

# FLYING

Vol. 55 No. 3



# WHEEL

July - September 2017





#### 4. I-90 DEDICATION

On July 10, a section of Interstate 90 was dedicated to Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Kenny Velez and Cleveland Police Officer David J. Fahey, Jr.

#### 6. ATHENS DEDICATION

The Athens Patrol Post was officially dedicated to retired Colonel John Born on September 18.

#### 9. 162<sup>ND</sup> GRADUATION

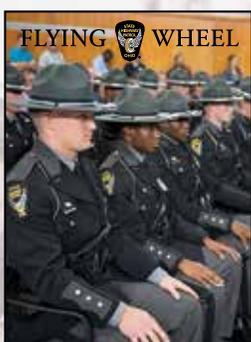
On September 29, the largest academy class to graduate from the Ohio State Highway Patrol took the oath of office.

#### 12. RETIREE COOKOUT

The 2017 Retiree Cookout took place on June 23 at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. Retirees gathered to share stories, laughs and fellowship.

#### 22. AROUND THE STATE

Traffic safety partnerships, charitable activities, speech details, special events, retiree gatherings and more – see what's happening in your area of the state.



#### ON THE COVER

162nd Graduation – Please see story on page 9.



# OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

## *Colonel's Letter*



Dedication. The word dedication has variations of the same meaning. Dedication is a devotion of a task or something that is thought of as important. Or, in some cases a ceremonial event.

Over the last few months, the Patrol family has witnessed the dedication of Interstate 90 in honor of our fallen brother, Trooper Kenny Velez. Just a few weeks ago, we also witnessed the dedication of the Athens Post to retired Colonel John Born.

The dedication along Interstate 90 memorializes the lives of Trooper Velez, as well as Cleveland Officer David J. Fahey, Jr. The marker signifies how Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey dedicated their lives to their service, their families and to the people they served. It reminds Ohioans and visitors to our great state that two remarkable men died while doing noble work. The markers are a continuous dedication to Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey, for their families, friends and all of us.

While we remember the devotion of Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey, we also paused to celebrate the achievements of retired Colonel Born. In doing so, we reflect on the importance of opportunities offered to us to make ourselves better, capitalizing on our strengths.

Knowing ourselves, our strengths and having a vision of something better is the foundation for success. Retired Colonel Born seized each opportunity presented to him. His career is a testament to the opportunity within the Patrol. His initiatives and foresight will have positive lasting impacts on the Patrol for years to come. He made visions a reality and our Division and our state is better because of his service.

The dedication I see each day from Patrol personnel across the state is impressive. This has been a successful year. Fatalities are down, while drug seizures, seatbelt and OVI arrests are up.

As we near the end of the year, I want to remind you that as a division, we cannot be successful without your hard work, ideas, foresight and most of all your dedication. Thank you for all you do to contribute to a Safer Ohio.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Paul A. Pride". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colonel Paul A. Pride  
Superintendent



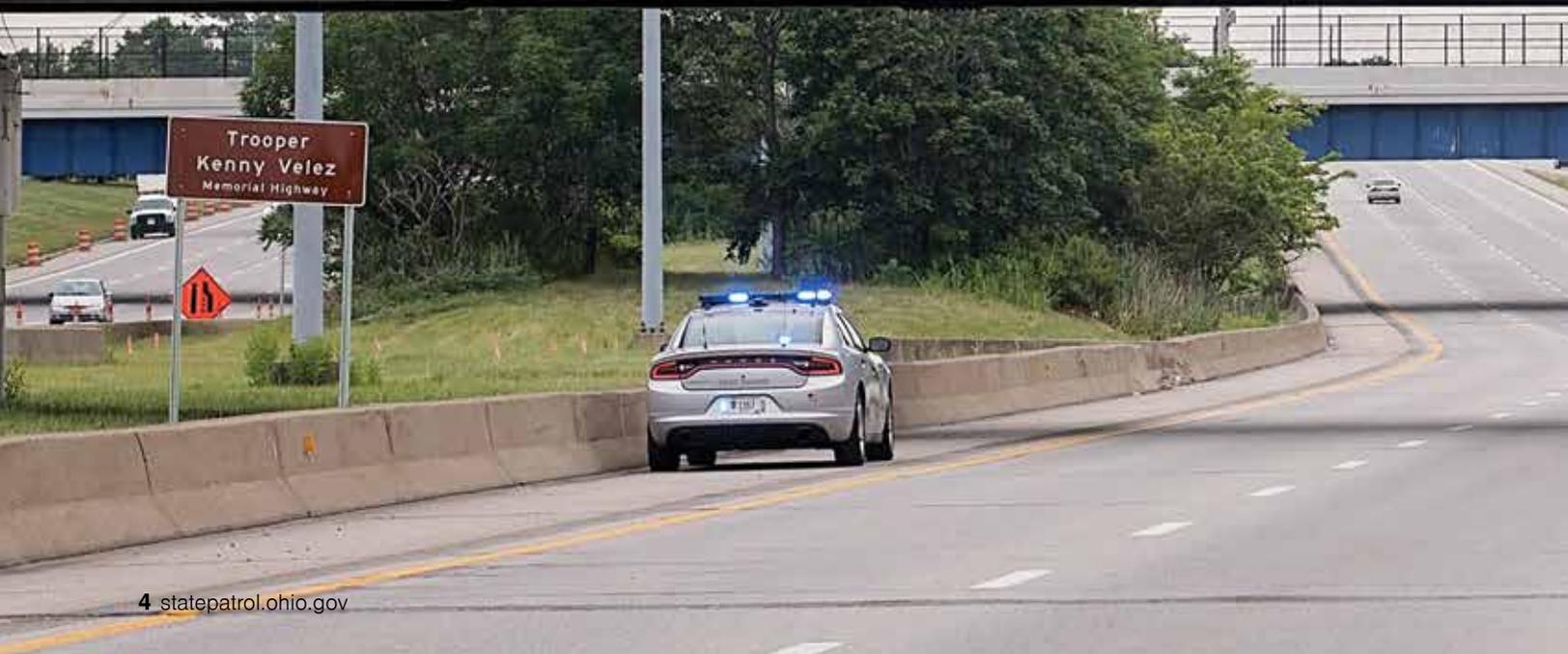
# Interstate 90 Dedication

*By Julie Hinds*

On July 10, a section of Interstate 90 was dedicated to Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Kenny Velez and Cleveland Police Officer David J. Fahey, Jr. Both Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey were killed months apart along the same stretch of Interstate 90, near the Cleveland and Lakewood border.

Patrol and Cleveland Division of Police officials joined the Velez and Fahey families in a parking lot in Lakewood for the dedication. As those closest to Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey unveiled the signs, Ohio Department of Transportation officials uncovered the markers nearby on the interstate.

The dedication was made possible through legislation sponsored by state representatives Thomas Patton and Daniel Ramos. During the event, Rep. Patton explained he hopes as families pass the two signs, the children will ask their parents who were Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey. He said he hopes the parents tell their children that Trooper Velez and Officer Fahey were remarkable men who gave their lives to protect others and they were heroes. Rep. Ramos also called Trooper Velez a hero and said it was an honor to sponsor the legislation, forever memorializing him on the roads he protected every day.



# 5.11K Run & 1 Mile Move Over Walk

As a way to give back to the community for their support, the children of Trooper Kenny Velez organized a 5.11K race and 1 Mile Move Over Walk. The 5.11K distance honors Trooper Velez's unit number, which was 511.

The event was held in Lorain on August 12. Katie Kay, wife of Cleveland Metro Post Trooper Timothy J. Kay,

finished first overall with a time of 18 minutes and 7 seconds.

Proceeds from the race went to the Kenny V. Memorial Scholarship, which is organized by Trooper Velez's children and the TKV Committee. A golf outing and dinner were also planned for September 15.





# Athens Post Dedication to

*By Julie Hinds*

Taking advantage of opportunities was the theme of the day, as nearly 200 guests gathered as the Athens Patrol Post was officially dedicated to retired Colonel John Born. The dedication took place on September 18 at the Athens Post, just off State Route 50.

“We don’t always see opportunities,” said retired Colonel Born while reflecting about his assignment to the Athens Post after graduation from the Patrol’s Academy. Adding that the opportunities afforded to him throughout his Patrol career are how he got to this point. Throughout his remarks, he reflected on the importance of family and everyone who supported him along the way.

Colonel Paul Pride, Superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, explained how opportunities, along with character, molded retired Colonel Born and the Patrol to what it is today.

“He is a man of principal, integrity and purpose,” said Colonel Paul Pride, superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. “He is a man, who made a vision a reality. Current and future members of the Patrol will always remember the contributions John Born made to our division and our state.”

Retired Colonel Born’s career began at the Athens Post in September 1987, after graduating from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy as a member of the 117th Academy Class. As a trooper and through each promotion and step along the way, retired Colonel Born has been dedicated to the betterment and the safety of the Patrol, as well as the state of Ohio. He was appointed colonel in January 2011.

As colonel, he reprioritized criminal patrol, elevating it to the same mission level as highway safety. In three years, the Patrol interdicted more than \$147 million in drugs



# Retired Colonel John Born

and contraband. He streamlined operations by merging homeland security, intelligence and communication through the creation of the Hub. The Hub is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year by Patrol commanders, intelligence analysts and communications staff.

Retired Colonel Born also merged the Ohio Investigative Unit with the Patrol's Office of Criminal Investigations. This move made Ohio a national leader in trace-back investigations of alcohol violations, which contributed to alcohol-related fatalities. The Traffic Safety Office was also merged under Patrol oversight to better coordinate federally-funded traffic safety efforts.

Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives Clifford A. Rosenberger and Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof, each made brief comments before presenting retired Colonel Born and the Athens Post with Senate and House proclamations.

"I have had a great honor to get to know you and to be able to have the honor to call you a friend," said Rosenberger.

In 2013, he retired from the Patrol after 26 years. Governor John Kasich appointed retired Colonel Born to be Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, where he continued his mission to make this a Safer Ohio.

Retired Colonel Born is the 17th superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The Athens Post dedication is the 17th to be named after a Patrol Superintendent. The dedications are considered a way for the Patrol to express gratitude and remembrance to remarkable careers of service.

"By dedicating this post today, we make our private feelings public," said Col. Pride. "We express our gratitude for his leadership and our admiration for his unwavering devotion to duty."

## Criminal Patrol Celebrates 25 Years

On July 20, 2017, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Criminal Patrol Unit celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Patrol's Training Academy. The celebration included speeches, visual presentations and a cookout.

Training for criminal interdiction began in 1985. Colonel Thomas W. Rice created the Traffic and Drug Interdiction Team (TDIT) in 1992. TDIT, which is now referred to as Criminal Patrol have been tasked with looking for individuals using Ohio's roadways for all forms of criminal activity.

Throughout the 25 years, the Unit has played an important role in curbing criminal activities in Ohio and our nation. The Unit is a nationally recognized leader in interdicting criminal activity and regularly assists local, state and federal agencies in joint operations.

**Colonel Paul A. Pride** accepts a plaque from Resident Agent-in-Charge James Goodwin of the Cleveland DEA Office recognizing the 25th anniversary of the OSHP Criminal Patrol Unit.



## CALEA Recognition

On Saturday, July 29, the Ohio State Highway Patrol was presented with the Accreditation with Excellence and the Meritorious Agencies awards during the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Conference held in Providence, R.I.

In order to be considered for the Excellence Award the Patrol had to meet the following criteria:

- Must have a minimum of two previous consecutive CALEA Accreditation awards.
- Must not have conditions or noncompliance issues resulting from the current or last assessment.
- Current assessment must have been conducted under the CALEA Gold Standard Assessment model.
- At the time of the current assessment, the agency must be in compliance with 90 percent of all applicable other-than-mandatory standards.
- Current Assessment Report must have limited file maintenance and not more than two applied discretion issues.
- Must not be operating under any active Federal Consent Decree or Memorandum of Understanding, or state-level complementary action.
- Must not currently be affected



**From left:** Newport News, Va., Chief Richard Myers, Chairman of the CALEA commission, OSHP Program Administrator 2 Caroline J. Jarka, Major Marla K. Gaskill, and Wyoming, Mich., City Manager Curtis Holt, CALEA commission.

by issues that detract from the overall tenets or goals of CALEA Accreditation.

- Must receive a unanimous recommendation of support from the assigned CALEA Review Committee.

The CALEA Accreditation with Excellence Award attaches to the Patrol's accreditation award for a period of four years.

The Meritorious Agencies Award was presented to the Patrol for having been accredited for 15 or

more continuous years. The Patrol received an enhanced Certificate of Meritorious Accreditation, displaying a blue "Meritorious" ribbon and an inscription proclaiming their 15 or more years of accredited status.

CALEA was originally developed to address what was seen as a need to enhance law enforcement as a profession and to improve law enforcement service delivery. It is an internationally recognized organization responsible for creating standards for best practices in law enforcement.

# Another History-making Class Graduates

For the second time this year, the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy graduated its largest class. On September 29, the 162 Academy Class graduated 87 members, two more than the 161 Academy Class in March.

The class took the oath of office in front of family, friends and Ohio dignitaries. The keynote address was provided by Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted. Remarks were also provided by Director John Born, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol Superintendent, 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.

The intense 26-week training included crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, detection of impaired drivers, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense and emergency vehicle operations.

Trooper Adam W. Anderson, Westfield Center, was

selected class speaker. He thanked the Academy and cadet family members for being supportive during their training.

The following graduates received special honors for top performance at the Training Academy:

- Overall performance – Trooper Jeremy L. Border, Caldwell
- Top performance in academics – Trooper Adam W. Anderson, Westfield Center
- Top performance in driving – Trooper Jeremy L. Border, Caldwell
- Top performance in firearms – Trooper Stephen R. Rabold, West Union
- Top performance in physical fitness – Trooper Jeremy B. Jones, Georgetown

The graduates reported to their posts on Sunday, October 1. Their first 60 working days will be a field training period under the guidance of a veteran officer. The graduates were assigned to 40 of the 58 Patrol posts.

## Largest Graduating Academy Classes

**162nd**  
87 graduates

**161st**  
85 graduates

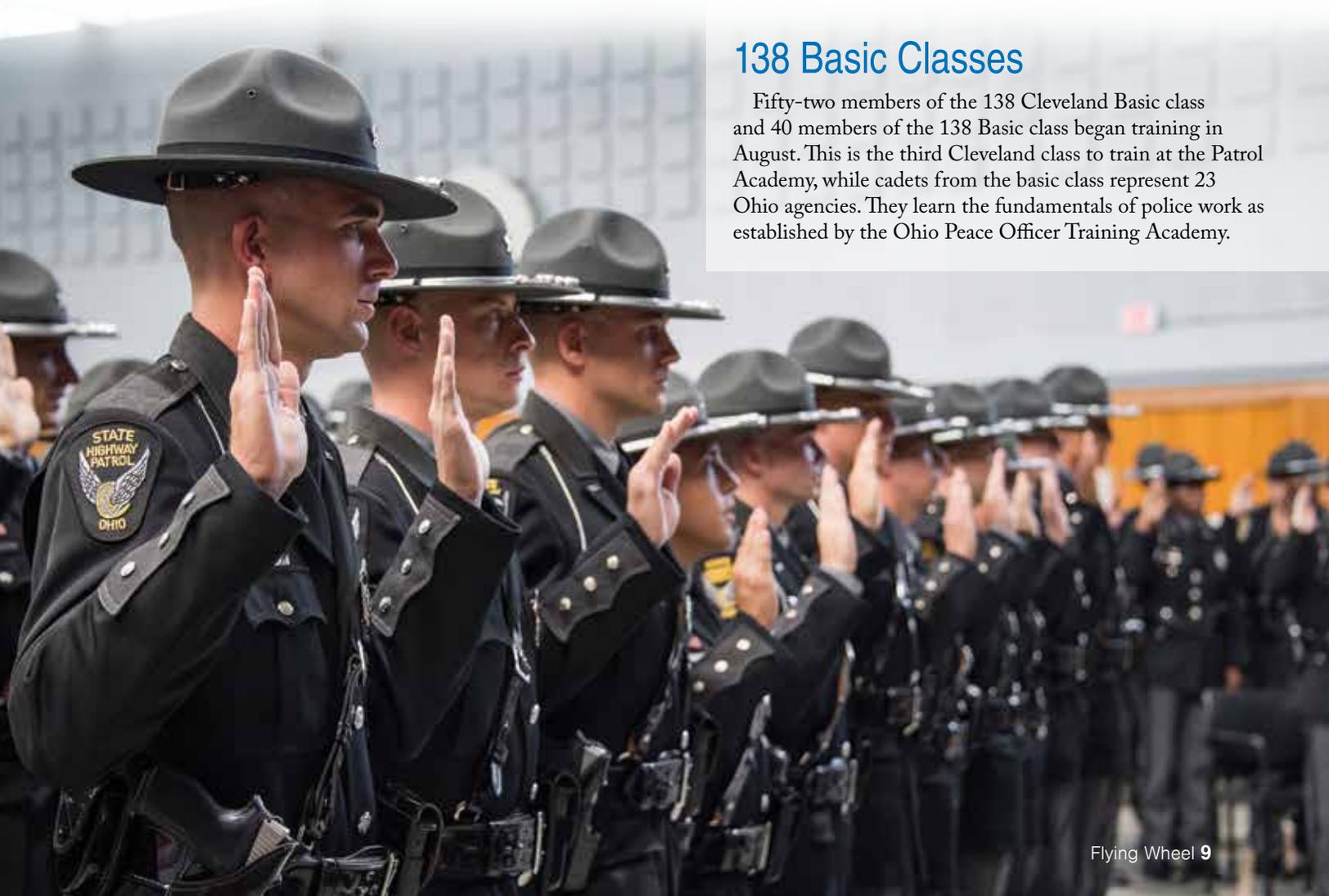
**153rd**  
81 graduates

**112th**  
87 graduates

**1st & 100th**  
75 graduates

## 138 Basic Classes

Fifty-two members of the 138 Cleveland Basic class and 40 members of the 138 Basic class began training in August. This is the third Cleveland class to train at the Patrol Academy, while cadets from the basic class represent 23 Ohio agencies. They learn the fundamentals of police work as established by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.



## Human Trafficking

### Intelligence analyst honored after seven people indicted for human trafficking

Public Safety Intelligence Manager Alyssa Newell was recognized earlier this summer for her role in assisting the Lima Police Department bring down a human trafficking ring. She was provided a plaque in appreciation of her relentless work and dedication.

In December 2015, the Lima Police Department contacted the Patrol's Intel Unit for assistance with a human trafficking investigation. The detective was hoping to gather as much background information on two suspects as possible. During their investigation, a 14-year-old girl from Toledo was found. The young girl was a runaway living in Lima. The teenager, who spent a month or two with the traffickers, gave Lima Police an abundance of information regarding who they were and where they were located. The young girl was transported

to and from hotels in Fort Wayne, Ind., for prostitution.

Analyst Newell provided analytical support for the evidence gathered during various stages of the investigation. She also provided suspect profile information on the two suspects, including social media and phone number information. Her search uncovered additional possible suspects and victims being trafficked by the same individuals. Analyst Newell searched their phone numbers through ads on the classified advertising website called backpage, in an attempt to link the ads to the suspects.

Throughout the investigation, Newell provided link charts or a visual representation of how the suspects and vehicles in the case were connected. In addition, she reviewed text messages between the suspects and the victims,



as well as assisted the detective with reviewing hours of surveillance videos from one of the apartments in question.

Five suspects have already been sentenced to a total of 66 years in federal prison. The two main suspects were found guilty on all charges related to human trafficking and were scheduled to be sentenced in late summer.

## Ohio Investigative Unit

### Agents detect human trafficking

Over the summer each Ohio Investigative Unit agent received updated training on human trafficking and provided with information on how to connect potential victims with service providers. Because agents are undercover, they can go from one liquor permit establishment to another and look for signs of human trafficking, while blending in.

Sex and labor trafficking often take place where there is a liquor permit and for that reason, agents have formed regional human trafficking interdiction working groups. The working groups are meant to connect law enforcement agencies and victims' advocate organizations, provide outreach programs for advocates, as well as information on how to connect with those we identify as potential victims. Agents will also offer up their services for the departments who may need additional resources.

Restaurants, hotels, bars, truck stops

and adult entertainment clubs all across Ohio are places where human trafficking takes place. Due to the constant foot and vehicle traffic and hours of operation of many of our liquor permit premises it is well known that these traffickers use these opportunities to cover their crimes.

Awareness and education are not only key to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, but the prevention as well. In addition to the working groups, OIU offers an education component to the approximately 24,000 liquor permit premises in Ohio. During Alcohol Server Knowledge courses, agents provide information to liquor permit holders and their staffs on how to identify possible human trafficking victims and indicators. OIU's Sober Truth course, which is presented to junior and senior high students, has also been updated to prevent Ohio's teenagers and young adults from becoming victims.

Want daily updates on the Patrol & OIU?

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Ohio State Highway Patrol  
Ohio Investigative Unit



@OSHP  
@Ohio\_OIU



@OhioDPS

# OSHP Hosts SPPADS Conference

The Ohio State Highway Patrol hosted representatives of law enforcement agencies from the United States and Canada at the 2017 State and Provincial Police Academy Directors (SPPADS) conference in June at the Blackwell

Inn and Conference Center in Columbus. Attendees had the opportunity to train together and learn from each other to continue to strive for excellence.



Lt. Colonel Kevin D. Teaford addresses the State and Provincial Police Academy Directors (SPPADS) conference.

# Westfield Insurance Donates Bait Cars

In August, the Vehicle Theft Fraud Unit received the donation of two bait vehicles from Westfield Insurance. The vehicles will be used in various communities experiencing vehicle theft to catch car thieves – in the act. Troopers collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to place the

bait vehicles in high theft areas. The vehicles are monitored until a car thief takes the bait. Trooper James W. Bryner, West Jefferson Post and the 2016 Blue Max award winner, accepted the keys to both vehicles from Steve Jarrett, Westfield Insurance, Leader-Special Investigation Unit.



# 2017 Retiree Cookout

The 2017 Retiree Cookout took place on June 23 at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. The annual event was sponsored by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, Ohio Troopers Coalition and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union.

**Colonel Paul Pride** was joined by retired colonels and Reverend Richard Ellsworth during the annual Retiree Cookout. Back row, from left: retired Colonel Thomas Rice, retired Colonel and Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety John Born, retired Colonel Richard Collins and retired Colonel Warren Davies. Front row, from left: retired Colonel Kenneth Morckel, Colonel Paul Pride, retired Colonel Paul McClellan and Rev. Richard Ellsworth.



# A Reunion after 52 Years

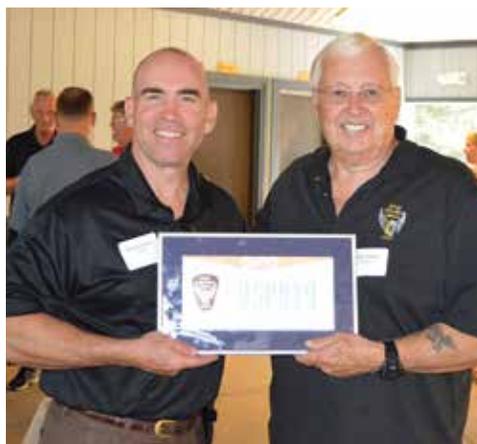
In 1965, Patrolman Clifford Russell ran a vehicle check of a car connected to a missing person case, with foul play suspected. Upon approach of the car, Patrolman Russell observed a lone occupant that fired point blank striking Patrolman Russell, having to immediately return fire killing his attacker. Moments later a Gallia County man, Mr. Russell Fellure, was delivering a load of milk to Marietta when he recognized a call for help after being flagged down by Patrolman Russell. Mr. Fellure stopped to provide assistance and administered aid to Patrolman Russell. If Mr. Fellure, had not answered the call for help that night, the outcome may not have been the same. Colonel Pride felt it was deserving of a more proper thank you, given the ability to do more than a thank you in the mail back in 1965 was non-existent. The Retiree Cookout was the first time since that night more than 52 years ago, that Fellure and Patrolman Russel met.



**Russell Fellure** (in red) was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation during the Retiree Cookout. Also in Photo, retired Sergeant Clifford Russell.

# Sunbird

In August, retirees and their spouses gathered in Sandusky for the annual North Coast Sunbird reunion. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. Guests were served barbeque chicken, assorted sides, desserts and beverages.





# Trooper Delivers Baby Along Roadside

**Photo credit:** Michaela Sumner, reporter, and The Chillicothe Gazette

On August 4, Trooper Tyler L. Boetcher, Chillicothe Post, was handling a crash investigation when a mini-van stopped just north of the scene. The driver got out of the van and approached Trooper Boetcher. She explained that she needed an ambulance, because her passenger, Carla Phillips, was in labor and would not make it to the hospital.

Trooper Boetcher called for an ambulance and pulled the van further off the side of the road. He then attempted to calm Phillips. She was in pain and let Trooper Boetcher know, the baby was on its way.

EMT Cassandra Redman and Kelsey Daniels, R.N., came over from the crash scene to assist Trooper Boetcher. Trooper Bobby D. Brown also arrived on scene and at 6:47 p.m., along the side of the road, Phillips gave birth to Skarlett G. Taylor. Phillips and baby Skarlett were transported to Adena Regional Medical Center minutes later. While at the hospital, Phillips explained that her baby was not due until September 17. Baby Skarlett was provided with her first bear, a Teddy Trooper Hug-a-Bear.

## Honorary Trooper Tours Each Post

One little Michigan boy is touching the hearts of troopers, dispatchers, motor vehicle inspectors and administrative staff across Ohio. Eleven-year-old Brett Holbrook and his family traveled the state this summer to visit every Patrol Post in Ohio. The journey began when Holbrook's father was pulled over by a trooper.

The young Holbrook thought the trooper was dressed nicely and very cordial. That impressed him and that is also when his admiration for the Ohio State Highway Patrol began. Since his father was pulled over, he began acting like a trooper and started "pulling over" his neighbors and giving them tickets for going too fast. His mom even made him a trooper's uniform. Trying to suffice her son's love for the law enforcement, his mother took him to the Michigan State Police for a visit. However, it was during their visit to the OSHP Bowling Green Post that Holbrook and the troopers began a friendship. Holbrook was presented a Stetson, a ticket book and commissioned as an Honorary Trooper. From there the family visited the Toledo and Dayton posts.

After the Dayton Post, Holbrook told his mom he wanted to visit every post, and shortly thereafter his mission began. Throughout his travels he received t-shirts, license plates, a unit number "36", he conducted "traffic stops," talked on the radio, explored Patrol vehicles and honored Patrol's fallen troopers. Holbrook was also awarded an Honorary Trooper of the Year Award by the 2016 State Trooper of the Year, Trooper Ray Santiago. Holbrook's mother stated during their travels that Brett was having the time of his life!

*Look for more on Honorary Trooper Holbrook in the next issue.*





## K9 Graduation

Ten canines graduated July 20 from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. The canines and their handlers spent 10 weeks training and will become instrumental in continuing to remove drugs from Ohio's roadways.

The new graduates are: Trooper Jason N. Archer and K9 Bo – Findlay District; Trooper Joshua Beynon and K9 Xaro – Columbus Criminal Patrol; Trooper Eric J. Devers and K9 Iso – Piqua District; Trooper Timothy S. Dobbins and

K9 Rexo – Warren Criminal Patrol; Officer Jessie Hackney and K9 Enzo – Whitehall Police Department; Officer Michael Harlow and K9 Brody – Ohio University Police Department; Trooper Matthew M. Manly and K9 Boy – Bucyrus District; Trooper Elyse Roddy and K9 Wolfe – Wilmington Criminal Patrol; Trooper Matthew A. Ruth and K9 Katie – Bucyrus Criminal Patrol; and Officer Mark Still and K9 Gina – Gallipolis Police Department.

## 2017 Torch Run

The 2017 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics took place June 15 through 23 throughout the state. The torch relay started in several different cities in Ohio, before making its way to Columbus.

Weather cancelled the final leg of the relay, as well as the opening ceremonies.

**Clockwise: Trooper Keith A. Roe**, Cambridge Post with a Guernsey County Special Olympics Athlete.

**Trooper Cody K. Quattlebaum**, Marietta Post, with a Washington County Special Olympics Athlete and Marietta Chief of Police Rodney Hupp.

**Lieutenant William M. Boyd**, Zanesville Post and Lieutenant James E. Tracy, Cambridge District, participate in the Torch Run in New Concord, Ohio.



## Conventional or Organic? Should We Be Picky About Our Produce?

By Brittany Cardwell, RDN, LD

Nutrition recommendations can be confusing and conflicting! Nonetheless, I would dare to say that fruits and vegetables are universally endorsed as being health-promoting. Although it's debated what counts as a serving, specific serving recommendations, and detailed health benefits of individual produce items, it's known that fruits and vegetables supply the body with vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytochemicals that aid in disease prevention.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults consume at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. Let's acknowledge that it's easier to eat more produce in the summer and fall months where fresh items are more readily available, however, keep in mind that in terms of nutrient and flavor retention, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables are accessible, inexpensive options year-round.

What can get confusing about fruits and vegetables is the choice between conventional and organic. In conventionally grown foods, chemical pesticides and herbicides can be used to manage pests and weeds that cause damage to the crop. Chemical fertilizers may also be used to promote plant growth. On the contrary, produce is labeled "organic" upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) verifying that it has been grown in soil that has had no prohibited chemicals applied to it for three years prior to harvest. USDA Organic labeled produce cannot be grown using irradiation, sewage sludge, synthetic fertilizers, prohibited pesticides, or genetically modified organisms.

The health risks of pesticide exposure has most commonly been studied in those who are occupationally exposed (such as farm workers). Long-term pesticide exposure in this population has been linked to increased risk of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease; prostate, ovarian, and other cancers; depression; and respiratory problems. Populations most at risk for adverse health effects of pesticide exposure, beyond those occupationally exposed, are infants, growing children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and women of childbearing

age. Even if not directly exposed, the entire population takes in pesticide residue daily via food, water and air. The EPA is required by law to ensure that the levels of pesticides on food is safe for consumption, although health risks of "safe level" long-term pesticide exposure has yet to be thoroughly studied.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) publishes a "Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce" each year to provide consumers with a "Clean 15" and "Dirty Dozen" list. This guide ranks fruits and vegetables with the least and greatest amounts of pesticide contamination. This is established based on laboratory tests conducted by the USDA Pesticide Testing Program and the Food and Drug Administration. The "Dirty Dozen" are the fruits and vegetables found to be the most contaminated, while the "Clean 15" notes those found to be the least contaminated. To find out which produce items make the "Dirty Dozen" and "Clean 15" lists, go to [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org). Please note that these lists are not published to deter consumers from eating certain fruits and vegetables, but are published with the intention of helping buyers make informed choices to reduce pesticide exposure.

Should we be picky about our produce? To answer this question, consider what costs you're willing to pay for organic in terms of money, your health and the environment. The higher price of organic produce is due to the higher costs of production. Organic farming has also been found to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly. If you want to limit your exposure to pesticide residue, organic produce is a way to do so. To clarify, organic does not mean pesticide-free. Non-synthetic pesticides may still be used in organic farming, but pesticide exposure is lower compared to those conventionally grown. At this time, there is no conclusive evidence that organic produce is any more nutritious than conventional food. The bottom line is most of us don't eat enough fruits and vegetables. Putting aside the organic versus conventional debate, remember that there's no dispute over the nutritional benefits of including fruits and vegetables in your diet.

## Your Benefits

Did you know employees and spouses covered under a state of Ohio medical plan can earn up to \$350 each per year through Take Charge, Live Well?

**Level 1: Assess Your Health**  
Earn up to \$150/person

Complete both:

- On-site biometric screening OR submit a form completed by your physician
- Well-Being 5 Survey



**Level 2: Take Action**  
Earn up to \$200/person

Complete 4 activities from the following:

- Coaching Calls
- Well-Being Challenges
- Financial Well-being Lessons

Learn more at [ohio.gov/tclw](http://ohio.gov/tclw).

### Tips for Employees & Retirees:

1. Remember to update beneficiaries.
2. Renew your will each year. *If you have the Patrol's Met Life plan, or if you did before retirement, you may update your will at no cost.*
3. Plan for someone's college. *Learn about CollegeAdvantage 529 at [CollegeAdvantage.com](http://CollegeAdvantage.com) or call (800) 233-6734 to request a kit.*

# Thank Yous

A collection of messages received through mail and social media



Thank you to Trooper James Cotner for making my son Ayden's day! Trooper Cotner took the time at the gas station to talk to him and get him a junior badge. My son went on to tell everyone he came into contact with how awesome the experience was. In a world where most of what children see on the news is negative interactions between law enforcement and the public, I'm so proud my son understands that these guys serve and protect him. Thank you for your time and your service to the Toledo/Maumee area and for making the day of a kid who wants to follow in your footsteps!



I wanted to take a moment to thank Trooper William Ogden for coming over to help my son Jarred hold up his blue line flag in support of our fine law enforcement officers. My son's dream is to become a trooper one day. He's only 12 and he is already learning as much as he can about what it takes to become a trooper.

Today on my way home from work, it was getting ready to storm and I heard a strange noise. Then my tire pressure light came on. So I pulled off the side of the road with my flashers on. I tried calling my husband to get a hold of roadside assistance, but it would take a while. Meanwhile, Trooper John Martin, Cambridge Post, pulled up behind me. I have never been so excited to see the blue flashing lights! He changed my flat for me and was so nice. I thanked him multiple times. Thank you for your generosity and for training these men/women to be so professional and respectful.



Shout out to Ohio State Highway Patrol in Sandusky for helping push this older lady's car off the road and the officer in his cruiser following behind them to make sure people knew to move over. Officers go unnoticed for all the other gestures they do daily. Good job!



The second quarter Ace/Criminal Patrol awards ceremony was held on July 20. The event honored troopers who work diligently to look “beyond the plate” to remove drugs from Ohio communities and return stolen vehicles to their rightful owners.

## SRT Receives OTOA Award for Unit Valor



On June 7, the Special Response Team (SRT), along with the Columbus and Mansfield police departments, received the Ohio Tactical Officers Award for Unit Valor for bravery shown by officers and also the support each agency gave one another to bring a long and intense situation to an end.

In April, a Columbia Gas employee attempted to inspect for a potential gas leak on a customer’s property. The male customer appeared at his front door armed with an assault rifle and made threats to the employee. Mansfield police called for Mansfield’s Allied Special Operations Response Team (ASORT). After three hours, ASORT’s attempts to make contact with the customer were unsuccessful. ASORT contacted SRT and additional attempts were made to contact the man, when he began firing his rifle at the tactical teams.

Columbus Police Department SWAT was also called in to assist. As tactical maneuvers took place, the man continued to fire his rifle. Tactical efforts continued for 27 hours, with the man exchanging gun fire with the officers. The man fired 82 rounds at the officers. He was shot and killed, bringing the situation to an end.

## Agent J. Bouza is NLLEA Agent of the Year

Ohio Investigative Unit Agent Andrew J. Bouza, Toledo District Office, was honored by the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) with the NLLEA Liquor Agent of the Year award. The award was presented to Agent Bouza during the annual awards luncheon which was held in August in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Agent Bouza was awarded this honor for his willingness and determination to go above and beyond working on undercover investigations. Some of those successful investigations included narcotics, nudity and prostitution violations in liquor permit premises.

The NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year award is given to an agent who demonstrates outstanding performance and works diligently through his endeavors. Agent Bouza is the third OIU agent in four years to receive this national honor.



## 2017 PSLA Class Graduates

The 2017 Public Safety Leadership Academy graduated on June 9. Thirty-one law enforcement leaders participated in the 11-week accredited, college-level course. The training is offered through a partnership with The Ohio State University – John Glenn College of Public Affairs and was offered at no cost to the agencies and was held at the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s Training Academy. The course covered leadership and ethics, interpersonal and organizational communications, public management, organizational culture and ethics, human resources management, budgeting, and organizational behavior in law enforcement. The graduates also attended enrichment discussions and volunteered at the Huckleberry House. They also spent a week in Washington, D.C., attending the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum law enforcement course and visiting other important sites.



Participants included Lieutenant William M. Boyd, Lieutenant Virgil S. Conley, Lieutenant Joseph A. Gebhart, Lieutenant Timothy P. Grigsby, Lieutenant Matt J. Hamilton, Lieutenant Scott A. Louive, Staff Lieutenant Chad A. Miller, Lieutenant Jacob D. Pyles, Lieutenant Lance S. Shearer, Lieutenant Leo T. Shirkey, Lieutenant Aaron E. Vollmer and Ohio Investigative Unit

Assistant Agent-in-Charge Michael D. Thompson. Class members also represented the Clermont, Franklin and Lorain county sheriffs’ offices, and the Bowling Green, Bryan, Euclid, Fairborn, Granville, Hamilton Township, Lebanon, Norwalk, Pataskala, Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, Springfield, University Heights and Xenia police departments, as well as Denison University.

## MVCI/EPIC Awards

Members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol were presented with awards during the 27th Annual Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction/EPIC National Awards Conference in Atlanta, Georgia:

- **Sergeant Shaun O. Smart** - National Instructor Recognition Award
- **Public Safety Intel Analyst Scott M. Basom** – National Intel Analyst of the Year
- **Sergeant Stacy L. Arnold-Yerkes** – 2016 National Criminal Interdiction Officer of the Year *(the first female to receive the award)*
- **Captain Richard L. Meadows** – EPIC Directors Award

The Patrol was also awarded the National Runner-Up Agency for EPIC reported seizure activity, accepted by Major Gene Smith.

## Trooper Robbins Receives American Red Cross Award for Lifesaving Efforts

On June 14, 2017, Trooper Kenneth M. Robbins received the American Red Cross 2017 Acts of Courage Award for the actions he took on July 18, 2016 while investigating a crash. While on the scene of a crash, a truck had lost control and was heading directly for the tow truck driver. Trooper Robbins quickly ran toward the tow truck driver and pushed him out of the way. The tow truck driver’s injuries were largely mitigated as a result of Trooper Robbins’ quick thinking. Last November, Trooper Robbins was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford.



# 1/2 Units Association

*By Special Contributor, Michelle Davis, President of the 1/2 Units Association*

You may have heard a presentation by them at the Cadet Family Day, possibly the Retiree Cookout or maybe they brought food to your post over the holiday reporting period. They are the 1/2 Units Association, a group of troopers and dispatcher spouses, formed in April with the mission of “strengthening and perpetuating relationships within the family of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.”

The 1/2 Units, has already made an impact. During the family day and after the 161st Class graduated, members spoke to the cadets, troopers and their families. They answered questions, gave advice, recommended reading material and explained what to expect at home once the cadets become troopers.

During the July Fourth and Labor Day holiday reporting periods, the 1/2 Units took food to at least 35 posts, including aviation. Additionally, the association also planned a Columbus Clippers night in July.

The association has more than 300 members. They have also applied for non-profit status as a 501(c)(3) with the Internal Revenue Service.

If you are interested to hear more about the 1/2 Units Association or how to become a member email them at [half\\_units@live.com](mailto:half_units@live.com).



## Happy 84th Anniversary



to the Ohio State Highway Patrol  
on November 15



and to Ohio Investigative Unit on  
December 23.

The 2017 Leadership Awards will be held  
on February 16, 2018.

Save the date for the Retiree Cookout.  
June 15, 2018.

More information will be coming soon.

# Buckeye Girls and Boys State

Over the summer, a select number of Ohio's rising-high-school seniors attended the annual Buckeye Girls State at the University of Mount Union in Alliance and Buckeye Boys State at Miami University in Oxford. The Ohio State Highway Patrol supports the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary in this annual endeavor.

The multi-day events bring together a select group of high school students to experience what it is like to run local and state governments, including law enforcement. During the events, female and male students get the unique experience of learning what it is like to be a trooper.



# Junior Cadet

Junior Cadet Week was held June 25 through 29 at the Patrol's Training Academy. The students, who have an interest in law enforcement, spend five days at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy going through a mini-training course. The students are trained in unarmed self-defense, criminal law, weapons familiarization and other topics. The program is available to participants of Buckeye Boys and Girls State programs, sons and daughters of Patrol personnel and students sponsored by a Patrol member. Graduation was held on June 29. *More Junior Cadet Week photos can be found on page 31.*



## Aviation Unit



In August, the Patrol's Aviation Unit attended the funeral for the Virginia State Police Aviation commander and pilot who were killed in the line of duty. Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M. M. Bates were killed in the line of duty when their Virginia State Police helicopter crashed near Charlottesville, Va.

"To be able to represent our Division and show our support by our presence was humbling," said Staff Lieutenant Justin W. Cromer who attended the services on behalf of the Patrol's Aviation Unit. "The work we do is very risky and we try to mitigate the risk the best we can, but at the end of the day we must be willing to put our lives on the line in order to accomplish the mission. These two pilots did that for the greater good of Virginia and our country."

## Criminal Patrol



In June, Sergeant David J. Bever and K9 Opie participated in the 2017 Ohio Police and Fire games in Canton. Opie earned gold in locating the most difficult hide, and bronze in both vehicle and room searches. Of the six dogs who competed, Opie received at least a bronze in three of the four events.



## Delaware Post

On Friday, June 16, Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth attended his first OVI checkpoint. Several months back, Rev. Ellsworth and Lieutenant Marcus A. Pirrone, were talking about enforcement plans for the summer. Rev. Ellsworth mentioned during the conversation that he had never been to an OVI checkpoint. Lt. Pirrone invited Rev. Ellsworth to observe an upcoming checkpoint.

The reverend arrived at 9:30 p.m. and stayed until 11:30 p.m. While he was there, Rev. Ellsworth greeted Patrol and Auxiliary personnel, as well as an employee of the Ohio Department of Transportation and officers from other agencies. Lt. Pirrone added that the personnel working the checkpoint enjoyed having Rev. Ellsworth with them observing.

## Warren District

Warren District employees, families and retirees hosted a cancer benefit pancake breakfast for retired Lieutenant Mike Orosz in July. The Warren District would like to thank everyone who contributed, made baskets, donated and attended the event. Ret. Lt. Orosz and his family were very grateful for the generosity.

**Right:** Retired Lieutenant Mike Orosz talks to friends.

**Far right:** Bill Hummel flips pancakes during the fundraiser for retired Lieutenant Orosz.



## Warren Post

During the tax-free weekend, troopers from the Warren Post held the third annual “Cram the Cruiser” event at the Cortland Walmart in Trumbull County. School supplies were collected and distributed to schools throughout Trumbull County. A total of 2,719 pounds of school supplies were collected. The Trumbull County Educational Service Center dispersed the 2,719 pounds of school supplies collected through the event.

**From left:** Teddy Trooper (Terry E. Maffitt), Charlene Grady, Dr. Robert Marino, Kaylynn Abbey, Trooper Matthew Abbey, Valerie Maffitt, Auxiliary Todd McCormick, Lieutenant Brian T. Holt.



## Office of Personnel



Lieutenant Steven M. Click participated in the Junior Fair Board Professional Networking event August 2. The event featured representatives from several state of Ohio agencies, the Columbus Blue Jackets, Columbus Dispatch, the Ohio State University, Ohio University, and the city of Columbus. Representatives discussed their careers and experiences with attendees.

## Marietta Post



This summer, troopers at the Marietta Post surprised 8-year-old Hallie Witte by naming her an honorary trooper. Major Joshua M. Swindell presented her with honorary credentials, a Patrol Stetson, a Teddy Trooper bear and a t-shirt.

Hallie had just finished extensive treatment for severe food allergies. During her 12-hour days traveling back and forth to Cincinnati, Hallie made an effort to complete acts of kindness in honor of her friend, Raegan, who is undergoing treatment for Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. Some of those acts included paying for others' groceries, collecting clothes for the homeless and sponsoring a dog at a local shelter.

Members of the Patrol first learned of her kindhearted spirit in March when Hallie met Trooper Brian Spackey at a rest stop during a trip for her treatment.

## Wooster Post

Wooster Post troopers participated in the 17th Amish Health and Safety Day at Keim Lumber in Charm. They promoted safety tips for buggies, farm, fire and bicycle/pedestrian. More than 1,400 people attended the event, which featured a full-scale mock crash coordinated by the Patrol, and focused on work-truck, bicycle safety and sharing the roadway.



## Ravenna Post



**Trooper Matthew B. Langston** conducted a Safety Town detail for kindergarten students at Garrettsville Elementary. Trooper Langston was joined by Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Rickey L. Boston as Teddy Trooper.

## Lancaster Post



**The Lancaster Post** held their second annual charity cornhole tournament to benefit MADD on August 1 at the Ohio University Lancaster gymnasium.

## Canfield Post



**Trooper Dan L. Deluca** spoke with about 400 citizens about traffic safety and distracted driving at the Party on the Plaza in Austintown during the 4th of July fireworks celebration. He was joined by Dispatcher Supervisor Dorothy E. O'Neil-Meleski's mother Brenda O'Neil as Teddy Trooper.

## Marysville Post



**Trooper Kathleen M. Durham** partnered with the Safe Communities Coalition at the Union County Fair in July. Trooper Durham talked to fairgoers about safe driving habits and seat belt usage.

## St. Clairsville

Each spring, the St. Clairsville Post, McDonald's and United Dairy sponsor a seat belt competition between the seven high schools in Belmont County. Unannounced seat belt surveys are completed before prom season to determine seat belt usage among student drivers as they enter school property. At the conclusion, troopers returned to each school and passed out cards for a free sandwich at McDonald's. Students who were observed wearing their seat belts were given the cards. A billboard was donated by United Dairy to the school with the highest seat belt usage. The competition also takes place in the fall for homecoming season.



## Retirees

Retired Major Darryl L. Anderson has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for his ongoing efforts in public safety communications. Earlier this spring, Ret. Maj. Anderson received the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators Leadership Award. The organization presented him with the award for his support and significant contributions towards enhancing nationwide public safety interoperability. Ret. Maj. Anderson was the first recipient of the award.

In 2015, Ret. Maj. Anderson was presented with the Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs Distinguished Alumnus Award for his career achievements and commitments to public service for 45 years of state employment. He graduated with the 90th Academy Class.



### Randy A. Boggs

Captain Randy A. Boggs, Aviation Section, retired on August 1, 2017, after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1990 as a member of the 120th Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. In 1992, he transferred to the Aviation Section, where he served as a pilot. While in the Aviation Unit, he was promoted to the ranks of sergeant in 1997, lieutenant in 2000, staff lieutenant in 2003 and captain in 2014.

Captain Boggs completed training in the Administrative Officer's Course at the Southern Police Institute in 2002.



### Brandon L. Cruz

Sergeant Brandon L. Cruz, Expo Center, retired on July 8, 2017, after 19 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1997 as a member of the 129th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. In 2001, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper, he also served at the Defiance and Circleville posts. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marysville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Jackson, Circleville and Lancaster posts, Office of Field Operations, Special Response Team and the Expo Center.



### Shawn T. Lee

Captain Shawn T. Lee, Columbus District Headquarters, retired on August 18, 2017, after 28 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.

As a trooper, he also served at the Circleville, West Jefferson and Lancaster posts. In 1997, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Defiance Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Marysville and West Jefferson posts. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and remained at the West Jefferson Post to serve as post commander. In 2003, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Patrol's Training Academy. As a staff lieutenant, he also served in the Office of Field Operations and the Critical Information and Communication Center. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of captain and served as commandant of the Patrol's Training Academy and Recruitment. In 2016, he transferred to the Columbus District Headquarters as commander.

Captain Lee served in the U.S. Marines from 1984 to 1988. He completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2003.



### Anthony W. Lauer

Sergeant Anthony W. Lauer, Wilmington Post, retired on August 21, 2017, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Athens Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Athens Post to serve as an assistant post commander. Throughout his career, he also served at the Marietta, Lebanon, Wilmington and Xenia posts.

Sergeant Lauer served in the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1991.



### Robert G. New

Sergeant Robert G. New, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on July 7, 2017, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Chillicothe Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Wilmington Post and the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Sergeant New served in the U.S. Air Force from 1986 to 1994.



### **Charles R. Scales**

Sergeant Charles R. Scales, Wilmington District Headquarters, entered disability retirement on August 17, 2017, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1992 as a member of the 122nd Academy Class. As a trooper, he also served at the Batavia Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Wilmington Post to serve as an assistant post commander.



### **Carolyn M. Zeisler**

Sergeant Carolyn M. Zeisler, Columbus District Headquarters, retired on July 21, 2017, after 25 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. She earned her commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Granville Post. As a trooper, she also served in the Office of Personnel. In 2000, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Chillicothe Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, she served at the Circleville and Chillicothe posts, Patrol's Training Academy and the Columbus District Headquarters.



### **John W. Asbrock**

Trooper John W. Asbrock, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on September 22, 2017, after 33 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1984 as a member of the 113th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Piqua Post. In 2009, he earned the Trooper Recognition Award and he was selected as the District Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year in 2013. As a trooper, he also served at the Hamilton and Lebanon posts.



### **Lee A. Darden**

Trooper Lee A. Darden, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on August 14, 2017, after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1990 as a member of the 120th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Dayton Post. In 1998, he was selected as Dayton Post Trooper of the Year and earned the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award. Throughout his career he also served at the Batavia, Wilmington, Chillicothe, Lancaster and Granville posts, as well as Capitol Operations.



Trooper Darden completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2006.

### **Todd A. Donnell**

Trooper Todd A. Donnell, Bucyrus Post, retired on August 8, 2017, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1989 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the former Walbridge Post. He became a member of the 120th Academy Class and earned his commission in May 1990. Trooper Donnell has been assigned to the Bucyrus Post throughout his career.



Trooper Donnell earned an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice from the University of Toledo in 1990.

### **David R. Johnson**

Trooper David R. Johnson, Chillicothe Post, retired on August 4, 2017, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and has been assigned to the Chillicothe Post throughout his career. In 2006, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award.



Trooper Johnson served in the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1991.

**Gerald K. Manley**

Trooper Gerald K. Manley, Lima Post, retired on July 21, 2017, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1991 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Lima Post. He became a member of the 122nd Academy Class in January 1992 and earned his commission in June of that year. Trooper Manley has been assigned to the Lima Post throughout his career. He was also selected as Post Trooper of Year in 1995 and 2000.

**Donald E. Walker**

Trooper Donald E. Walker, Warren Post, retired on July 14, 2017, after 19 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 the following year and was assigned to the Norwalk Post. In 2004, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement and was selected as the Warren Post Trooper of the Year in 2009 and 2012. As a trooper, he also served at the Warren Post and the Cleveland District Criminal Patrol Unit.

**Deanne L. McInerney**

Trooper Deanne L. McInerney, Cambridge Post, retired on September 29, 2017, after 27 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. She earned her commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Cambridge Post and the Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2004, she earned the Trooper Recognition Award.



Trooper McInerney served in the Army National Guard from 1987 to 1994.

**Shawn M. Whiley**

Trooper Shawn M. Whiley, Norwalk Post, retired on August 29, 2017, after 25 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 Sandusky Post where he earned the Criminal Patrol Award in 1998. In 1999, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement and was selected as the Post and District Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Norwalk Post.

**Joel E. Smith**

Trooper Joel E. Smith, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on September 11, 2017, after 34 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1983 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Delaware Post. He became a member of the 115th Academy Class in November 1985. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post where he earned the prestigious Superintendent's Citation of Merit Award in 1987. In 1990, he also earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper, he served at the former Bellefontaine Post and the Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

**Richard J. Drabik**

Stationary Load Limit Inspector Richard J. Drabik, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on September 29, 2017, after 16 years with the state. He began his state career with the Ohio Department of Public Safety in July 2001 as a storekeeper assigned to the Alum Creek Facility. In 2002, he joined the Patrol as a stationary load limit inspector assigned to the Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2014, he earned the Employee Recognition Award.



## Gary J. Moore

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Gary J. Moore, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on September 30, 2017, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 1992 as a Driver License Examiner assigned to the Wilmington District Headquarters and transferred later to the Batavia Post. In 2000, he was promoted to a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector and transferred to the Xenia Post. He also served at the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit. He was twice selected as the Wilmington District Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year.



## Donovan E. Myers

Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Donovan E. Myers, Georgetown Post, retired on July 1, 2017, after five years with the Patrol. He began his career with the Patrol in May 2012 as a maintenance repair worker 2 and has been assigned to the Georgetown Post throughout his career.



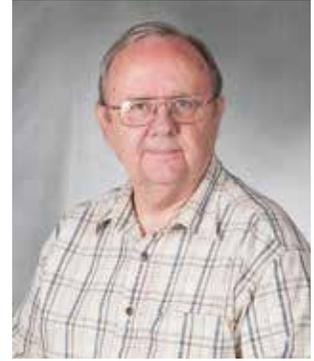
## Denise R. Domonkos

Communication Technician Denise R. Domonkos, Cleveland Dispatch Center, retired on September 22, 2017, after 37 years with the Patrol. She began her Patrol career in September 1980 as a Communication Technician assigned to the Berea District Headquarters and later at the Cleveland Dispatch Center. She was twice selected as District Dispatcher of the Year and earned the Gold Star Award in 2017.



## John D. Vaughters

Software Development Specialist John D. Vaughters, Computer Operations, retired on July 1, 2017, after 13 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 2004 as a Programmer Specialist 1 assigned to Systems Operations/LEADS. In 2010, he was promoted to Software Development Specialist and remained in Systems Operations/LEADS. As a Software Development Specialist, he also served in Computer Operations. Software Development Specialist Vaughters served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969 to 1974.



**Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from July – September 2017.**

## 2017 Troopers Coalition Scholarship Award Winners

Kyle, Kevin and Kasey Bethel – all three received the Patrolman Harry D. Grimes Memorial Scholarship Award  
*Parents – Trooper Leroy (Zanesville Post) and Melissa Bethel*

Tommy March – received the Trooper Kenneth Velez Memorial Scholarship Award  
*Parents – Sergeant Paul (Elyria Post) and Pamela March*

Sydney Davis – received the Patrolman Carl L. Thrush Memorial Scholarship Award  
*Parents – Sergeant Christopher (Athens Post) and Melinda Davis*

## In the next issue:

- Retired Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert Jones Induction into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame
- Hispanic Leadership Conference

# OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

## Chaplain's Comments



My comments were well in process but the message was not resonating with me and that is always a warning that the idea being developed was not relevant. The deadline was upon me and I was seeking the Lord's guidance. Without receiving any inspiration, I left the computer and went to worship at a neighboring church. The young pastor was excellent and provided me with the inspiration I needed as he addressed the age-old question as to why bad things have to happen to good people. He did not have the definitive answer but he did set the facts before us with the challenge to see events with victorious faith rather than dismal defeat.

The subject centered around the tragic event of the Las Vegas shooting. The motive was a matter for speculation but the facts were fairly well known. A fun-filled concert was interrupted by an individual intent on killing as many innocent people as he could before either escaping or taking his own life. Out of the horrible ordeal came accounts of heroism and self-sacrifice. But, even individuals of great faith in God are pushed to the wall wondering why God permits such tragedies. I remember well the questioning which arose in regard to the Holocaust and seeing the human beings we released from a slave camp looking like skeletons, wondering why God permitted such horrible treatment of individuals by other individuals. The God I had been nurtured to believe in by my parents was a God of love. Events which were taking place in my late teens and early 20s caused me not to question my belief in a God of love, but to try to come to grips with His will for humankind.

The Book of Job is the classic Scripture for study which seeks to answer the challenge, "If God is good He can't be God; If He is God He can't be good." If He is the Almighty, who is in charge of the universe and all that takes place on this spinning planet called earth why, if He is truly good, would He permit the tragedies and sufferings? Does He not care for the welfare of His children? Did He just create us and set us free to experience the truth of a philosophy which declares that the strongest will survive at the expense of the weakest?

As I have made my journey through life I have seen and

experienced many blessings which strengthen my personal faith in a God who knows me by name (Isaiah 43:1) and loves me to the utmost (John 3:16). But my faith still permits me to ask why bad events are permitted and why God does not intervene. Eventually, I come to the place where I confess that I am not God and that faith to live each day to the fullest does not require my full understanding of God and His will and way. Thank goodness that He is beyond my total ability to comprehend.

If He were not, this world would be in serious trouble.

At the time of creation as recorded in Genesis 2, God gave to humankind the blessing of freedom of choice. Later through the prophet Jeremiah, He declared, "I have set before you life and death. Choose life and live." What is given to one is given to all. Each person chooses each day how and what she or he will live and do. God's permissive will, which is part of our freedom and keeps us from being puppets, does not intervene and control a person from doing harm to others. God could control our behavior but that would take away our freedom as individuals. Along with the freedom of will is God's permissive will, which leaves to us the responsibility of deciding how we are going to handle situations in which bad choices are made by others. God has instituted and ordained the ministry of law enforcement to protect life and property.

Please be assured that I do not begin to understand many of the situations which take place every day. There are many questions I have ready to ask St. Peter. But, I am not so eager to have all the answers that I am unwilling to walk each day in the light of God's love as it is revealed through His Word and the warm, caring fellowship I experience as a part of the Ohio State Highway Patrol family. Let us walk together into the future with appreciation for and faith in each other and the ultimate victory declared for us in Romans 8:31-39.

Respectfully,

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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# JUNIOR CADET 2017



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