ON THE COVER
Trooper Evan M. Slates is the 2015 State Trooper of the Year. 
Please see story on page 8 to see everyone recognized at the 2015 Leadership Awards.

5. 159TH ACADEMY CLASS GRADUATION
After 23 weeks of intense paramilitary training, the Patrol’s 159th Academy Class graduated on March 4, 2016, and 50 new troopers joined the sworn ranks.

6. NEW ERA OF OSHP K9S
A new K9 training program developed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol emphasizes the understanding between dog and handler, and the first ever graduate was welcomed into the force.

8. LEADERSHIP AWARDS
At a ceremony that honored many individuals for their hard work over the past year, the 2015 Ohio State Highway Patrol Leadership Awards concluded with Trooper Evan M. Slates’ selection as State Trooper of the Year.

17. CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION
Six troopers earned OSHP awards for lifesaving efforts in a variety of situations.

20. AROUND THE STATE
Traffic safety partnerships, charitable activities, speech details, special events and more—see what’s happening in your area of the state.
There isn’t one member of the Division who joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol to make a name for him or herself. Our troopers joined because they believe in the work they do. They dedicate their lives to keeping Ohio, its motorists and its highways safe around the clock. Oftentimes it’s a thankless job, and that’s okay by us. With this being said, I look forward to the Leadership Awards Ceremony every year. It is an opportunity to acknowledge and reward all of those who champion our core values every day. This includes our troopers, dispatchers, agents, motor carrier enforcement inspectors, administrative professionals, analysts, and everyone else who works to keep Ohio’s highways safe.

This year, our agency has been nothing short of exceptional in the way we’ve made differences – big and small – in the lives of ordinary citizens. Our troopers’ efforts have ranged from rescuing victims from their cars in extreme weather emergencies to simply assisting motorists with flats. However grand or mundane, our agency makes a positive difference in citizens’ lives every day.

Sometimes effects are indirect as well. The presence of our troopers serves as a deterrent for all kinds of crime from speeding to human trafficking. Additionally, every drug trafficking operation thwarted by our troopers keeps drugs off the street, money out of the hands of criminals, and criminals in prison and removed from society. Even those who will live their entire lives without ever encountering a member of our team still benefit from the job we do.

It is with great pride that I oversee the work OSHP does. I’m proud every time a trooper foils a crime, saves a life, aids a motorist, or stops an intoxicated driver. Few will ever thank our officers for the work they do, and many will scorn the troopers when they write a ticket or arrest a suspect, but that’s to be expected. We’re not here for pats on the back; we’re here to serve Ohio.

Part of what makes our agency so effective is the leadership we encourage and elicit from our staff. Leadership is no easy trait to enact, and it’s ugly at times. Sometimes leadership means handling a crash when it’s 10 degrees outside; sometimes it means taking a call from a brand new trooper who needs help with a tough decision; sometimes it means putting your own life in danger to protect the well-being of citizens and coworkers. Leadership is an elusive idea to define, but impossible to miss when you see it.

For me, that’s what this Awards Ceremony is all about. It’s about giving thanks in a sometimes thankless job. Members of OSHP often go above and beyond the call of duty day in and day out. This ceremony is the time we take a minute to make sure no one’s hard work goes unnoticed.

At that, I’d like to thank all Division employees who have inspired one another with your conduct. Attitudes are contagious, and it’s your dedication that builds on the culture of excellence that makes our team so effective. Thank you for coming in every day and providing for a safer Ohio.

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent
In honor of the sacrifice given by Trooper Charles Vogel Jr. and Patrolman Charles Cannon, the Springfield Post held a memorial ceremony on January 25. Memorial plaques were placed by two trees outside the post for the two men who lost their lives in January 1980 and 1938, respectively.
159th Academy Class Graduation

50 new troopers join sworn ranks

After 23 weeks of intense paramilitary training, the Patrol’s 159th Academy Class graduated on March 4. State Representative and Speaker for the Ohio House of Representatives Cliff Rosenberger provided the keynote address. Additional remarks were provided by Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent; Director John Born, Ohio Department of Public Safety; and Captain Arthur J. Combest, Academy commandant. The Oath of Office was issued by Judge Peter B. Abele, Fourth Appellate District, Ohio Court of Appeals.

Courses completed by the 159th class included core values, crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, detection of impaired drivers, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense and emergency vehicle operations.

Trooper Trevor Jasper of West Chester, Ohio, was selected as class speaker. He credited the support of family and Academy staff for their class’ transformation into a cohesive unit.

“The skills and knowledge we have obtained here are only a foundation, but they’re a firm foundation we can build on for the rest of our years,” Tpr. Jasper said.

Four graduates received special honors for top performance at the Training Academy:
- Overall performance – Trooper Ryan N. Bailey, Springfield Post
- Top performance in academics and driving – Trooper Trevor Jasper, Batavia Post
- Top performance in firearms – Trooper Derek L. Malone, Ironton Post
- Top performance in physical fitness – Trooper Markus A. Bryant, Dayton Post

Each of the graduates reported to their posts on March 7. 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 24 of the Patrol’s 58 posts.

OSHP Units, Mobile Field Force Deploy to Cleveland

The division sent a contingent of officers to Cleveland on December 28, 2015, in anticipation of civil unrest after the public release of the grand jury decision on Tamir Rice. Units from SRT Mobile Field Force, Criminal Patrol, Ohio Investigative Unit and Office of Investigative Services staged at Cleveland DHQ Headquarters. Protests and demonstrations occurred throughout the city, but the field force units did not need to deploy.

A new K9 training program developed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) emphasizes the understanding between dog and handler, and the first-ever graduate was welcomed into the force last quarter. Fox, a German shepherd from the Czech Republic, was the first dog ever to be chosen, purchased and trained entirely by OSHP members. He joins 32 other K9s currently on the force in providing an invaluable service to Ohioans.

Previously, OSHP canines were purchased by an outside contractor, who trained the dogs alone for the first half of the program – five weeks – before bringing the handler into the picture. Now, OSHP handlers are involved through the entire 10-week training program. Handlers gain a better understanding of canine psychology and behavioral traits because they witness the dog’s ability to follow commands before, during and after the training.

Canines begin with basic obedience training – commands like sit, walk and stay – before proceeding to advanced techniques such as narcotics detection, tracking, article searches, area searches and criminal apprehension. Fox is proficient in all these disciplines.

OSHP members were certified as trainers through the Kansas Highway Patrol after a 10-week program. One of the three trainers, Trooper Christian Perrin, explained the program’s start-to-finish format leads everyone involved to feel invested in the K9’s success.

“It’s a lot more hands on,” he said. “You really get to know your dog from the get-go.”

Fox’s graduation on December 22, 2015, marked the first time OSHP held a formal ceremony for a Patrol K9. His handler, Trooper Jeremy Wheeland, is stationed in Piqua.

OSHP began training troopers in criminal interdiction in 1985. In 1992, the division purchased its first 15 canines. The program has since expanded to 33 canines/trooper handlers posted and patrolling in every district.

OSHP deploys three types of canines: single purpose (narcotics detection), dual purpose (narcotics/tracking) and explosive detection.

OSHP held a graduation ceremony for K9 Fox on December 22. From left: Major Mike Black, Fox’s handler Trooper Jeremy Wheeland, and Colonel Paul Pride.

Fox, a German shepherd from the Czech Republic, was the first dog ever to be chosen, purchased and trained entirely by OSHP members.
Trooper Evan M. Slates of the Bowling Green Post was honored with the distinction of State Trooper of the Year. Colonel Paul Pride presented him with the award at the Leadership Award Ceremony, ending the afternoon celebration that recognized dozens of state and district award winners for contributions to the division.

Trooper Slates has lead the Bowling Green Post and District One in OVI arrests on an annual basis. In 2015, he led the entire state with 217 OVI arrests. During the summer holiday reporting period, Trooper Slates consistently arrested double-digit OVI offenders.

His commitment goes beyond numbers, as he never hesitates to assist his fellow troopers with crashes, traffic stops or other situations that arise. His commanders describe Trooper Slates as an extremely team-oriented individual who always puts his co-workers first. His self-discipline and experience from the Marine Corps are evident in his commitment to achieving the Division’s mission.

Trooper Slates has also demonstrated superb commitment to handling crashes with attention to detail and self-initiative. He handled more than 42 crashes in 2015, and his crash investigations rarely need corrections. He routinely “looks beyond the license plate” on traffic stops and strives to contribute to a safer Ohio.

Outside his career, he is active in his church and volunteers his time as an usher to help serve communion and collect offerings. He is a youth leader at his church for AWANA, which is a mentoring program for the younger church members.

Trooper Slates joined the Patrol in October 2010 as a member of the 150th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and is assigned to the Bowling Green Post. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award in 2013 and 2014. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2013, 2014, and 2015. He was selected as District Trooper of the Year in 2013 and 2015.
Two Receive Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award
Lt. Kinn and Rev. Ellsworth Honored for Service to Others

Lieutenant Christopher J. Kinn earned the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award for his years of service to the public of Haiti.

He volunteers countless hours of his own time to help Haitian children have basic life necessities, such as education, food and water. Specifically, he has labored in areas of extremely high temperature and humidity to rebuild schools and donated his own money and personal items. Lieutenant Kinn's commanders say he also demonstrates this type of giving attitude in his work.

He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Findlay Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2005.

In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Findlay Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2010, he transferred to the Findlay District Headquarters. In 2013, he was promoted the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Crash Reconstruction Unit to serve as commander.

Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth received the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award for his 25 years of service as State Chaplain for the division.

Since his appointment by Colonel Thomas W. Rice in 1991, he has spent countless hours attending to the personal needs of our members.

In addition to his work with OSHP, Reverend Ellsworth served as Chaplain for the Division of Police and Fire in the city of Columbus, Pastor for the Central College Presbyterian Church in Westerville, Ohio, and Chaplain at Ground Zero, New York, through the International Council of Police Chaplains in 2001.

He has also been actively involved in a mission outreach to Honduras, having made 12 trips with construction and medical teams, and served in the Army in both the European and Pacific theaters.

Young is Dispatcher of the Year

Dispatcher Aimee M. Young of the Dayton Dispatch Center was selected from the nine District Dispatchers of the Year. She demonstrates in-depth knowledge of her role, projects confidence and goes the extra mile for her fellow employees.

Young joined the Patrol in July 2004 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Dayton Dispatch Center, where she has been assigned throughout her career. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2011 and 2015.
Dunn Wins Blue Max

Trooper Andrew T. Dunn, Georgetown Post, won the Blue Max Award for recovering the most stolen vehicles in 2015. He recovered 11 stolen vehicles valued at $18,562 and apprehended 13 suspects.

Trooper Dunn joined the Patrol as a member of the 131st Academy Class. He earned his commission in February 2012, and is assigned to the Georgetown Post. In 2015, he was selected as District Trooper of Year, and earned the Criminal Patrol and Ace awards.

Sharp Wins Recognition

Trooper James E. Sharp, Polygraph Unit, was selected for the State Trooper Recognition Award, which honors troopers assigned to specialty positions. He is described as a leader with a positive attitude, excellent communication skills and a calm demeanor under all conditions.

He joined the Patrol as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July 1999 and was assigned to Marysville, and he also has served as a pilot. He transferred to the Polygraph Unit in 2009.

Garber Earns Rice Leadership Award

Sergeant David S. Garber, Canton Post, was honored with the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership. The award is sponsored by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees’ Association and is in honor of former Patrol Superintendent Thomas W. Rice.

Sergeant Garber helped lead the Canton Post midnight shift to high levels of success, including increased OVI arrests, enforcement stops and safety belt enforcement. His commanders say his operational experience and caring personality have earned him the respect of his shift, motivating them as a team and setting a positive example. He is also supportive of each individual’s needs, opening himself up to communication while on shift and off.

Sergeant Garber joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year, and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award in 2002 and 2015. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement in 2002.

In 2005, he transferred to the Canton Post. In 2009, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marietta Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2010, he transferred to the Mansfield Post. In 2011, he returned to his most recent assignment at the Canton Post.

TROOPER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Findlay District .......... Tpr. Christopher L. Ellison
Bucyrus District ............ Tpr. Matthew A. Ruth
Cleveland District ........... Tpr. Jeffrey A. Kaess
Warren District............. Tpr. Michael W. Gurlea
Piqua District ............... Tpr. Jason A. Barhorst
Columbus District........... Tpr. John D. Chaney
Cambridge District .......... Tpr. Trenas M. Weaver
Wilmington District........ Tpr. Jennifer J. Soderquist
Jackson District ............ Tpr. Tytus A. Gilliland
GHQ ................................ Tpr. James E. Sharp

RICE AWARD NOMINEES

Findlay District ............ Sgt. Jonathon A. Gray
Bucyrus District ............ Sgt. Angel R. Burgos
Cleveland District ........... Sgt. David S. Garber
Warren District............. Sgt. Jeremy A. Kindler
Piqua District ............... Sgt. Jerod L. Keyes
Columbus District........... Sgt. Kevin D. Dillard
Cambridge District .......... Sgt. Maurice E. Waddell
Wilmington District....... Sgt. Christina J.M. Hayes
Jackson District ............ Sgt. James D. Lott
Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Thomas E. Huff, of the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, was selected as Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year.

MCEI Huff began his career with the Patrol in August 2008 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Wapakoneta Post. As a Dispatcher, he has also served at the Van Wert and Piqua Dispatch Centers. In 2011, he was selected as Piqua Post and District Dispatcher of the Year.

In 2012, he was promoted to Stationary Load Limit Inspector and transferred to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2014, he was promoted to Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector and remained with the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

## DISTRICT MCEI AWARD WINNERS

- **Findlay District** ............. MCEI Thomas E. Huff
- **Bucyrus District** ............. MCEI Matthew R. Leite
- **Cleveland District** .......... MCEI Carl M. Hilling
- **Warren District** ............. MCEI John M. Brayer
- **Piqua District** ............... MCEI John T. Rammel
- **Columbus District** .......... MCEI Ryan M. Pack
- **Cambridge District** .......... Tpr. Michael E. Stevens
- **Wilmington District** .......... Tpr. John W. Asbrock
- **Jackson District** ............. MCEI Anthony R. Lester

Electronic Technician 3 William J. Hummel, Warren District Headquarters, was selected as Electronic Technician of the Year.

ET Hummel joined the Patrol in January 1997 as an Electronic Technician 2 assigned to the Warren District Headquarters. In 2011, he was promoted to an Electronic Technician 3 and remained at Warren District Headquarters. He was selected as Electronic Technician of the Year in 2012.

## DISTRICT ET AWARD WINNERS

- **Findlay District** ............. ET2 Matthew D. Metzger
- **Bucyrus District** ............. ET3 Frederick R. Lust
- **Cleveland District** .......... ET2 James D. Rudibaugh
- **Warren District** ............. ET3 William J. Hummel
- **Piqua District** ............... ET2 Brian W. Oldham
- **Columbus District** .......... ET2 Christopher L. Stroop
- **Cambridge District** .......... ET2 James K. Howell
- **Wilmington District** .......... ET3 Jeffrey L. Williams
- **Jackson District** ............. ET3 Robert W. Graves
- **GHQ** .................................. ET2 James T. Hunt

Police Officer 2 William H. Baron, Ohio Expo Center, was selected as Police Officer of the Year. Officer Baron joined the Patrol in August 2011 and was assigned to the Ohio State House. In 2012, he transferred to the Ohio Expo Center.

He is a three-time winner of the Criminal Patrol Award for felony case investigations.

## BARON IS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

- **Findlay District** ............. MCEI Thomas E. Huff
- **Bucyrus District** ............. MCEI Matthew R. Leite
- **Cleveland District** .......... MCEI Carl M. Hilling
- **Warren District** ............. MCEI John M. Brayer
- **Piqua District** ............... MCEI John T. Rammel
- **Columbus District** .......... MCEI Ryan M. Pack
- **Cambridge District** .......... Tpr. Michael E. Stevens
- **Wilmington District** .......... Tpr. John W. Asbrock
- **Jackson District** ............. MCEI Anthony R. Lester

**HUFF WINS MCEI OF THE YEAR**

**HUMMEL IS ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR**

**BARON IS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**
Mason: Employee Recognition

Public Safety Intelligence Analyst Katelyn M. Mason, Intelligence Unit, received the award presented annually to recognize excellence by a civilian employee. As an Intelligence Analyst, Mason has consistently shown a desire to perform, as well as the ability and intelligence to handle in-depth investigations. Mason began her state career in December 2013 as a Public Safety Intelligence Analyst and has been assigned to the Intelligence Unit throughout her career.

Distinguished Retiree Award

Retired Sergeant John Maddox is this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Retiree award for the work he and his wife, Margie, have achieved in drug and alcohol counseling. They founded a faith-based drug and alcohol addiction program that has helped hundreds. They also visit inmates who are interested in getting help and manage a temporary home for women in need of assistance from troubles such as domestic violence and addiction.

This award was graciously sponsored by Mrs. Veronica Godlaski on behalf of her husband, Trooper James R. Gross, who was killed in the line of duty on January 19, 1996.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Findlay District ..................AP1 Beth Stewart Bullinger
Bucyrus District .................MRW2 Brian J. Bender
Cleveland District ................. AP1 Elizabeth A. Hyer
Warren District ..................... AP1 Valerie J. Maffitt
Piqua District ..................... AP1 Dawn M. Heppard
Columbus District ............... AP1 Michelle L. Himes
Cambridge District ............... AP1 Lorie J. Wozniak
Wilmington District .......... MRW2 Richard P. Spence
Jackson District ...................IS2 Lisa L. Leach
Strategic Services ............... PSIA Katelyn M. Mason
Field Operations ............... AP1 Jessica L. Heiselman
Criminal Invest ....................PA1 Melinda S. Harrison

Family Recognition Award

Samantha Jo Rhodes was awarded the Family Recognition Award for 2015 for her dedicated volunteer work. Her long list of volunteer work includes HIV prevention projects, environmental work with AmeriCorps, Habitat for Humanity, 28 months in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps, and tutoring women from Africa, Central America, South America and Mexico.

DISTRICT DISTINGUISHED RETIREE

Findlay District ..................R/Sgt. Stephen P. Babich
Bucyrus District ....................R/Sgt. John W. Maddox
Cleveland District ..................R/Sgt. Dale L. LaRue
Warren District .....................R/Capt. James J. Holt
Piqua District ......................R/DX Supervisor Becky Lowry
Columbus District ..................R/Lt. Dale R. Cline
Cambridge District .............. R/Tpr. Troyon E. Walker
Wilmington District .......... R/Sgt. Donald W. Combs
Jackson District ....................R/Sgt. Harold E. Cooper

PATROL FAMILY RECOGNITION WINNERS

Findlay District ...................Hope A. Murua
Bucyrus District ....................Melissa J. Kelley
Cleveland District .................Jean Paris
Warren District .....................Lynn Robinson
Piqua District ..................... Vicki Payer
Columbus District ................Lisa Herron
Cambridge District ............ Michelle Glennon
Wilmington District ...........Samantha Jo Rhodes
Jackson District ..................Amber Dennis

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Mone is Ohio Investigative Unit Agent of the Year

Agent Daniel J. Mone, Cleveland District Office, was selected as State Agent of the Year for the Ohio Investigative Unit. As an Agent, he is positive and eager to take on new challenges and assignments, and has been at the forefront of building interagency relationships. His commanders describe him as humble, respectful and always well-prepared.

Agent Mone joined the Ohio Investigative Unit in 2013 and is assigned to the Cleveland District Office.

Statewide Auxiliary Award Winners
Honored at Patrol Ceremony

William J. Duffy Award of Excellence

Auxiliary Lieutenant Colonel William J. Sanford joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary in 2006 and is assigned to the Granville Post. He has also served as an auxiliary sergeant and auxiliary captain. Over the last three years, he has volunteered an average of 400 hours per year, including riding on patrol, working at sobriety checkpoints and assisting at special details. This award requires a minimum of 300 volunteer hours per year over three consecutive years.

In addition to volunteering with the Patrol, Auxiliary Lieutenant Colonel Sanford works as a marketing director.

Auxiliary of the Year

Auxiliary Staff Lieutenant David F. Pillion joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary in 1993 and was assigned to the Delaware Post. In 2015, Auxiliary Staff Lieutenant Pillion volunteered 1,060 hours of time in assisting with Patrol duties. This time included riding on patrol, assisting at the Ohio State Fair, Ohio State University football game details, sobriety checkpoints, Shield details and working at the Academy store.

Auxiliary Staff Lieutenant Pillion retired from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

Disitrcit Auxiliary Officers of the Year

Bucyrus .......................... Aux. Maj. Lois J. Lust
Cleveland ....................... Aux. Sgt. Jeffrey Schleappi
Piqua ............................ Aux. S/Maj. Jason Kidder

Columbus ........................ Aux. S/Lt. David F. Pillion
Cambridge ...................... Aux. Ofc. George Hails
Jackson ........................ Aux. Ofc. Jared Norris
## Troopers & Dispatchers of the Year

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<td>Nicholas R. Boes</td>
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* District Winners  **State Winners
### 2015 CRIMINAL PATROL AWARDS

#### 12 Points

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#### 5 Points

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Flying Wheel 15
2015 AUTO LARCENY ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

Ace
Tpr. Jeremy C. Albert
Tpr. Bruce M. Allen
Tpr. James W. Bryner
Tpr. Thomas G. Cassity
Tpr. Carlos M. Castellanos
Tpr. Andrew T. Dunn
Tpr. Timothy L. Ehrenborg
Tpr. Jimmy A. Estle
Tpr. Byron D. Fox
Sgt. David S. Garber
Tpr. Adam T. Hauenstein
Tpr. Bradley A. Hess
Tpr. Michael F. Hounshell
Tpr. Steven R. Ilo
Tpr. Matthew R. Keener
Sgt. Shawn D. Cook
Tpr. Kristopher J. Conaway
Tpr. Kristi J. Comstock
Tpr. Carlos M. Castellanos
Tpr. Thomas G. Cassity
Tpr. James W. Bryner
Tpr. Jeremy C. Albert

Three Bolts
Tpr. Robert S. Chapman
Tpr. Jovito Cirilo
Tpr. Kristi J. Comstock
Tpr. Samuel L. Davis
Sgt. David S. Francway
Tpr. Thomas J. Gransky
Sgt. Robert J. Grubb
Tpr. John D. Hromiak
Tpr. John L. Lamm
Tpr. Ryan M. May

Award of Excellence
Tpr. William R. Bowers
Tpr. Timothy S. Dobbins
Tpr. Jeffrey A. Kaess
Tpr. Jack M. Renfro
Tpr. Larry A. Skaggs

2015 CRIMINAL PATROL MISDEMEANOR AWARDS

The top winner of the 2015 Criminal Patrol Misdemeanor Award was Trooper Juan R. Santiago, Elyria Post, who generated 141 Criminal Patrol misdemeanor drug arrests and 29 Criminal Patrol felony arrests.

The Criminal Patrol Misdemeanor Award was created in January of 2015 to recognize officers for non-felony level misdemeanor drug arrests. The award recognizes officers who generate 24 or more misdemeanor drug arrests for the calendar year. In addition, the officer that generates the most misdemeanor drug arrests is recognized at the 4th quarter criminal patrol/ACE award ceremony.

Tpr. Colin B. Acciavatti
Tpr. Damion D. Assink
Tpr. Matthew T. Atwood
Tpr. Jason A. Barhorst
Tpr. Daniel J. Battistone
Tpr. Scott W. Bayless
Tpr. Cody W. Beatty
Tpr. Brandon T. Betzel
Tpr. Christopher H. Beyer
Tpr. Joshua Beynon
Sgt. Bradley R. Bishop
Tpr. Nicholas R. Boes
Tpr. Jeffrey M. Boris
Tpr. Robert C. Bradley
Tpr. David M. Brown
Tpr. Colt W. Browne
Tpr. Joshua B. Bumgardner
Tpr. Alex A. Burnett
Tpr. Thomas G. Cassity
Tpr. Carlos M. Castellanos
Tpr. Kristi J. Comstock
Tpr. Kristopher J. Conaway
Sgt. Shawn D. Cook
Tpr. Matthew R. Cook
Tpr. Evan A. Cox
Tpr. Joshua C. Craft
Tpr. Ryan A. Davenport
Tpr. Thomas E. Davis
Tpr. Nathan E. Dennis
Tpr. Timothy S. Dobkins
Tpr. Kyle E. Doehr
Tpr. Darrell M. Dowler
Tpr. Andrew T. Dunn
Tpr. Steven M. Dunn
Tpr. Daniel J. Edelbrock
Tpr. Timothy L. Ehrenborg
Tpr. Chester L. Engle
Tpr. Byron D. Fox
Sgt. David S. Garber
Tpr. Matthew Gardner
Sgt. Matthew N. Geer
Tpr. Erik A. Golias
Sgt. Nickolas B. Goodnite
Tpr. Thomas J. Gransky
Tpr. Adam J. Hartford
Tpr. Jared L. Haslar
Tpr. Adam T. Hauenstein
Tpr. Samuel K. Hendricks
Tpr. Bradley Hess
Tpr. Matthew D. Himes
Sgt. Timothy J. Hoffman
Tpr. Eric D. Holbrook
Tpr. Bryan A. Holden
Tpr. Charles E. Hoskin
Tpr. Michael F. Hounshell
Tpr. William W. Howard
Tpr. Jessie D. Johnson
Tpr. Timothy J. Kay
Tpr. Matthew R. Keener
Tpr. Griffin P. Kelley
Tpr. James P. King
Tpr. Seth T. Kico
Tpr. Nicholas J. Konrad
Tpr. Anthony W. Hosey
Tpr. Shawn E. Kline
Tpr. Dustin Payne
Sgt. Maurice E. Waddell
Tpr. Jordan L. Monnin
Tpr. Matthew L. Mossor
Sgt. Christian J. Niemeyer
Tpr. Xavia Shurn
Tpr. Heath G. Strawser
Sgt. Timothy J. Timberlake
Tpr. James A. Walton

Tpr. Drew W. Kuehne
Tpr. Jacob A. Kunka
Tpr. John L. Lamm
Tpr. Garrett R. Lawson
Tpr. Brett M. Lee
Tpr. Gary M. Lewis
Tpr. Justin P. Lister
Tpr. Evan D. Mace
Tpr. Jeff F. Madden
Tpr. Ann M. Malone
Tpr. Gregory A. Mamula
Tpr. Walter J. Martins
Tpr. Anthony D. Martin
Tpr. Ryan M. May
Sgt. Todd D. Mcdonald
Tpr. Shalin F. Milburn
Tpr. Brandon M. Miller
Tpr. Chadwick W. Miller
Tpr. Shaun P. Mollohan
Tpr. Daniel W. Morrison
Tpr. Jacob C. Morrison
Tpr. Shane M. Morrow
Sgt. Christian J. Niemeyer
Tpr. Cristian Perrin
Tpr. Thurman D. Peterson
Tpr. Ryan W. Pickett
Tpr. Ryan J. Pischel
Tpr. Melanie L. Provenzano
Tpr. Tyler F. Ray
Tpr. Patrick J. Reagan
Tpr. Matthew C. Rifci
Tpr. Elyse Roddy
Tpr. Stephen W. Roe
Tpr. Christopher T. Roe
Tpr. Justin J. Ross
Tpr. Michael J. Ross
Tpr. Michael D. Rucker
Tpr. Matthew A. Ruth
Tpr. Juan R. Santiago
Tpr. Ruskia K. Schack
Tpr. Matthew J. Schauf
Tpr. Chad M. Schell
Tpr. Anthony J. Scherley
Tpr. Xavia Shurn
Tpr. Evan M. Slates
Tpr. Justin N. Slusser
Tpr. Keith G. Smith
Tpr. James K. Speicher
Sgt. Timothy J. Timberlake
Tpr. Ryan S. Tysinger
Tpr. Drew A. Untied
Tpr. Stephen B. Vanderford
Tpr. Robert V. Vandyke
Tpr. Taylor H. Vogelmeier
Tpr. Casimir A. Vonsacken
Tpr. Benjamin J. Wallace
Tpr. James A. Walton
Tpr. Christopher A. Ward
Tpr. Patrick M. White
Tpr. Michael R. Wilson
Tpr. Cody M. Woodard
Tpr. Michael T. Ziehr
On December 4, 2015, Trooper John E. Moore stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in Lancaster. The driver stated she was rushing home to get medication for her male passenger, who appeared to be having difficulty maintaining his seated position. Trooper Moore instructed the driver to continue to their residence. Shortly after their arrival, the passenger collapsed. Trooper Moore radioed dispatch for an ambulance and rendered aid until the Lancaster Fire Department arrived at the scene.

On October 25, 2015, Trooper Michael D. Rucker was on S.R. 315 in Columbus when he came upon a vehicle on fire in thick brush. He exited his patrol car and retrieved his fire extinguisher, but was unable to reduce the flames enough to see inside the vehicle. He eventually gained entry and found the driver hanging outside the driver's side window. Columbus Police Officer Amy Detweiler arrived at the scene, and working together, the officers pulled the driver from the vehicle. While doing so, the man's clothing caught fire, but the officers were quickly able to extinguish the flames.

On September 9, 2015, Trooper Ryan May was on U.S. 36 in Delaware when he saw a small child running along the bridge over the Olentangy River. Trooper May immediately stopped and tried to get the child's attention, but the boy ran. Trooper May quickly blocked traffic with his cruiser. As the boy darted onto U.S. 36, Trooper May grabbed him before he reached the lanes of travel. With help from the Delaware Police Department, it was determined the child, who was nonverbal and diagnosed with autism, had climbed out of a window at his residence nearly a mile away while his parents slept. The child's family was tremendously appreciative for Trooper May's efforts.

On September 13, 2015, Trooper Vernon Pickering was flagged down by an Elyria resident who said a man was having a seizure in his front yard. Trooper Pickering notified the Sandusky Dispatch Center of his location and called for a squad. When Trooper Corey Resendez arrived on scene, the troopers determined the victim was in need of immediate medical attention. Trooper Pickering gathered items from his first aid kit while Trooper Resendez began chest compressions on the victim. The victim was transported to the hospital where he was treated and released. The victim's father later expressed his gratitude for Troopers Resendez and Pickering's lifesaving actions.
VEHICLE THEFT AND FRAUD UNIT

The Cleveland and Warren VTFU is working with BMV Investigators and the National Insurance Crime Bureau on a case involving the theft of several high-end vehicles from southern states that are being “cloned” and then fraudulently titled in Ohio. Some of these vehicles are believed to be in the Cleveland area. VTFU located and recovered one of the vehicles so far with the assistance of Post 18 Metro Units. This vehicle is a 2015 Audi A8L, valued at more than $90,000 when stolen off of a dealer’s new car lot. This is a joint investigation that is active and ongoing.

CRIMINAL PATROL

Troopers discover hidden compartment

January 20, 2016: Troopers stopped a 2005 Jeep Cherokee for following too closely and registration violations on the Ohio Turnpike, near milepost 133, at 4:20 p.m. in Lorain County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. During a probable cause search, after-market modifications were found in the rear cargo area floorboard, containing 40 pounds of high grade marijuana, worth $160,000.

Troopers seize 123 pounds of marijuana in Madison County traffic stop

January 13, 2016: Troopers stopped a 2014 Subaru Station Wagon for a following too closely violation at 9:26 a.m. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 123 pounds of marijuana, worth approximately $615,000.

OHIO INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Know Liquor Laws before Prom and Graduation

The Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) is reminding parents this spring to review Ohio’s liquor laws and understand how permitting underage drinking can impact their and their child’s lives forever.

This message is particularly important with prom and graduation around the corner. It’s a rite of passage for high school students everywhere in the U.S., including in Ohio.

Often, as the students are preparing what they’re going to wear and where they’re getting pictures taken, there’s a side conversation taking place—who’s having the party afterwards?

An informational letter to parents explaining the laws and penalties is available on the OIU web page. Also, OIU agents will be talking with students through the Sober Truth program. The program stresses the dangers and consequences of underage drinking, covering areas that range from the laws and penalties for breaking the law, to real-life stories from the agents who present the program.

“We want this to be a memorable time for everyone,” said OIU Agent-in-Charge Michelle Thourot. “So, do the right thing. Do not furnish alcohol to your children’s friends.

Do not host a party and allow minors to consume alcohol. If you know of a party taking place or one that is planned, report it to the police, sheriff or OIU. For students, prom is about having fun and being with friends — and it can be done without alcohol,” AIC Thourot said.

For information on the Sober Truth Program contact (614) 644-2415.
Thank Yous

A sampling of messages received or through social media and mail

From Facebook:
The Medina Patrol Post (using the Safer Ohio app) came out tonight and helped my elderly parents fix a flat tire in the dark...Thank YOU! My mom and dad are super grateful for the “young man who fixed our flat in 10 minutes and wouldn’t take a tip.”

I want to say thank you to Tpr. J. King, District 6, for his courtesy and encouragement. I am a recovering addict and although I was pulled over for something else, he took time to congratulate me on how long I’ve been clean, how well I’m doing, and to keep up the good work. It feels so nice to have encouragement from law enforcement and to be searched with nothing to worry about. Thank you so much for everything, you keep up the good work as well!

A HUGE thank you to Trooper Whittacker (Akron/Canton) for checking on me as I was on side of the highway with a flat tire. He let me stay warm in his patrol car and even helped the AAA guy change the tire. Super sweet guy. Thank you SO much Trooper Whittacker!

I would like to sincerely thank the OSP trooper from Post 23 for calling for a tow truck tonight when my daughter slid into a ditch on Coonpath Road. She had her young son in the car with her. Nobody was hurt, but she called me to tell me that the trooper was very nice and concerned to get someone there to help her as soon as possible. I wish I knew the trooper’s name, but he was an angel. Thank you all for all you do to protect and serve our community. Stay safe, and mystery trooper, thank you for looking out for my daughter and grandson.

At 6 p.m. on March 1, 2016, one of your state troopers on state Route 161 eastbound between New Albany and Highway 310 was helping a motorist change a tire on the side of the highway in the rain. As a military veteran who knows how much it sucks to be on duty when the weather is bad, I just wanted to thank you and remind you that some of us appreciate all you do for us.

Trooper Harrington from the Portage County post came to the rescue today when my family and I had a blow out on 76! What an outstanding officer; he was extremely helpful and made my family feel safe as I changed the tire on a busy Saturday afternoon. Thank you Trooper Harrington!

Got a flat tire on my way home from work at 2 a.m. Called #677 and they were there within minutes for assistance! Thanks guys!

From Twitter:
Retirees


Retired Sergeant Fred Raby, his wife Gloria and son Brad were visited by Retired Colonel Richard Collins, Reverend Richard Ellsworth and Retired Lt. Colonel Rob Hartsell in March. Fred has been in the Eisenhower Rehab Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for 25 years after a patrol car crash in 1990 left him with a traumatic brain injury. He retired as a result, after 26 years with the Patrol. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times and received the O.W. Merrell Award for rescuing two kidnapping victims in 1980.

Retired Sergeant James L. Cooper and his wife, Margaret, recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Retired Sergeant James L. Cooper, 99, and his wife, Margaret, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on February 21, 2016. They were married one week after his discharge from the U.S. Marines following the end of WWII. Colonel Paul Pride attended the Cooper family’s celebration in Grove City and presented Sergeant Cooper with two Patrol coins and several photos from his days on the Patrol, including his 31st Class graduation portrait.
Trooper Marty Ferguson and several Delaware police officers attended a book signing for author John Holt’s new book, *Danny’s World*. The book follows a boy named Danny who overcomes the stigma of being disabled. The story was inspired by Holt’s grandson, Toby, who has special needs.

Delaware Captain B. Gene Smith, Lieutenant David R. Brown and Trooper Patrick R. O’Neil presented Chelsie Juarez an honorary trooper commission. On December 10, 2015, the OSHP officers were honored at the Columbus Area MADD Banquet. Each officer received the MADD “Award of Excellence” for making a significant impact in their respective communities to stop impaired driving.

From left: Trooper Justin Hurlbert, Granville; Trooper Mike Waters, Mt. Gilead; Trooper Michael Rucker, West Jefferson; Sergeant Jermaine Thaxton, Granville; Trooper Jason Jeffries, Columbus Metro; Trooper Eric Holbrook, Circleville; Trooper Ishmael Dabo, Columbus Metro.

Lima

The Lima Post offered a commission for a day to Chelsie Juarez, a 23-year-old battling cancer who loves the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She entered Hospice care recently due to an inoperable brain tumor. Chelsie also received a Stetson and a diecast OSHP cruiser. Her mother praised the troopers for their kind treatment of her daughter.

Delaware

Trooper Marty Ferguson and several Delaware police officers attended a book signing for author John Holt’s new book, *Danny’s World*. The book follows a boy named Danny who overcomes the stigma of being disabled. The story was inspired by Holt’s grandson, Toby, who has special needs.
Sandusky

Troopers John McGlashan (left) and Tom Dray (far right) participated in the “Polar Plunge” on January 30, 2016, and helped raise more than $25,000 for the Special Olympics Ohio. Their team, “Copsicles” raised more than $7,000.

Holiday Charity

Above: The Van Wert Post, working with the local Salvation Army and Wal-Mart, adopted two local families for Christmas.

Right: Batavia Post personnel, Lieutenant Wayne Price (top), Sergeant Christina Hayes (middle) and Trooper Sara Mitchell (bottom) attended a Shop with a Cop event hosted by the Miami Township Police Department in Clermont County.
SuAnn Cook
Columbus District Office Agent-in-Charge SuAnn Cook retired on September 1, 2015 after 21 years with the Ohio Investigative Unit. She began her career as an agent on February 7, 1994. She was promoted to assistant agent-in-charge in January 2000 and to agent-in-charge in March 2001. Throughout her career, she worked in the Central, Columbus, Athens and what was once the Dayton offices.

AIC Cook worked with many coalitions and committees, including The Ohio State University’s Student Wellness Center. Prior to working with OIU, Cook was a police officer and a dispatcher with the Granville Police Department. She graduated from the Central Ohio Technical College.

Donald T. Britton
Sergeant Donald T. Britton, St. Clairsville Post, retired on January 8, 2016, after 26 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 Delaware Post. He earned a Certificate of Recognition in 1990. In 1991, he transferred to the Steubenville Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1992, 1993 and 1995 and District Trooper of the Year in 1993 and 1995. In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Cambridge Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 1999, he returned to the Steubenville Post. Several months later, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the St. Clairsville Post, where he earned the prestigious Superintendent’s Citation of Merit Award in 2000.

Sgt. Britton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Wheeling Jesuit University in 1981 and another Bachelor of Science degree in education from Ohio University in 1987.

David L. Durr
Sergeant David L. Durr, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired on January 5, 2016, after 35 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1980 as a member of the 109th Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year and was assigned to Granville, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1986, 1991 and 1997. He received the Humanitarian Award in 1992. In 1999, he transferred to the Office of Special Operations. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Executive Protection Unit. In 2011, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Office of Criminal Investigations.

Brooke A. Adkins
Trooper Brooke A. Adkins, West Jefferson Post, entered disability retirement on February 21, 2016, after 18 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 1998 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the West Jefferson Post. She became a member of the 134th Academy Class in June 1999. She earned her commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Piqua Post. In 2002, she transferred to her most recent assignment at the West Jefferson Post.

Frank W. Chismar
Trooper Frank W. Chismar, Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on December 31, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1985 as a member of the 115th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the former Bellefontaine Post. As a trooper, he has served at Piqua District Headquarters, Marysville and Wapakoneta posts, and Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit.
Ronald A. Kisner
Trooper Ronald A. Kisner, Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on January 29, 2016, after nearly 35 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1981 as a member of the 110th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Norwalk Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of Year in 1989 and 1992. He was selected as District Trooper of the Year 1989. In 1993, he transferred to the Milan Post. In 1997, he transferred to his most recent assignment at Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Travis J. Ross
Trooper Travis J. Ross, Chillicothe Post, entered disability retirement on February 21, 2016, after 8 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post. In 2010, he transferred to the Jackson Post. In 2012, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Chillicothe Post.

Shawn M. Simms
Trooper Shawn M. Simms, Cincinnati Post, entered disability retirement December 7, 2015, after 18 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1997 as a member of the 130th Academy Class. He earned his commission in May of that year and was assigned to the Batavia Post. In 2001, he transferred to the Wilmington District Criminal Patrol. In 2004, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. In 2005, he transferred to the Piqua District Criminal Patrol. In 2010, he returned to the Wilmington District Criminal Patrol. In 2014, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Cincinnati Post.

Jonathan E. Thomas
Trooper Jonathan E. Thomas, Capital Operations at the Statehouse, retired on January 4, 2016, after nearly 31 years of state service. He began his state career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as a Park Ranger in March 1985. 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 Cambridge. In 1997, he transferred to the Granville Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1999. In 2014, he transferred to his most recent assignment at Capital Operations at the Statehouse.

Mark G. Wells
Trooper Mark G. Wells, Wilmington District Criminal Investigations, entered disability retirement on December 27, 2015, after 15 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post. In 2009, he transferred to his most recent assignment in the Wilmington District Criminal Investigations.

David Garcia
Toledo Agent David Garcia retired on February 29, 2015 after 26 years of service with the Ohio Investigative Unit. Agent Garcia began with what was then called the Ohio Department of Liquor Control in November 1990. He was assigned to the Toledo District Office. Agent Garcia was temporarily assigned as the agent-in-charge of the Columbus District office for 18 months and also to the Special Squad. Agent Garcia attended Terra State College and received an Associate of Applied Science degree in 1989. He served previously as an officer with Kelley’s Island Police Department. Agent Garcia was the Latino Police Officer of the Year in 2007 for by the city of Toledo. He was also named Toledo District Agent of Year in 2013.
E. Coleen Foss
Dispatcher E. Coleen Foss, Mansfield Dispatch Center, retired on March 1, 2016, after nearly 18 years with the Patrol. She began her Patrol career in June 1998 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Ashland Post. In 2006, she was selected as Post and District Dispatcher of the year. In 2007, she transferred to the Mansfield Dispatch Center.
Dispatcher Foss earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Ashland University in 1990.

Phillip W. Linville
Motor Vehicle Inspector Phillip W. Linville, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on January 29, 2016, after 18 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 1997 as a Maintenance Repair Worker 2 assigned to the Lebanon Post. In 1998, he was promoted to Motor Vehicle Inspector and transferred to the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Rockne Amicon
Motor Fleet Coordinator Supervisor Rockne Amicon, Support Services, retired on January 22, 2016, after eight years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 2007 as a program administrator with Fleet Management. He also served in Logistic Services and Facility Management. In 2010, he was promoted to a motor fleet coordinator supervisor.

Dawn R. Fail
Software Development Specialist 2 Dawn R. Fail, retired on January 29, 2016, after 30 years of service with the State of Ohio. She began her state career in December 1984 with the Ohio Student Loan Commission. She earned a series of promotions there and later at the Ohio Department of Human Services before joining the Patrol in 2000 as a software development specialist assigned to LEADS.
Fail earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer science from Columbus State Community College in 1994.

Sergeant Jeffrey B. Dallas
Sergeant Jeffrey B. Dallas passed away on February 9, 2016, after a brave battle with cancer.
Sergeant Dallas was known for his giant smile, trustworthiness and concern for the people around him. He loved reading and running, and he had a gift for lifting peoples' spirits with his positive approach to life. He was smart, kind and generous.
Sergeant Dallas was a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol for more than 22 years. He was stationed at the Granville Post in Licking County after a promotion to sergeant in 2012.

He graduated with the 125th Academy Class and was assigned to the Dayton Post. He also worked in Granville, Springfield and Capitol Operations during his career.
Sergeant Dallas grew up as an “Army Brat.” He began a career with the Army when he was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1981. He served as an officer for eight years, spent time in the Army Reserves until 2004 and earned the rank of major. Sergeant Dallas also earned an MBA from Wright State University in 2003.
Sergeant Dallas is survived by his wife, Karen; daughters, Jasmine Barth (Jacob) and Mariah Ferry (Nick); mother, Marjorie; “mom”, Shirley Ellis; brothers, John and Jason (Cheryl); sisters, Joy Eshelman (Mark) and Jeanne Ayler; “sister” and co-caretaker, Donna Ellis; furry children, Jettie and Kee Wee; his brothers and sisters at the USMA at West Point; and his brothers and sisters at the Ohio State Highway Patrol.
As I write this message, an opportunity which I consider to be a great privilege, the month of May with its memorial services is rapidly approaching. These services and ceremonies give us an opportunity to reflect upon our heritage and recommit to the mission of the moment in order to create a positive and solid foundation for those who follow. Winston Churchill once declared: “The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.”

In the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament, there is the account of the invasion of the land of Canaan by the 12 tribes of Israel. Before crossing the Jordan River it had been agreed that the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh could have the territory already occupied on the east side of the Jordan. However, since the other tribes had helped these two and a half tribes obtain their territory, it only seemed fair for the men Reuben, Gad and Manasseh to go across the river and assist with the occupation of the land by the other nine and a half tribes.

This was done. When the land was secured, the men from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh were thanked and told to go back to their families on the other side of the Jordan River. Before crossing back to their allotted territory, these men stopped and built an altar of great size. Such action soon brought down upon these men the judgment and condemnation of the other tribes who saw this as an altar to the Lord built without authorization or proper location.

They were at the brink of war. Then cooler heads prevailed as the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manesseh—it is much easier and fun to verbally recite these names than to write them—explained that the stone altar was not for worship; it was to be a reminder of what had taken place in the past and a commitment to building on that foundation.

Our memorial ceremonies provide the incentive to pause and remember the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before us. May no one be forgotten. But remembrance without recommitment has no real significance.

We pause and look back to the beginning of the State Highway Patrol and are inspired by the courage and commitment of those early Harley riders. We remember those who today, like Retired Sergeant Fred Raby, are paying the price of limited physical capability because of service-related injuries, and we are inspired to live up to the call to always put service above self. Remembrance always calls for recommitment on the part of each one of us in the Patrol Family—whether on the road, in the office or in the home.

May we accept the challenge of building upon the past in order to assure a great future. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. May there be no weak links in the Ohio State Highway Patrol of today.

We move forward then, pausing to reflect upon and giving thanks for those who have gone before us and committing to leaving a positive legacy for those who will serve in the future, doing all we can in the present moment to make Ohio a safer and better place to live. This is our calling.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain
OSHP Leadership Awards