

FLYING



WHEEL

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OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Colonel's Letter



"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

– Joseph Campbell, American writer

The Patrol has always had a rich history of veterans, reservists and national guardsmen among our ranks. I joined the Marine Corps myself in 1979 because I wanted to serve my country. Troopers have, at times, been called to active duty to serve during active conflicts around the world. We have always been proud of this tradition.

As Veterans Day passed this year, I thought about how thankful I am for the men and women I work with every day who have sacrificed their time in military service to this country. This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave. Every veteran has made the ultimate commitment and has demonstrated the epitome of patriotism and courage. This year, the Division has established a Military Recognition Award ribbon for that reason; service to our country should always be recognized. To all of you who earned the honor of wearing this ribbon: thank you for your bravery. Thank you for believing in the stars and stripes and for your service to the United States of America.

Service to your fellow man makes a difference. Be it through the military or working the road as a trooper or OIU Agent, performing dispatch operations, or as a professional staff member for the Highway Patrol, you are sacrificing for the good of humankind. Any time that sacrifice is made, it qualifies as heroism. Through the hard and dangerous work performed over the last year, it's clear there are heroes among us. Our folks have restored the breathing of infants, rescued victims from burning cars, submerged themselves to rescue victims trapped underwater in wreckage and engaged the criminal element in gun battles. It's clear there are heroes among us.

We removed more than 22,000 impaired motorists from Ohio's roadways. We made over 11,000 drug arrests and reached more students with drug-free messages than ever. We invested our time in programs aimed at fatal crash reduction, programs that deter human trafficking, and our efforts to interdict criminal activity is unparalleled. We graduated 80 new cadets from the Academy this year, who I am sure will continue the tradition of excellence for decades to come.

Over the past 82 years this organization has gotten better and better, and on the horizon there is nothing but more of the same. We are fighting the good fight and will continue to do so by investing in our future leaders. Yet, there is more work to be done.

We must continue to educate, raise awareness and enforce our OVI and safety belt laws to continue to drive fatal crashes down. As you lead, guide and direct, remember to encourage and express your appreciation for those around you, as they are doing hard and often dangerous work of making our roadways and communities a safer place. Please remember, whoever you are, whatever position you hold, your leadership makes a difference.

Thank you for the work you've done over the last year. Reflect on what you've accomplished both as an individual and as part of this team. Ask yourself, "Is there anything more I can do to contribute to the greater good, and make a safer Ohio?" I urge you to set goals for 2016, and develop a plan to achieve them.

I continue to be honored to serve you as your colonel and superintendent.

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent



OSHP Colonel, Troopers Honored by Attorney General

OSHP proud to accept Ohio Distinguished Law Enforcement Awards

Four troopers and two deputies were awarded the 2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Awards for risking their lives to try to save a woman who had been abducted from her home.

On Sept. 12, 2014, OSHP troopers were notified that a suspect in a murder and possible abduction in Kentucky was believed to be traveling into Ohio with his captive. The report identified the man and said he was suspected of killing a woman's teenage son and forcing her into an SUV. A short time later, an OSHP trooper advised that he was following the suspect's vehicle on I-75.

Other troopers joined the pursuit and signaled the suspect to pull over. As troopers exited their cars, they heard gunshots coming from inside the SUV, but its tinted windows blocked the view. The troopers ordered the suspect to surrender through a loudspeaker. Along with the lieutenant and deputy from the Butler County Sheriff's Office, the troopers developed a plan using protective shields and breaching tools. The six officers formed two teams to approach the vehicle from opposite sides. They broke through windows and found the suspect bleeding and motionless while the victim had been fatally shot. The suspect recovered and is facing aggravated murder and kidnapping charges.

Recipients of the award include the following OSHP members: Lt. Clint Arnold, Lt. Matthew Hamilton, Lt. Kevin Long and Sgt. Joseph Luebbers.

Recipients of the award from the Butler County Sheriff's Office include Lt. Morgan Dallman and Deputy Brian Oswald.

Losey Award

Colonel Paul A. Pride was honored with the Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award for his initiatives to reduce traffic crash deaths, such as the Trooper Shield. Under the Trooper Shield program, OSHP adopted a multifaceted approach to combat drugs and drug-related crime using a reallocation of resources, targeted enforcement, specialized officers and statewide initiatives.

To help in the effort, Colonel Pride increased the number of canine officers and instituted a program to allow troopers to receive specialized training on criminal patrol operations. Each patrol district was also assigned a criminal patrol lieutenant to oversee crime enforcement efforts in each region.

The basic traffic stop can therefore act as a gateway to identify criminal operations, with officers being urged to spend more time with traffic violators and look more closely to identify cues of illegal activity.



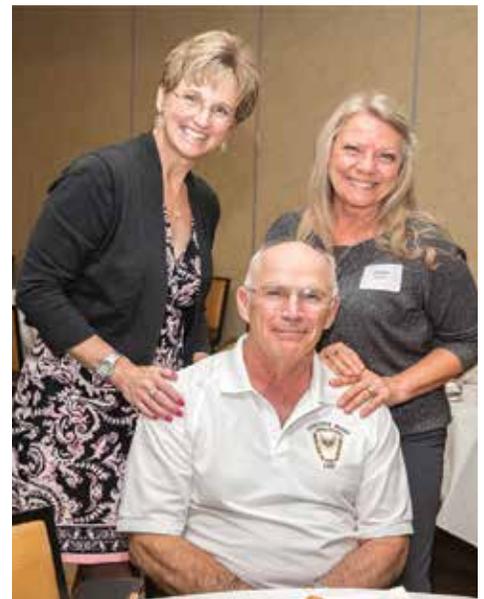
Right: Attorney General Mike DeWine presented the Mark Losey Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award to Colonel Paul Pride.



Attorney General Mike DeWine honored four OSHP members and two Butler County Sheriff Officers on Oct. 9.

Retirees Gather in Columbus

Retirees gathered at the Doubletree Hotel on October 31 for their 41st Annual Banquet to pay homage to retirees and spouses who have passed away in the last year. They also discussed upcoming events and welcomed new officers to the Highway Patrol Retirees' Association. This year's program was dedicated to Retired Colonel Jack Walsh, who died on May 22, 2015.



Life after Loss

When the unthinkable happens in a law enforcement family, surviving spouses struggle to cope with their new realities and keep moving forward. Grief knows no timeline, but with community support and fond memories as armor, they can start to face life again.

Jean Paris met her husband Michael when they both worked for the Patrol. He was a trooper, she a dispatcher. She knew he was a strong, loyal and fun man, who was a marine and worked previously as a police officer in Washington, D.C. He liked to serve. They wed in 1994.



Michael Paris

Eighteen years of marriage later, on August 1, 2012, Mike suffered a heart attack at home shortly after conducting a traffic stop. Jean called 911. He told her to relax, that everything would be okay; he died that day despite EMS efforts.

She tries not to recall those last moments, but it's hard not to.

"You feel so lost," she said. "You think you have your whole life in front of you and it stops."

Like all spouses of law enforcement officers, Jean understood the realities of her husband's profession. More than 40 OSHP members, uniformed and support, have died on duty since the division's creation. Organizations such as the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP) track the startling statistics of line-of-duty deaths – so far in 2015, 118 line-of-duty deaths nationwide have been recorded on their site, which is a slight decrease from last year.

The stats remind the public of something troopers and their families know well: the majority of shifts may end safely, but it's never guaranteed. If you marry a man or woman in uniform, you are aware of the stakes, despite never thinking it will happen to you.

Then, it does. To quote Chris Cosgriff, founder of ODMP, "When a police officer is killed, it's not an agency that loses an officer. It's an entire nation."

The wives and husbands left behind are on the front-line of that grief. It's their futures, filled with retirement plans, graduations and joyful uncertainty, which are thrown into flux.

The grief of each family may stem from similar situa-



Jean and daughter Halle visit Trooper Michael Paris's name on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall in Washington, D.C. The memorial opened in 1991 to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty nationwide.



Jean and Michael's son, Michael Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Marines.

tions, but the process varies from individual to individual. That means there's no "mark" of when someone should be better, nor is there one solution that helps all surviving spouses.

"There are so many stages of grief," Jean said. "I'll always grieve for the rest of my life in some way. I think as time continues to move forward, you learn to cope with it in different ways."

"YOU DON'T EVER WANT ANYBODY TO FORGET HIM"

Jean honors Michael by telling his story. He had a tough outer-shell, she says, but he was a very caring person. He was a football coach for Keystone Jr. High in LaGrange, Ohio, in addition to his numerous roles at OSHP over the years – Academy instructor, honor guard member, and SRT team leader.

Michael and Jean raised two children, Halle and Michael. The family played jokes on each other, running around the house with Nerf guns and playing football.

Halle, 16, is a sophomore in high school, and Michael Jr, 19, followed in his father's footsteps as a marine. He's currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

She learned through conversations with other widows that the bad times can be turned into good memories of their life together. Though all the women have different stories, they empathize with her pain. After all, they once felt it themselves. They reassure her that while she may not get over the loss, she'll learn what coping methods work for her.

Blake Haynes of the non-profit Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) says peer support is often the most effective way to cope for many surviving families. Even when circumstances vary, the connection between spouses and their ability to relate to one another is vital. That community of surviving families is vast; C.O.P.S. cites 34,000 members who use their resources such as peer support, counseling and scholarships.

In addition to peer support, Haynes said comfort from all friends and family help surviving spouses and families handle their pain.

"You're not always going to know the right words. You're not always going to know the right time to act," he said. "But that's okay." Offering support is more about being present, not about saying one thing that will erase the grief permanently.

The support Jean receives from her family and other division members, even just a text to check in, still means the world to her.

"When someone dies a lot of people are afraid to bring him up," Jean said. "It's harder not to talk about him."

KEEPING BUSY AND GIVING BACK

Jean says she has ups and downs, but tries to live each day to the fullest. She may not know what her future



holds, but she has plans to volunteer her time with organizations that offered support in her time of need and continue to help her heal.

She works with the Lorain County Blue Foundation, a non-profit that assists families of officers killed or critically injured in the line of duty. She'll help with their 6th

– *Continued on page 9.*

Spouses are joined in their grief by parents, children, other family, friends and coworkers when a law enforcement officer dies. The following was printed in a 2007 edition of the Flying Wheel, taken from an essay Sergeant Dale Holcomb's son wrote for school after his father died.

"My father was killed in an automobile crash on September 28, 2006. The event was and still is devastating to my family and me. A preacher told me that good things would come out of the ordeal, but at the time I didn't believe him. Now that I think about it, I have a better outlook on life. I am thankful for each day I am given, and I don't take so many things for granted.

"I believe that people should live their lives to

the fullest and do their best at whatever they do. Nobody knows how long they will be able to do the things they love. Often people don't think in such ways until something bad happens.

"Every morning when I wake up, I am happy and thankful. Before the accident, the only time I was happy when I woke up was on the weekend. I have realized that although I have to do some things I may dislike, it is much better that not being able to do anything.

"Although a countless number of bad things came from this event, I do know that at least one good thing was caused from it. I believe that my new philosophy will allow me to lead a much more meaningful and happy life."

Family members of troopers killed in the line of duty are invited to the Patrol Officers Memorial Ceremony each year in May to commemorate their loved ones. The memorial, a black granite monument at the Training Academy in Columbus, was constructed and dedicated in 1989.

Funding, design and construction were spearheaded by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association and its members. A Memorial Monument Fund received donations from retirees, surviving spouses, honorary members, active officers, former officers, non-sworn employees, Auxiliary members and other friends of the Patrol. The memorial was officially dedicated on May 16, 1989. In 2014, an eternal flame was added as a reminder of those who made the supreme sacrifice. It was dedicated to Reverend Richard Ellsworth and Linda Ellsworth in May of that year.

The location is adjacent to the academy courtyard flagpole, where the flags are raised and lowered daily by patrol cadets, active officers and other police officers in training. It's clearly visible from the newly constructed Leadership Wing, ensuring the names of patrol officers killed in the line of duty are always in sight and thought.

The Patrol Officers Memorial and flag raising ceremony on the day the monument was dedicated, May 16, 1989.



An eternal flame was added during renovations to the Academy courtyard in 2014. The flame is dedicated to Reverend Richard and Linda Ellsworth.

Troopers Escort Beam from 9/11 Attack

OSHP had the privilege of escorting a salvaged steel I-beam from the wreckage of New York City's World Trade Center across the state of Ohio. The final destination of the 13-foot long, 1,500 pound beam was Decatur, Illinois, to be incorporated into a 9/11 Memorial. It had state police escorts for the majority of its journey through six states.

Sergeant Aaron Belcher was part of the detail that escorted a beam from the World Trade Center across the state of Ohio.



Chaplains Issued Uniforms



Colonel Paul A. Pride with Pastor Kelly D. McInerney, Reverend Philip Hurlbert and Reverend Richard Ellsworth at the OSHP Academy.

Two OSHP Chaplains were issued uniforms to wear at official ceremonies, an honor showing respect and appreciation for the services they offer.

Reverend Philip Hurlbert is the northeast regional chaplain as well as the lead pastor at the North Central Ohio Church of the Nazarene.

Pastor Kelly D. McInerney is the southwest regional chaplain as well as the senior pastor at the Bible Baptist Church in Wilmington.

Life after Loss

– Continued from page 7.

Annual Pete Soto Chili Cook-off this February, named in honor of Avon police officer Pete Soto who was injured in the line of duty in 2010.

Jean will also participate in the Police Unity Tour this summer, a 250-mile bike ride from Portsmouth, Virginia to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Last year's ride included 1,900 members and raised almost \$2 million dollars for the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.

She was training for a different bike ride that would have ended with Mike waiting at the finish line several years ago. For the ride this summer, his name on the wall will be the finish – still waiting for her, only in a different way.

She has a long journey ahead, but the community support and years of memories keep her going forward.

"I have always stressed from the beginning that I wouldn't die because my husband died," Jean said. "I had to make sure I could show my kids that we could still live, and have a good life, and be happy."

Patrol Celebrates 82nd Birthday

Commanding officers at each facility delivered this message from Colonel Pride in recognition of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's 82nd birthday—November 15, 2015.

When the Ohio State Highway Patrol was formed early in the 20th century there was a vision for an agency that transcended politics; one that showed compassion and sincerity; one that promoted the safety and welfare of Ohioans.

It took persuasion, but O.W. Merrell convinced the Ohio Supreme Court to open the way for the initial set of troopers to patrol the highways and enforce state registration and vehicle operation laws. On November 15, 1933, a cold, windy, snowy day, Ottawa County Probate Judge P.W. Gulau administered the oath of office for 54 patrolmen, six lieutenants, and Colonel Lynn Black. These first patrolmen immediately scattered to their assigned posts.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was built on a foundation of hardworking individuals who understood the importance of “why.” They were motivated and inspired to protect the lives of those traveling throughout our great state. They asked themselves, “If we don’t, then who will?” With little more than a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and the items on their duty belts, the first troopers began building what is now recognized as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the world. Those first troopers knew they were a part of something much bigger than themselves.

“If we don’t, then who will?” That question still holds true today. What would happen on our highways and in our communities if the Ohio State Highway Patrol ceased to exist? Who would remove the 24,000 impaired

motorists who put your families at risk each year? Who would arrest the 4,000 wanted felons? Who would interdict the heroin, cocaine and prescription pills attempting to make their way into your communities?

We can’t lose sight of why we do what we do; saving lives and ensuring the safety of the motoring public. We accomplish this through commitment to a greater good and perseverance through the toughest days. In fact, this ability is our greatest strength; the Patrol has always been an organization of ordinary people working together in a remarkable, and often extraordinary, way.

On the 82nd birthday of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, I’d like to say thank you. I appreciate every one of you and the effort you put forth to make the Patrol great. I appreciate your families and loved ones who endure the challenges that come with joining the Highway Patrol Family. Thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do. Your passion is inspiring.

To the entire Patrol Family, past and present, Happy Birthday!



Troopers Working with CDL Drivers to Fight Crashes, Human Trafficking



OSHP is teaming up with the Ohio Trucking Association for *Roadwatch 100* to reduce the number of fatalities in crashes involving commercial vehicles to below 100 by 2020.

Human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery, is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. OSHP is dedicated to stopping the perpetrators and rescuing victims, many of whom are minors, and is partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) to further contribute to the cause.

Human trafficking requires transportation across all highways of the state. Because of truck drivers' prevalence on highways, they are uniquely posed to watch for signs of trafficking and report them to authorities. In fact, according to TAT, ongoing operations by the FBI reveal that truck stops and travel plazas are among the places frequented by traffickers and their victims.

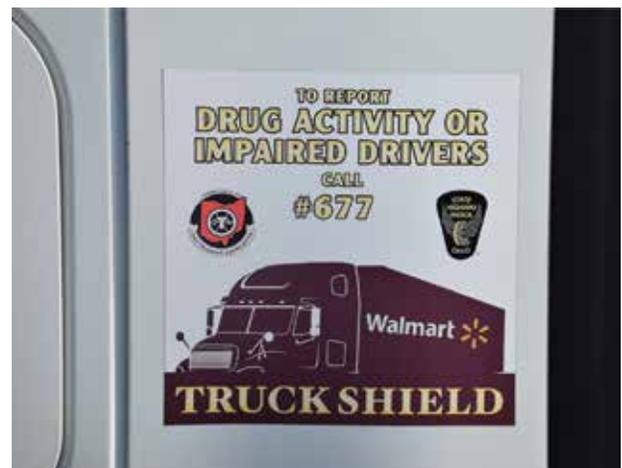
As a result, Ohio has become the first state in the U.S. to implement mandatory training in human trafficking for Commercial Drivers License (CDL) holders. Beginning in January, every driver issued a CDL in Ohio will receive a TAT wallet card, and all new CDL drivers will take a one-hour training program.

...

OSHP is also teaming up with the Ohio Trucking Association in an initiative called *Roadwatch 100* to reduce the number of fatalities in crashes involving commercial vehicles to below 100 by 2020. On average,

161 people die each year in crashes involving commercial vehicles; however, statistics show that in 2/3 of these fatal crashes, other vehicles driving unsafely around the trucks are at fault.

OSHP is advising the public to avoid these crashes by doing the following: be mindful of a commercial truck's blind spots, don't follow too closely or make lane changes right in front of or behind a truck, always yield if you don't have the right-of-way, and keep your eyes on the road.



Strengthening Ties across the State and Region

6-State Trooper Project

The Ohio State Highway Patrol hosted other members of the 6-State Trooper Project at the Academy from October 6-8 to discuss pressing topics in law enforcement, including human trafficking and illegal drug enforcement strategies. The initiative includes Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Indiana. The 6-State Trooper Project has become a key component of Ohio's strategy to keep highways safe and deter criminal behavior in an effective, collaborative way.



OLEES

Ohio State Highway Patrol members met with the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police at the Ohio Law Enforcement Executive Summit on September 29 and 30. Those in attendance worked together on common issues to improve law enforcement across the state and strengthen ties between organizations.



'Tie One on for Safety' Promotes Safe and Sober Holidays

Drunk driving has a devastating impact on families. Carolyn Richie told the story of her son Eric, who was killed in a drunk driving crash in 2012, at the annual "Tie One on for Safety" event on November 17. The event is sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Ohio Department of Public Safety, including the Ohio State Highway Patrol, key sponsor Nationwide Insurance, law enforcement from around the state and other safety advocates.

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Teaford also spoke at the event, thanking MADD for their efforts to save lives and promising that the Patrol will continue its mission to take dangerous drivers off Ohio's roadways.

This is the 29th year for the holiday ribbon campaign, which encourages motorists to tie a red MADD ribbon to their vehicles as a pledge to be safe on the roadways. The campaign also reminds drivers to buckle up, because a seatbelt is the best defense against a drunk driver.



Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Teaford spoke at the annual "Tie One on for Safety" event on November 17.

Student Leaders Get '5 Minutes for Life'

Drug overdoses have now passed car crashes as the number one cause of accidental death in the United States; however, with the help of student leadership across the state, that could change.

This was the message received by 1,500 student leaders at an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) event on October 6 at the Ohio State University Student Union. Students attending were hand-selected by their schools for their outstanding leadership qualities, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol joined the Ohio National Guard in passing on the important *5 Minutes for Life* message.

Lieutenant Nakia Hendrix of the Canfield Post, who played football at Youngstown State University under Jim Tressel, told the students he credits his success as an athlete and a trooper on his good decisions as a teenager.

"You must make good decisions now for your future, as one decision leads to the next," he said. "It's a vicious cycle."

Staff Sgt. Joseph Desrochers of the National Guard



Lieutenant Nakia Hendrix and SFC James Phipps of the National Guard delivered the *5 Minutes for Life* message to 1,500 student leaders at an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) event on October 6.

also addressed the students. Both encouraged the students to continue being a part of the majority of their peers who don't abuse drugs, which sets a good example for others to follow. Many students signed up as ambassadors after the talk, meaning they'll take the message back to their school to educate their classmates.

Teddy Trooper Goes on 15 Years as Patrol Mascot

The Ohio State Highway Patrol mascot, Teddy Trooper, has brought smiles and education to hundreds of children since he was first introduced almost 15 years ago. He promotes the message that troopers are friendly, reliable and looking out for the safety of the community and everyone in it.

Teddy was the idea of the Ohio Troopers Coalition (OTC), founded in 1984 to provide opportunities for retired and off-duty troopers and their families to volunteer their time, talents and resources. In 1990, patrol cars were supplied with teddy bears, each sporting a red t-shirt and an OSHP Stetson. These bears provided comfort to children who unfortunately found themselves in a hospital or at the scene of an accident.

At the Seventh Annual Ohio Troopers Coalition Conference held in 1991, Teddy Trooper (or Trooper Teddy, as he was called then) made his debut.

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Teddy Trooper recently visited with 81 children in New London. The detail was one of dozens around the state each year conducted by volunteers willing to put on one of nine costumes provided by the Ohio Troopers Coalition.

CRIMINAL PATROL

Troopers seize 105 grams of heroin in Jackson County

October 13: Troopers stopped a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu, with West Virginia registration for marked lanes and failure to display violations in Jackson County at 1:46 p.m. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A review of the in-car camera was conducted and revealed the suspect attempting to hide approximately 105 grams of heroin in the patrol vehicle. The contraband has an approximate street value of \$15,750.



Patrol traffic stop yields heroin, cocaine worth \$29,000

November 5: Troopers stopped a rented 2015 Jeep Compass for an equipment violation in Guernsey County at 1:20 a.m. During interaction with the occupants, troopers observed marijuana in plain view. A probable cause search revealed a zip lock baggie containing 46 grams of cocaine and 99 grams of heroin located under the driver's seat. The contraband has a street value of \$29,000.



Troopers seized hydroponic marijuana worth \$61,000 in Jackson County

October 20: Troopers stopped a 2015 Toyota Corolla for a following too closely violation in Jackson County at 10:54 a.m. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed 14 packages containing more than 13 pounds of hydroponic marijuana, worth \$61,000.



VEHICLE THEFT AND FRAUD UNIT

Findlay VTFU

The Findlay Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) developed a partnership with the Toledo Police Department Auto Squad to combat auto theft in and around Toledo. In a recent case, Toledo police received a tip that a known bus thief was using a bus stolen from Chicago to conduct tours in Ohio and Michigan.

Findlay VTFU Investigators were familiar with the suspect from a similar complaint a few years prior. Through investigation, probable cause was developed and a warrant to place a GPS tracker on the suspect's personal vehicle was obtained by the VTFU. The following day, the suspect was tracked to the stolen bus. Investigators arrested the suspect without incident and the bus, valued at over \$150,000, was recovered.



OHIO INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Agents and Investigators work together for safer, lawful bars

As evening blankets the state of Ohio, security guards take their posts at retail establishments, banks, reception halls and apartment complexes. Security guards are an important public safety partner. There are more than 22,000 private security personnel in Ohio, regulated by the Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS) section of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Often, they are the first responders on the scene of a crime, they deter criminals from illegal activity, and they provide many patrons and employees with a peace of mind.

In the last year, PISGS and the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) have worked together on a regular basis. Because liquor permit premises are often thought of as significant pieces of the community, it is very important to ensure these establishments are operating within the laws Ohio. OIU agents have inspected liquor permit premises and illegal alcohol establishments for more than 80 years. Much of the work is done at night and on weekends when these businesses are open.

Together, PISGS and OIU have worked at least 12 cases. Some of the cases are still pending in court or administrative hearings. One case with the Columbus Police Department resulted in a location closing down prior to a nuisance abatement order being issued on the liquor permit.

In less than a year's time, there were three shootings at three Toledo-area bars. Each location had one common thread: the same individual supplied heavily armed guards with badges and tactical gear to these locations. He was not licensed to provide security. The joint investigation between OIU, PISGS and Toledo Police Department resulted in a guilty plea of attempting to engage in

private investigator/security guard services, a second-degree misdemeanor.

"(PISGS) is a great resource, a huge asset for us," said Cleveland District Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft. "We let them know of potential violations with security companies and in return, they tell us about what they see as well."



Warren VTFU

Warren VTFU investigators are assisting the Warren Salvage Facility with determining the identity of a 1957 Chevrolet Corvette. The Corvette was presented for court-ordered VIN verification. Upon further inspection of the vehicle by VTFU investigators, it was found that the secondary confidential VIN had been removed from the vehicle making it unidentifiable.

The vehicle has been seized and the National Insurance Crime Bureau is assisting with further identification. The investigation is ongoing.



CITATION OF MERIT

Sergeant Patrick Tusko was awarded the Superintendent's Citation of Merit for heroic actions in a dangerous situation.

On August 29, 2015, Sergeant Tusko responded to an injury crash on U.S. Route 6 in Williams County. At the scene, he found the crashed vehicle overturned in a creek with its occupants trapped inside.

Sergeant Tusko retrieved his rescue rope and entered the water with Paramedic Bennie Thomas and bystander Roy Kingman. Sergeant Tusko tied his rope around a rear tire and tossed the other end to bystanders on the bank to prevent the vehicle from drifting into deeper water. Then he and Mr. Thomas worked together to pry open the passenger door.

Unable to see anyone inside because of the muddy water, Sergeant Tusko went underwater and entered the passenger compartment while Mr. Thomas and Mr. Kingman tried to hold the vehicle steady. After several attempts, Sergeant Tusko removed a male victim from the vehicle and moved him to the creek bank.

He returned to the vehicle; after two more attempts, he found a second victim and removed her from the vehicle.

Sergeant Tusko and EMT Supervisor Jim Hicks continued to search the vehicle until they were certain no one else was trapped inside. Sergeant Tusko was transported to the Bryan Community Hospital, where he was treated for hypothermia and consumption of



Patrick Tusko

contaminated creek water.

Although both victims ultimately succumbed to their injuries, Sergeant Tusko's and the other responders' actions gave each victim a chance at survival, but also allowed their loved ones the opportunity to say goodbye.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Trooper Matthew D. Stoffer was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for lifesaving actions.

On September 21, 2015, Trooper Stoffer responded to a report of an erratic driver on U.S. Route 42 North in Richland County. When he intercepted the vehicle near Lake-wood Drive, the male driver informed Trooper Stoffer that his one-year-old daughter was unresponsive and they were trying to get her to the hospital.

Trooper Stoffer removed the child from her seat in the rear of the vehicle and found she was not breathing. He immediately placed her on the driver seat and started CPR. The child then began to breathe on her own, but was still unresponsive.

Mifflin Township EMS arrived and transported the child to Mansfield Med-Central Hospital. She was then flown to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, where she was reported in stable condition.



Matthew D. Stoffer

Trooper Gary L. Griffeth earned a Certificate of Recognition for lifesaving efforts.

On October 14, 2015, Trooper Griffeth initiated a traffic stop on a disabled vehicle in Summit County. While stopped behind the vehicle, he noticed a female attempting to pull someone out of the car.

Trooper Griffeth checked on the victim and was able to detect a pulse, however, the victim was not breathing and was turning blue. After requesting emergency medical services, Trooper Griffeth returned to his patrol car and retrieved his first aid kit.

While administering aid, he noticed fresh needle marks on the victim. When the Akron Fire Department and EMS arrived at the scene, he informed them that the victim had a pulse, was not breathing and appeared to be suffering from a drug overdose. The victim was transported to the hospital where he was treated and later released.



Gary L. Griffeth

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Sergeant Joshua Patrick and Troopers Christopher Roe, Eric Weinman and Joshua Greer were each awarded a Certificate of Recognition for lifesaving efforts.

On July 18, 2015, Sergeant Patrick, along with Troopers Christopher Roe, Eric Weinman, and Joshua Greer were dispatched to a vehicle that had been swept off of the road due to flash flooding in Brown County. Torrential rain had struck the area at a rate of five inches of rain in less than an hour.

Upon their arrival, they witnessed three to four feet of water rushing down a hill with enormous force. The officers positioned their patrol vehicles near the Georgetown Fire Department crew, which was already at the scene.

Sergeant Patrick, Trooper Roe, and Trooper Greer exited their patrol cars and made their way on foot against the heavy flow of water and debris to link up with the fire department and other emergency response personnel. The officers noticed that Trooper Weinman had been knocked down by the water and was almost swept away while attempting to rescue a stranded motorist.

In addition, they observed another vehicle pinned against the fire truck. Trapped inside of that vehicle were four small children and two adults. Personnel at the scene came together to form a human chain from the fire truck to the stranded vehicle and began removing the occupants from the vehicle.

Sergeant Patrick and Trooper Roe assessed the damage to the roadway. They noted that there were numerous slabs of pavement and other debris that had been carried away by the water. All told, approximately 300 feet of pavement had been washed away and/or damaged. This damage resulted in an extended road closure and detour until the roadway could be repaired and the bridge could be inspected and deemed safe for traffic.



Joshua Patrick



Christopher Roe



Eric Weinman



Joshua Greer

Troopers Nicholas Malo and Paul Shore were each awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their efforts to ensure the apprehension of a violent felon and the safety of an innocent child under extremely dangerous conditions.

On January 27, 2015, Troopers Malo and Shore were part of a seven-man U.S. Marshal Task Force charged with apprehending a violent and armed suspect in Columbus, Ohio.

Officers arrived at a residence where the suspect was reported to be staying and made contact with a female resident. The woman confirmed the suspect was upstairs and stated that her eight-year-old autistic son was also upstairs in a bedroom.

The officers removed the woman, entered the residence and announced their presence to the suspect. The suspect peered around the steps with a weapon in hand, retreated and began firing at the officers. The officers returned fire and the suspect fell to floor with only his feet in view of the officers.



Nicholas Malo



Paul Shore

Not knowing the suspect's disposition, the officers devised a plan to move up the stairs and locate the child. As a distraction device detonated near the suspect, four officers ascended the stairs. Observing no reaction from the suspect, they secured him, located the boy in a bedroom and quickly removed him from the residence.

OVER THE HILL



Congratulations to the following division members who were recognized at the Over the Hill ceremony on November 5 for their 30 years of service. They are members of the 115th Academy Class:

Tpr. Brian R. Cupp, D1
S/Lt. Kenneth M. Garloch, D2
S/Lt. James T. Sivak, D4
Tpr. Randall L. Skaggs, D4
Tpr. Thomas P. Halligan, D4
Sgt. Veroman D. Witcher, D5 / P55

Tpr. Frank W. Chismar, D5
Tpr. Joel E. Smith, D6
Sgt. Jeffrey T. Welch, D7 / P84
Tpr. Stephen W. Roe, D7 / P30
Tpr. Richard P. Wells, D7
S/Lt. Brian A. Rhodes, D8

S/Lt. Jeffrey Carman, Office of Personnel
Sgt. Hugh A. Fredendall, Office of Field Operations
Tpr. Timothy S. Errington, Office of Criminal Investigations
Tpr. Scott R. Hartge, Office of Field Operations

Teddy Trooper

— *Continued from page 13*

An identical model to his miniature predecessors, a Teddy Trooper costume can fit almost any adult, and one was provided to each of OTC's nine districts.

Now, Teddy is the mascot of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Troopers Caring, the Hug-a-Bear program and Bears Against Drugs (BAD). He's often seen at elementary schools, hospitals, fairs and theme parks and parades to teach about seatbelt

safety, the dangers of drugs, and the helpfulness of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Teddy Trooper has been an exciting visitor for kids, and since his beginning he has met and posed for pictures with other Mascots like Barney, Yogi Bear, McGruff the Crime-fighting dog, Smokey the Bear, Chuck E. Cheese, Santa Claus and the Hamburglar. Besides teaching children, some of Teddy's favorite activities are giving hugs, receiving high-fives, congratulating

retirees and swearing in Junior Troopers.

Teddy Trooper was recently sighted at the Hartville "Touch a Truck" event, where community members got up close and learned about Ohio's large public safety vehicles and equipment. Children who want to meet Teddy should keep their eyes open when out in the community, or be good citizens by contributing to a safer Ohio and supporting troopers – then, Teddy Trooper may feel inclined to pay them a visit!

Thank Yous

A sampling of messages received through social media and mail

I would like to thank the Ohio State Trooper with badge #22 who rescued my daughter from a flat tire on I-71S at mile marker 144 the morning of Friday, October 9. I think he is with the Morrow County Patrol post. Thank you #22! Blue Lives Matter!

•••

I don't know if you guys even check, but, I just want to say thank you so much to officer Hutcher from Wapakoneta State trooper. I had a flat tire and he helped me so much. Seriously. He was amazing!!

•••

Please let Trooper Wade Lewis know I'm most grateful for his help this morning on 275 at Sharonville. He was very gracious and professional, and changed my tire for me. Thank him, and thank you all, for your service!

•••

Just wanted to say thanks for all you do! We were in I-70E close to mile marker 83 about 1:30pm on Saturday 10-3. We passed a trooper on his knees in the cold driving rain changing a tire for a citizen. We shared it on FB and got a lot of 'likes'. We don't know the trooper's name, but it made us proud to see such a selfless act by this fine man! Thank you!

•••

Just wanted to say thank you for everything you do. I drive city bus at RTA you make it a lot safer for us all. Thank you all.

•••

We just want to say thank you to the two nice Ohio state troopers that was on Hannan trace road in Gallia county Ohio yesterday evening for helping us out when we were broke down and God bless you both

•••

I just wanted to send a message about what my husband and I saw today....made me PROUD to live in a state where our Police Officers help people out. We were heading to Canton Ohio on State Route 30 between Massillon and the Akron exit, seen that an officer had someone pulled over and we moved to the outside lane. As we went by we looked over and the officer was changing a tire on a ladies car....I told my husband that I wanted so bad to pull over and shake that man's hand...GREAT JOB....made me so very Proud... My father was a Police/Resource Officer in Harrison County, he passed away in 2007, and my brother is a Police/Resource Officer there today...I grew up in a family of Police Officers and have many friends that serve...just wanted to send a message of Thanks to ALL of you for what you do on a daily basis....it is APPRECIATED!!!

Birthday wishes from Twitter

Amanda Eason

Thanks for all you do to keep us safe!

Ohio State Patrol

Today we celebrate the 82nd birthday of the Ohio State Highway Patrol! Happy Birthday!

Ohio Senate GOP

Happy 82nd birthday to the

Ohio State Patrol

Today we celebrate the 82nd birthday of the Ohio State Highway Patrol! Happy Birthday!

Robert Meader

TU for keeping our roadways & citizens safe for over 8 decades! Helping people who can't help themselves.

Ohio State Patrol

Today we celebrate the 82nd birthday of the Ohio State Highway Patrol! Happy Birthday!

Auxiliary Retirement Dinner held in October



The annual Auxiliary retirement dinner was held on October 24 at the Der Dutchman restaurant in Bellview. Attending were Capt. Robin Schmutz, senior Auxiliary command staff, and Auxiliaries and their families from across the state.

Among the Auxiliaries honored were Auxiliary Colonel Dennis Hite, who retired after 22 years of service in the Warren

District; Auxiliary Staff Major James Vaughan Jr., who retired after 13 years in the Warren District; Auxiliary Major Ed Zell, who retired after 15 years of service in the Jackson District; and Auxiliary Officer Phillip Rollison, who retired after 20 years of service in the Bucyrus District. In addition, Hite, Vaughan and Zell were honored with Emeritus status in the Auxiliary, as was

Auxiliary Lt. Col. Tom Forbes, who retired the previous year.

Two other Auxiliaries who retired in 2015 but couldn't attend the dinner included Auxiliary Captain Jay Hutter, who retired after 21 years of service in the Cambridge District, and Auxiliary Major Doug Luken, who retired at 12 years in the Piqua District.

Cancer patient made honorary member of OSHP Auxiliary

Auxiliary Colonel Bryon Doty and Auxiliary Sgt. Anthony Chamberlain met with Garrett Houston, a young man battling cancer, on October 19.

They presented him with a certificate making him an honorary member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, along with a Patrol hat, shirt and challenge coin.



Warren District



A member of our Patrol family received a champion bred puppy from the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Motor Vehicle Inspector Ted Waddell's daughter, Maggie, suffers from Myasthenia Gravis, an auto-immune disease that causes weakness and rapid fatigue of any of the muscles under her voluntary control. Her wish was to travel to Nebraska to pick up a Rottweiler puppy named "Blitz" she found online, and on November 27, OSHP cruisers escorted the family out of Ohio for the trip. Nebraska State Patrol Troopers and the breeders from Giant Rotts greeted the family at the Beatrice Police Department.

Administrative Investigations Unit



Sergeant Robert Hayslip was elected the 2015 National Internal Affairs Investigator of the Year by the National Internal Affairs Investigators Association. He received the award from President Karen Riggsbee.

Bucyrus District



Trooper Brian Hann and Sergeant Tony DeChoudens conducted a school bus and traffic safety detail at Shiloh Elementary.

Batavia

Troopers ran in a 5K on October 31 hosted by the Goshen Firefighters Association, which raises funds for community outreach programs like providing smoke alarms to families. From left: Dispatcher Ron Newman, Sergeant Charles Jordan (first place in 30-39 year old males), Sergeant JJ Grillot (third place in 30-39 year old males), Trooper Alexander Pater, Lieutenant Wayne Price (third place in 40-49 year old males) and Sergeant Christina Hayes (second place in 30-39 year old females). Not pictured: Carmen Jordan, wife of Sergeant Jordan.



Hamilton

Five members of the Hamilton Post were recognized for their distinguished military service with the issuance of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Military Service Ribbon. All members were issued their ribbons by Lieutenant Clint Arnold along with a small gathering of post personnel.

From left: Trooper Curtis Bryant – U.S. Army, Trooper Michael Slack – U.S. Coast Guard, Sergeant Tom Bloomberg – U.S. Air Force, Trooper Elyse Roddy – U.S. Air National Guard, and Sergeant Brian Bost – U.S. Marine Corps.

St. Clairsville



Trooper R.J. Hise told kindergarteners about his job at Public Safety Day at the East Richland Christian Academy in St. Clairsville.

Brigette E. Charles

Major Brigette E. Charles, Office of Planning and Analysis, retired on December 15, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in April 1985 as a member of the 114th Academy Class. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. As a trooper, she has served at the Swanton Post and in the Office of Special Operations as a plainclothes investigator. In 1993, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Office of Personnel/ Training Academy. In 1995, she returned to the position of plainclothes investigator. In January 1997, she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and returned to the Office of Personnel as the commander of Administrative Investigations. In September 1998, she was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and assumed responsibility as the administrative assistant in the Office of the Superintendent under Colonel K. B. Marshall. In 2000, she was promoted to the rank of captain and served as the commander of Recruitment and Minority Affairs in the Office of Personnel. As a captain, she has also served in the Office of Strategic Services where she created the Risk Management Unit. In 2011, she served as the first female Academy Commandant. In 2013, she was promoted to the rank of major and remained in the Office of Personnel. In September 2015, she was assigned to the Office of Planning and Analysis.

Major Charles earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in business administration from Columbus State Community College and completed training at the FBI National Academy in 1996. She also earned a Bachelor of Specialized Studies in public administration from Ohio University in 2002.



Brenda S. Collins

Captain Brenda S. Collins, OSP Hub, retired on October 2, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in July 1985 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. She became a member of the 116th Academy Class in April 1987. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Portsmouth Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Wapakoneta Post and with the Lima Post Traffic and Drug Interdiction Team, as well as an instructor at the Training Academy. In 1996, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant



and served as the Patrol's spokesperson. In 1998, she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and served as commander of the Office of Recruitment. In 2000, she transferred to the Fremont Post to serve as post commander. In 2006, she was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations to serve as an inspecting officer. In 2007, she again served as the Patrol's recruitment commander before returning as an inspector in 2011 to the Office of Field Operations. In 2012, she was promoted to her most recent assignment at the OSP Hub, the Patrol's 24/7 Intelligence Unit, Watch Desk and Statewide Dispatch Management.

Captain Collins was appointed as chair of Ohio's AMBER Alert Advisory Committee in 2015. She has also served on the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union Board of Directors since 1999 and as president of the Board for the past two years.

Captain Collins earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Tiffin University in 2008. She also completed the Administrative Officer's Course at the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute in 2004.

Daniel C. Lay

Captain Daniel C. Lay, Piqua District Headquarters, retired on October 16, 2015, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1987 as a member of the 116th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Ashland Post. In 1994, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Lima Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Piqua Post to serve as commander. In 2002, he transferred to the Wapakoneta Post. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations. In 2009, he transferred to the Piqua District Headquarters to serve as the assistant district commander. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of captain and remained at Piqua District Headquarters.

Capt. Lay earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in landscaping construction and contracting from the Ohio State University in 1984. He completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2001.



Mary Cosgrove

Sergeant Mary Cosgrove, Columbus Post, retired on November 23, 2015, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in March 1984 as administrative staff assigned to the Lima Post. She became a member of the 116th Academy Class in April 1987. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Piqua Post. While at the Piqua Post, she earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement from 1988 through 1991 and 1995. She was selected as Post, District and State Trooper of the Year in 1993. She was again selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1997. In 1998, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Lima Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, she also served at the Granville, West Jefferson, and Columbus posts.

Sgt. Cosgrove completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2010.



Jeffrey T. Welch

Sergeant Jeffrey T. Welch, Marietta Post, retired on November 5, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1985 as a member of the 115th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Hamilton Post. In 1987, he transferred to the Marietta Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1991. Later that year, he transferred to the Athens Post. In 2003, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Athens Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2011, he returned to his most recent assignment at the Marietta Post.



Michalle A. "Mickey" Gilbert

Sergeant Michalle A. "Mickey" Gilbert, Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations, retired on October 7, 2015, after 26 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in May 1989 as a member of the 118th Academy Class. She earned her commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. As a trooper she served at the Defiance Post, Bucyrus District Headquarters, and Office of Investigative Services as a plainclothes investigator. In 1999, she received the Trooper Recognition Award. In 2001, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marion Post to serve as an assistant post commander. Later that year, she transferred to the Ashland Post. In 2005, she transferred to Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations to serve as an Ohio Investigator Services supervisor. In 2010, she transferred to her most recent assignment on the Crisis Negotiation Team to serve as a hostage negotiator. In 2011, she earned the Certificate of Recognition.



Jeffrey K. Hirsch

Trooper Jeffrey K. Hirsch, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on December 11, 2015, after more than 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1992 as a member of the 122nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Medina Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2000. In 2013, he transferred to Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2015, he transferred to Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Phillip C. Ralston

Trooper Phillip C. Ralston, Milan Post, retired on December 11, 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 Milan Post, where he earned a Certificate of Recognition in 1992. In 2000, he transferred to the Norwalk Post. In 2001, he returned to the Milan Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of Year in 2005. In 2012, he transferred to the Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit. Later that year, he returned to his most recent assignment at the Milan Post.



Harold “Frank” Riffe

Police Officer 2 Harold F. Riffe, Exposition Center, retired on December 12, 2015, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1991 as a Police Officer 1 assigned to the Exposition Center. In 1992, he was promoted to a Police Officer 2, and remained at the Exposition Center. In 2010, he transferred to the Patrol’s General Headquarters Post 98. In 2011, he returned to the Exposition Center.



Tonya L. Birchfield

Dispatcher Tonya L. Birchfield, Lancaster Dispatch Center, retired on November 23, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. She began her Patrol career in August 1985 as a Highway Patrol Cadet assigned to the Georgetown Post. In July 1988, she transferred to the West Jefferson Post as a Dispatcher. In 1992, she transferred to the Granville Post. In 2011, she transferred to her most recent assignment at the Lancaster Dispatch Center.



Catherine Davis

Dispatcher Catherine Davis, Portsmouth Dispatch Center, retired on September 30, 2015, after 28 years of service with the state of Ohio. She began her state career in April 1984 with the City of Portsmouth as an Administrative Assistant. In May 1990, she transferred to the Portsmouth Municipal Court as a Court Administrator. She joined the Patrol in July 2006 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Jackson Dispatch Center. In 2011, she transferred to her most recent assignment at the Portsmouth Dispatch Center.



Linda J. Paluscsak

Administrative Professional 3 Linda J. Paluscsak, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on December 11, 2015, after 33 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 1982 as a secretary with Cleveland Operations’ Investigation section. While at the Investigation’s section, she served as an Office Assistant 2. In 2005, she was promoted to an Administrative Professional 3 and remained at the Cleveland Operations. As an Administrative Professional 3 she has served at Berea District Headquarters, Warren District Headquarters and her most recent assignment at Cleveland District Headquarters. She earned the Employee Recognition Award in 1996, 1999, 2001 and 2004 while assigned at Berea District Headquarters.



Constance “Connie” Willbarger

Administrative Professional 4 Constance Willbarger, Office of Field Operations, retired on December 18, 2015, after nearly 15 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 2001 as an Administrative Professional 4 assigned to the Planning and Information Services Unit. In 2007, she transferred to the Office of Field Operations.



OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Chaplain's Comments



Children have a tremendous capacity to ask the question “Why?” Why do I have to go to bed? Why do I have to eat my carrots? Why do I have to be nice to my sister? Why do I have to go to school? Why do I have to buckle up my seat belt? Why, why, why? The questions keep coming and can be very annoying particularly when it becomes personal.

“Why doesn’t daddy or mommy do what I am being told to do?” The question “why” can become a challenge, and even a wake-up call.

The question why can grow out of a sense of self pity—justifiable or not really justifiable. Why do I have to do what I am being asked to do? Many a night as I would leave the church building I would wonder why I had to turn out the lights and secure the doors. While I was pondering that question I imagine my wife Linda was asking why I had to be so late coming home. Then, of course, we move to the greater question as to our purpose in life. Why are we here on this spinning planet called earth, living where we do and when we do? Why am I put into particular situations each day? What is my purpose?

There is an exciting and challenging account given in the Old Testament Book of Esther which helps me to answer the question regarding my purpose even on a daily basis. Esther is in captivity along with her people but because of her beauty and charm she has found favor with the King. To protect herself she keeps her identity as a Jew a secret. She has an uncle named Mordecai who has acted to save the king’s life but has also caused a zealous man in the King’s court to seek to have all the Jewish people killed. Mordecai is convinced that if Esther would approach the King that he would spare the Jewish people. Esther was reluctant because she feared the King’s wrath. The challenge of Mordecai to Esther resonates for each one of us, does it not? “Who knows but what you have been called to such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)

Whether it be a moment when a Trooper finds herself or himself in a critical situation, or a secretary is called upon to type a memo or make a phone call, each person is called to fulfill a particular aspect of the Patrol Mission. Sometimes a situation is overwhelming and we may wonder why we are involved. It can be a life or death situation calling for immediate action. How vital is the training which prepares one to react in a proper manner. There are, of course, the more routine activities which are not life-threatening but serve an important purpose. At the beginning of any day one really does not know what challenges and opportunities will present themselves before the day (or shift) is over. All one can do is to embrace whatever presents itself and accept the fact that she or he has been called for just such a time as the present moment.

To be able to do this and have a proper sense of self-worth calls for a proper attitude. We may not be able to orchestrate the events of the day but we can develop and maintain a positive attitude which helps us to make contributions as opportunities present themselves.

No challenge is too great nor is any contribution too insignificant, but when put together the day will be better and Ohio will be a safer and more pleasant place to live.

Have and maintain a positive attitude by beginning the day or shift with the question, “Lord, what do you have in mind for us—you and me—to do today to make life better for others?” Journey through the day with the awareness that you have been called for living where and when you do, blessed to be a blessing.

Be assured of the prayers of all your chaplains, Phil, Kelly, and Rev.

Richard D. Ellsworth
Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain

FLYING WHEEL

The *Flying Wheel* is published by the Ohio State Highway Patrol in the interest of the entire Patrol family.

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While You Were Sleeping

Department of Public Safety Photojournalist **Becci Meadows** rode along with Delaware Post troopers on November 5. Their busy night included OVI arrests, an OVI crash investigation and a motorist assist in a downpour.



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