than you will ever know. All of you have been so supportive and truly accepted me as part of your family.

But this article is not meant to be about me. It is my attempt to emphasize the importance of even the small things in life. We do acknowledge the larger contributions made by groups and individuals.

This is important and proper. But it is sometimes the smaller contributions which can make a big difference for another individual or even the organization as a whole. Never underestimate the contribution which each person can make each day just by having and sharing a positive attitude.

One of my favorite accounts in Scripture is the feeding of the 5,000 as recorded in John 6:1-14. It tells about the challenge of feeding so many people when there seemed to be no food available. It was determined that the only items available were what a lad had with him — maybe a lunch packed for him by his mother. The meager meal consisted of five barley loaves and two fish. With so little to offer why should the lad give up what he had? It could not possibly make any significant difference, so why not keep what he held in his hands?

He had better take care of himself, right?

But the lad willing contributed what he could and it made a difference. It seems to me that the lad should have some recognition.

Maybe there should be a church, or cathedral or synagogue named “The Church of the Lad Who Shared His Meager Lunch.” But even though his name was not even mentioned, the lad made his contribution and it made a tremendous difference. One may never know the difference which she or he has made in the life of someone else by even the smallest of acts -- perhaps just a smile or a word of appreciation.

The Lord spoke about the small amount of yeast which leavens the entire loaf. Attitude is like that. Both positive and negative attitudes can influence the organization of which we are a part. The choice is ours each day as to whether or not we desire to make a positive contribution. There is a big difference between telling ourselves and others “to have a good day” and by saying “make it a good day.” The former statement tends to put the responsibility upon someone or some event to bring fulfillment. The latter is a positive declaration for which we become responsible. Let’s always choose the latter.

We do not always have the opportunity to do great things but each one has the opportunity every day to make some positive contribution which, when multiplied by all the members of the family, will make a tremendously big difference. We are in the game together and your three chaplains — Kelly, Phil and I — have you in our prayers.

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain
Troopers provided security at the Ohio State Fair and staffed the Lost Kids Booth. Other high-profile specialty details this summer included Pelotonia, a bike tour that raises millions of dollars every year for cancer research and the 2016 Republican Primary Debate in Cleveland in August.