

FLYING

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WHEEL

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OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Colonel's Letter



The long and storied reputation of the Ohio State Highway Patrol continues to become more prevalent. In 84 years, we have grown to become national leaders in law enforcement. This is the result of the unwavering commitment to excellence, leadership and professionalism our members exhibit.

The past seven years have been the safest in Ohio's history. Violent crime and fatal crashes have decreased while drug, illegal weapons and OVI arrests have risen. There is a direct correlation between your work and the quality of life in Ohio. Along with our law enforcement partners, we are making a dramatic impact on our state.

We are also making great strides in safety for all who travel on Ohio's roadways, including our school children. Working with the Columbus City Schools and the Ohio Department of Education, the Patrol is setting a higher standard by implementing new and improved safety features on school buses.

We continue to be a national model for drug interdiction – removing drugs from our roads before they reach our communities. Our troopers continue to achieve increasingly higher levels of success interdicting drugs and criminal investigations by our OIU Agents hold those accountable who establish havens for criminal activity.

There is much to look forward to in 2018, our 85th year. The renovation of the Marietta Post will be completed and construction will begin on the canine training facility in Marysville. We will re-open the Akron Post, delivering our professional law enforcement services to the people of Summit County. The Academy will also be undergoing upgrades making room for our growing family and partners.

As we close 2017, I want each of you to remember the impact you, as a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, have on people's lives. Whether through speech details, community events, answering telephone calls or radio traffic, Sober Truth classes or a traffic stop. Remember, you are affecting a life.

This has never been more evident than with a young man from Michigan whose father was stopped by a trooper. Unbeknownst to the trooper, Brett Holbrook was so impressed that he became the Patrol's biggest fan, by visiting every patrol post in the state. Brett is a reminder that first impressions go a long way.

As the year closed out, hall of famers, retired Lieutenant Colonel Gil Jones and former Cincinnati Bengal Anthony Munoz, delivered messages with a common theme this fall. "Come together and work towards the common goal - to make the team and Ohio a better place."

The future is bright for the Highway Patrol. I want to thank you again for your unwavering support in 2017. Your hard and often dangerous work continues to make a difference in the lives of those we have sworn to serve. I am confident there are even greater things ahead for the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Noblesse oblige

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Paul A. Pride".

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent





Honorary Trooper's Statewide Journey

A birthday visit to the Academy capped a boy's summer-long odyssey to visit every OSHP post

What seemed to be a routine traffic stop turned into a journey for 12-year-old Brett Holbrook after his dad was pulled over by a Patrol trooper. Holbrook was so impressed by the trooper's professionalism and uniform during the stop that his mom, Bonnie, made him a uniform of his own. His journey began with a stop at the Bowling Green Post where he was presented with an Honorary Trooper Commission, a Stetson and a ticket book. When summer arrived, Brett had only one request and that was to visit every Patrol post in Ohio. Together, he and his mom spent the summer traveling the state.

At each post, Holbrook was welcomed with open arms and showered with gifts and surprises by the post members. He was given his own unit number, 36, at the Cambridge Post so he could use the radio. While he visited the Sandusky Post, he learned how to conduct a traffic stop and at the Elyria Post, he was honored as Honorary State Trooper of the Year.

Holbrook signed off for the summer at the West Jefferson Post, but he still had not visited Columbus. The young man and his family decided to drive from Michigan to Columbus in late September to watch the 162nd Academy Class graduate from the Patrol Academy.



Cadence

Written by Basic Class 138

Brett we have heard you came to see
 The O-S-P Academy
 On this very special day
 There's something we all want to say
 Brett Holbrook is turning 12
 We're all here to wish you well
 Let's make your birthday dreams come true
 We're glad to spend this day with you
 One day we all know you'll be
 A cadet in this academy!



By PAU Staff

Barely able to hold back tears, 12-year-old Honorary Trooper Brett Holbrook yelled thank you to the basics who joined the young man and his family in the Training Academy cafeteria. They surprised Holbrook and his family, lining all sides of the cafeteria to sing "Happy Birthday" to him.

As the basics left the room, Holbrook high-fived most of the basics continually thanking them for the surprise. He was given a hug by one cadet and a die-cast police car from another. That was just one of the many emotional moments from Honorary Trooper Holbrook's day with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in Columbus.

After touring each of the Patrol posts in Ohio, the young man and his family drove from Michigan to Columbus in late September. They started the day off at the Columbus Metro Post. He also toured the fleet section and SRT. While at the Alum Creek Facility, he made a stop at the tailor shop, where the black suit jacket his mom bought him was adorned with Patrol patches and badges.

Holbrook arrived at the Academy with a motorcycle escort. He got out of the car and standing at the top of the steps was Lieutenant Angel Burgos, his "first" post commander and the one who worked with the family as they navigated through the state.

"Hi buddy!" Lt. Burgos said as Holbrook jumped into his arms. "You've been busy."

Lt. Burgos took Holbrook and his family on a tour of the Academy, through Heritage Hall and the classrooms. As he made his way to the cafeteria, a cake made by a member of the ½ Units Association was waiting for him. Then Holbrook and his family were told to stand near the entrance of the cafeteria where the basics arrived in cadence made especially for him. As they entered, he cried into his mother's arms. Mom Bonnie and dad Scott, each wiped tears from their eyes.

When the birthday party was over, the Holbrooks met with Reverend Richard Ellsworth. After eating lunch and cake, Holbrook and his family made their way over to Leadership Hall, where they had a private meeting with Colonel Paul Pride.

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Inside Leadership Hall, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Black honored Holbrook for his enthusiasm and dedication to law enforcement and the Patrol. His mom was also given a certificate of appreciation honoring her travels and her time. Throughout the process the family drove 3,000 miles and spent 100 hours on the road.

As the Drum & Bugle Corps warmed up before the 162nd Academy Class Graduation,

Holbrook took the reins and directed. During the ceremony, his name was announced and he walked the stage as the crowd applauded. Before Rev. Ellsworth gave the benediction, he called Holbrook on stage once again.

“Where’s that young trooper?” Rev. Ellsworth asked. “Would it be alright if he joined me up here? So we can have the youngest and the oldest in uniform. How about that?”

As Holbrook approached the podium, Rev. Ellsworth said, “I’ll

be the oldest, you can be the youngest.” Holbrook agreed and together they led the crowd in a prayer and blessed graduates.

From the Academy, Holbrook visited District 6 Headquarters, Dispatch and the Hub. He then headed down the road to the Aviation Unit where he was presented with wings for his uniform. He sat in planes and a helicopter. It was a day Holbrook and his family won’t soon forget, neither will the Patrol.

A few highlights of Honorary Trooper Holbrook’s summer tour



Cleveland DHC



Canton



Zanesville



Cambridge



Chardon



Gallipolis



Elyria



Wilmington

Patrol Welcomes Regional Chaplains

In November, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford and Reverend Richard Ellsworth welcomed five new chaplains into the Ohio State Highway Patrol through the regional chaplaincy program. The

new chaplains will be resources for district commanders and their staff. Throughout the training, Lt. Col. Teaford and each speaker expressed how important the chaplains are to the Patrol and our families.

The chaplains' training included a history of the Patrol, an introduction to Ohio Assist/MAT Team, lunch with Senior Staff, and learning about the offices of Field Operations and Criminal Investigations.

Meet the new chaplains

Reverend Terry McBeath

Family Care Pastor, Upper Room Church of God, Findlay

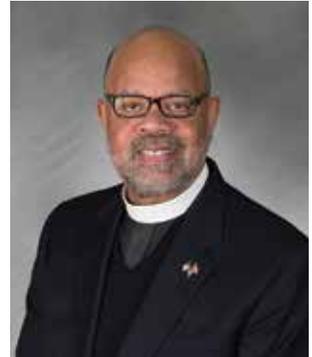
Rev. McBeath has been involved in first responder chaplaincy for more than 25 years and has served police and fire in Findlay and Hancock counties since 1999. He sees firsthand what law enforcement officers go through and how their job affects many marriages. He works closely with officers' spouses and children. He also works closely with first responders preparing them for retirement and setting goals.



Reverend Dr. Jerome D. Taylor

Retired Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Roosevelt, NY

As the chaplain for a fire department located 25 miles from the World Trade Center in September 2001, Rev. Taylor saw firsthand what fire personnel went through and are still going through. Because of this, Dr. Taylor was certified as a Disaster Chaplain in 2010 by the Disaster Interfaith Network. He was also trained in 2010 in the Incident Command System through the FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. He recently retired and wanted to continue to be involved and is looking forward to being a part of the Patrol.



Reverend Daniel Vickey

Senior Pastor, Fremont Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Vickey's son is a police officer for the Woodhaven Police Department in Michigan. His son has shared with him some of the challenges he faces on the job, in life and in marriage. Rev. Vickey believes troopers and their families need to have the opportunity to talk, share and vent some of the stressors they face on the job.



Reverend John W. Young

Young Adult Pastor, New Covenant CCCU, Waverly

For nearly 15 years, Rev. Young has been employed by the Highway Patrol as a Dispatcher in the Jackson Dispatch Center. He is happy to take on a new role for the Patrol and District 9. He has already started making connections within the district. He is a firm believer that the regional chaplaincy program is something the Patrol needed and is very happy it has become a reality.



Reverend Jacob Kesling

Pastor, Community Grace Brethren Church, West Milton

As an Army veteran, Rev. Kesling understands post-traumatic stress disorder. For nearly 10 years he has worked with military veterans. He enjoys helping people and understands how important it is to be present for people. He likes joking around and getting to know the person.



Ohio State Highway Patrol Chaplains

State Chaplain – Reverend Dr. Richard D. Ellsworth
District 1 – Reverend Terry McBeath
District 2 – Reverend Daniel Vickey
District 3 – Reverend Philip A. Hurlbert
District 5 – Reverend Jacob Kesling
District 6/GHQ – Reverend Dr. Jerome Taylor
District 9 – Reverend John W. Young



Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inducts Lt. Colonel Gil Jones

On October 5, 2017, retired Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert H. Jones was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The ceremony, sponsored by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, PNC, Honda and Wright State University, was held at the Ohio State House. He joined inductees Chief Lawrence Harper, Moses Fleetwood Walker and the Marching Mothers and Children of the 1954 Hillsboro Fight for Integration.

Retired Lt. Col. Jones was honored for being a trailblazer in the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He was the second minority officer to graduate from the Patrol's Training Academy. Patrolman Louis Sharp was the first in 1955. Retired Lt. Col. Jones graduated from the academy in 1966 as a part of the 69th Academy Class. Upon graduation, he was the only commissioned minority officer in the Patrol out of 850 patrolmen.

In 1973, he was the first to hold a supervisory position when he was promoted to sergeant at the London Post. His leadership style earned him the respect of his peers and those under his command. He continued to rise through the ranks of the Patrol, eventually becoming the first minority to be promoted to lieutenant colonel – the second in command of one of the most elite police organizations in the country.



By PAU Staff

Being inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame was a humbling experience for retired Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert Jones. He says he was blessed beyond belief, what started out as just a job ended up being a lifelong career in law enforcement.

Lt. Col. Jones was a trailblazer, leading the way for minorities to become part of something, which at that time, was not possible; like the civil rights pioneers before him. Lt. Col. Jones was nominated by retired Lieutenant Colonel Peyton Watts, and supported by retired Colonel Thomas W. Rice and Major Richard S. Fambro.

When Lt. Col. Jones spoke of the previously inducted members to the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame, he said “those are my idols and people you would normally look up to.”

His mentors

When Lt. Col. Jones started the academy, his driving skills were limited. He says he learned while serving in the United States Air Force, driving mostly rural roads. Ironically as the class lieutenant for driving week, he met his mentor – the late Lieutenant Jack Moore, one of the academy driving instructors at the time.

Lt. Moore and Lt. Col. Jones conversed several times

during the week. Upon graduation, Lt. Col. Jones was assigned to the London Post and Lt. Moore became his coach.

“We got along famously,” he said. “He was my idea of the epitome of what a trooper should be.”

Other mentors of Lt. Col. Jones included retired Major Dean Huffman, Col. Rice and retired Colonel Robert M. Chiaramonte.

“I had the greatest of mentors,” he said with a smile. Up until that point, all his mentors were white males, because there were no African Americans on the Patrol.

During a speaking engagement at a church in Columbus, Lt. Col. Jones met a lady who said her son was the first African American on the Highway Patrol. From that chance meeting, Lt. Col. Jones met another of his soon-to-be mentors – Retired Patrolman Louis Sharp. They would talk about the challenges Sharp had gone through, as well as Sanford Roan, the first African American to join the Patrol in 1940 as part of the 11th Academy Class. Roan left the academy before graduating.

Sharp often told Lt. Col. Jones to keep going and to keep pushing, no matter what was thrown his way. Although people’s mindsets were starting to change in the 60’s, it was still a turbulent time in history.

“I said if Lou can endure, I can endure.”

Lt. Col. Jones also said he was fortunate to have a great rapport with Col. Chiaramonte, who was his first superintendent. They talked often. Chiaramonte called him Jonesy.

Lt. Col. Jones never sensed any ill-will from his fellow-troopers at the London Post, adding that they were good people, just like all the posts he'd been assigned to during his career. He felt accepted and like family.

"When I would stop people on the highway, I had more people wanting to take pictures with me than you could shake a stick at," Lt. Col. Jones said laughing. "I was a novelty. I was the only (African American) out there. I'd give them a ticket and then I would get, 'Can I take a picture with you?' We'd be standing out there on the highway, just taking pictures."

Recruitment and training

During his tenure with the Patrol, Lt. Col. Jones held positions where he was able to make significant impacts on the lives of minorities, and all troopers and cadets. When he was assigned to oversee Recruitment and Minority Relations, he developed a recruitment plan, which is still in use today.

He will tell you that the six years he spent in recruitment and training is where he had the greatest opportunity to influence and guide people. He knew recruiting was a full time job and contacts with

community members and organizations had to be cultivated. The first class he recruited, the 118th Academy Class, had 48 graduating troopers, including 16 African American males, one African American female and two Hispanic males.

"It brings joy to my heart thinking that I played a very small part in their development and advancement," he said.

Motivation

Lt. Col. Jones was known as a hard worker. In fact, he would come to work an hour early to see what challenges awaited him. To him, it wasn't a job, it was his life. He says he loved to, "Walk the ship" every day.

"It was fun," he said. "It wasn't hard work. When you treat people the way you want to be treated, things will work out fine."

Pressure to balance community and the Patrol

He did feel like he had to balance his patrol career and the African American community, but Lt. Col. Jones never felt pressure. He says he just went along and did what was right. Adding that if you do what is right, you're not going to have much pressure.

He also knew that if he did mess up, his mother would be angry.

"Gilbert H. Jones, without a question, served as a pioneer in human and civil rights by advancing the goals of quality and inclusion in the Ohio State Highway Patrol."

Colonel Thomas W. Rice



“She was so proud of me,” he said. “She embarrassed me. This is my son, he’s on the highway patrol and he’s a sergeant. She was so proud that I had made it and people thought a lot of me.”

Life after retirement

At the time of his retirement, he was one of two African-American highway patrol or state police officers in the nation holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He retired from the Patrol in 1997 after 31 years of service to our state. He then continued his service as the Chief Deputy for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office for an additional 15 years.

When asked if he mentored anyone, he looked up and said, “Probably half of the Patrol.” Lt. Col. Jones also garnered respect across the ranks of the sheriff’s office.

“They still call,” Lt. Col. Jones said. “I feel good about that.” Former and current troopers and deputies still contact him to get advice on life or to get his opinion on various issues.

As a part of the Patrol’s retirees association, he lobbies to get younger people involved. Additionally, he helped create a retirees association for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. Regardless of which retirees association, he feels strongly that it is very important to continue to invest in people.

Lt. Col. Jones stays busier now than when he worked. He spends his time with his grandchildren, who he adores. You can find him at retiree breakfasts or luncheons for the Patrol and the sheriff’s office, playing cards with retired Major J.P. Allen, golfing and traveling. You may even find him at Ohio State men’s and women’s basketball games, because he attends them all.

Who would be most proud

Being inducted into the Civil Rights Commission Hall of Fame is something that not only made an impact on Lt. Col. Jones’ life, but also on those who surrounded him throughout his career.

Lt. Col. Jones did not hesitate to name the people who would be proud of him. Col. Chiaramonte was the first person Lt. Col. Jones named. He knew Col. Chiaramonte and his wife would both be smiling. Patrolman Louis Sharp was next to be named, along with Col. Rice and of course Lt. Col. Jones’ mother.

Lt. Col. Jones was honored to have his fellow troopers, both active and retired, at the ceremony. He smiled as he explained what it was like to look out from the stage and see half to three-fourths of the audience in uniform. He had his family, the Patrol and representatives from the sheriff’s office, among others there to support and honor him.

“They were there for me,” he said humbly. “They were there for me.”



Vehicle Theft Fraud Unit Cincinnati VTFU returns car to owner after 23 years

In November, a Florida woman was reunited with her 1966 Ford Mustang, which had been missing since 1994. The vehicle identification number (VIN) was altered and in 2001 the car was sold to an Ohio resident. Eventually, the vehicle was sold to a Cincinnati resident, who had it for five years before becoming suspicious after he learned the VIN denoted the wrong body style of Mustang. The resident delivered the vehicle to Cincinnati Operations for inspection. Once the vehicle was positively identified, contact was made with the last known title holder. She still had possession of the title matching the true VIN for the car.



The Cincinnati VTFU helped reunite a 1966 Ford Mustang with its legal owner after 23 years.

Warren VTFU stops scheme

The Warren Vehicle Theft Fraud Unit was contacted by a local police department to investigate the theft of several vehicles. A suspect was identified and investigators learned that he had been using an alias to deceive his girlfriend into believing he was the owner of a large landscaping business.

The unknowing girlfriend assisted the suspect with purchasing four vehicles totaling more than \$325,000. Dealerships were tricked into giving the suspect a line of credit until his "corporate secretary" could forward a business check for the vehicles. Weeks later, when the dealerships had not received payments, the suspect wrote checks for the vehicles from his now ex-girlfriend's account.

Through the investigation, the VTFU recovered all the vehicles and the suspect was charged with four counts of grand theft of a motor vehicle, a fourth-degree felony, and tampering with records, a third-degree felony.

Findlay VTFU recovers trailers

Three people were indicted by a Wood County grand jury in October on first degree felony charges for engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity.

The indictments were the result of an investigation by the Findlay Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit into stolen trailers in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The trailers were fenced and sold to unsuspecting purchasers throughout northwest Ohio for more than \$83,000.

During the eight-month investigation, the VTFU recovered 42 stolen trailers and two stolen zero-turn lawnmowers. The value of the trailers was over \$433,000, which includes the contents at the time of theft.

Ohio Investigative Unit Perry County trace-back case ends with jail time, fines

Two people in Perry County were sentenced to jail time after Ohio Investigative Unit agents connected them with furnishing alcohol to underage individuals involved in a fatal crash.

A 19-year-old female pled guilty to furnishing and was sentenced to 180 days in jail with all but 16 days suspended. The 16 days will be split in fourths, with four days served in 2017 and 2018 on the anniversary of the crash. The remaining days

will be served in 2018 and 2019 on the birthday of the individual who was killed in the crash. The female was also sentenced to two years of intensive probation and a \$500 fine.

A 28-year-old male pled guilty for furnishing and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with all but 80 suspended.

In July, the Liquor Control Commission ordered the New Lexington liquor permit establishment to serve an eight-day

suspension or pay an \$800 fine. The liquor permit premise paid the fine in August.

The commission ruled after agents administratively charged the liquor permit premise with both furnishing and sale of beer to a person under 21.

Agents conducted the trace-back investigation after troopers were called to a crash involving minors on November 12, 2016. Troopers contacted OIU agents after finding alcohol was a factor in the crash.

Criminal Patrol

Troopers seize marijuana, liquid hashish and cocaine in Hamilton County

On October 18, 2017, troopers stopped a 2005 Buick LaCrosse with Ohio registration for a marked lanes violation on Interstate 275 in Hamilton County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed a large duffle bag containing 11 pounds of marijuana, 24 vials of liquid hashish and drug packaging materials. An additional search warrant of his home revealed 4 pounds of marijuana and 100 grams of cocaine. The contraband has a street value of \$56,690.



Troopers seize methamphetamine valued at \$266,000 in Wood County

On November 2, 2017, troopers stopped a rented 2017 Infinity QX 60 with Arizona registration for a following too close violation on Interstate 80 in Wood County.

Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed approximately 246 ounces of methamphetamine submerged within liquid. The methamphetamine is valued at approximately \$266,000.



Troopers seize \$285,000 worth of heroin in Summit County

On November 14, 2017, troopers stopped a rented 2018 Nissan with Connecticut registration for a lane change violation on Interstate 80 in Summit County. Criminal indicators were observed. Upon stopping the vehicle the suspect was asked to exit, failed to comply and fled the scene. Troopers observed the suspect throw a bag into a garbage dumpster, before stopping him as he was exiting a hotel parking lot. The suspect was taken in to custody and troopers located the contraband. Troopers seized 1,600 grams of heroin, which is valued at approximately \$285,000.



Tactical Flight Officer a Critical Position

In September, the Aviation Unit added a tactical flight officer (TFO) position. The position is responsible for coordinating between ground units and the pilot during missions requiring the use of a camera. TFOs operate the camera system, using it to identify targets and direct units to that location.

In the past, Patrol pilots were cross-trained as TFOs, but in an effort to provide support for all districts, the section added the new specialty position. The Patrol named Trooper Jeffrey Evans as the new TFO.

With the designation of a TFO, pilots can dedicate their time to supporting the districts and law enforcement agencies who need them.

Tpr. Evans has completed his preliminary training. The entire training process is expected to take a year to complete. The Aviation Unit hopes to expand the program in the near future.



Mature Driving Summit

In the fall, the Ohio State Highway Patrol staff took part in the Silver Tsunami – Support Ohio’s Aging Drivers. The three conferences were hosted by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and American Occupational Therapy Association and were held at the Patrol Training Academy, Lorain County Community College and the Dayton Metro Library.

The conferences focused on safety and education measures that can be taken by aging drivers, caregivers and organizations. According to information provided by ODOT, drivers over the age of 65 represented 20 percent of drivers in Ohio in 2016. The number of crashes involving older drivers are on the rise. People age 65 and over are the fastest-growing segment of drivers. National projections indicate drivers 65 and older will make up a quarter of all drivers by 2025.

National senior mobility expert



Staff Lieutenant Lawrence Roseboro addresses attendees at the Silver Tsunami – Support Ohio’s Aging Drivers conference. (Photo courtesy of Bruce Hall.)

Elin Schold Davis, a licensed occupational therapist and certified driving rehabilitation specialist, was the keynote speaker during the conference. She works with occupational therapy programs and

their stakeholders to serve senior drivers and their caregivers. Together, they assess the risks and develop strategies to help individuals remain independent and mobile for as long as it is safe to do so.

Ohio Law Enforcement Executive Summit at Deer Creek

In October, state law enforcement leaders attended the Ohio Law Enforcement Executive Summit at Deer Creek State Park. The meeting was an opportunity for the state’s law enforcement community to talk about issues facing modern policing, with topics including legislative updates,

joint investigations, active shooters, opiates, impaired driving and police officer safety concerns. The summit also provided opportunity to build relationships and form partnerships to combat shared challenges. Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof was also in attendance.





2017 Hispanic Leadership Conference

Professional Football Hall of Fame Offensive Tackle Anthony Munoz told the attendees of the Hispanic Leadership Conference, that what made his offensive line successful while he played for the Cincinnati Bengals, was the diversity.

“We had to work together,” he said, noting that no one on the offensive line had a similar background. That same offensive line carried the Bengals to two Super Bowls in Munoz’s career. “Communities have to do that – work together.”

Munoz was one of four speakers during the conference held on October 5 at the Patrol’s Training Academy. The conference was hosted by the Patrol to invest in its future leaders. Personnel from the Ohio National Guard, and officers from the Cincinnati Police Department and Cleveland Division of Police were also in attendance.

Munoz says he learned his work ethic from his mother. He had coaches and teachers that were great role models. He had great friends. No one cared about race, money or differences in beliefs. Where he grew up, everyone

came together and learned about different cultures, they respected one another.

“Don’t ever forget where you come from,” he said. “The struggles I had growing up – I wouldn’t trade. The journey made me who I am.”

Even though Munoz was born and raised in California, his mother also made sure he knew where he came from, and the foods and celebrations of his heritage, which helped shape him into the person he is today. He believes we should honor traditions, because they are being lost.

He also said when he was approached to speak in front of law enforcement, he did not hesitate.

“I am thrilled to be a part of it,” he said. “I appreciate all that you do. (His family and he) have a deep appreciation for law enforcement. It’s an honor and a privilege (to be here).”

In addition to Munoz, speakers included L. Tony Ortiz, a diversity liaison with the Ohio Attorney General’s Office and David Stebenne, a professor of history and law at the Ohio State University, and First District Court of Appeals Judge Marilyn Zayas.

Fall Women’s Conference

In November, the Patrol hosted the 2017 Fall Women’s Leadership Conference which provided employees with an opportunity to network, foster teamwork and participate in conversation. The Patrol is committed to the leadership development of its employees. This event was a great success thanks to the speakers, planning committee, and all who attended.

Colonel Paul Pride and Major Marla Gaskill opened

the conference. Engaging presentations followed, with speakers including, Girls on the Run of Central Ohio Executive Director Jess Sparks, The Ohio State University Director of Public Safety Monica Moll and Ohio Reformatory for Women Warden Ronette Burkes.

This was the second Women’s Conference of the year. The second date was added due to the overwhelming success of the spring conference.



2017 Retiree Association Business Meeting and Banquet



Colonel Thomas Rice (far left) provided the oath of office to the newly-elected Retiree Association officers (left to right): First VP Dale L. LaRue, Past President Gil Jones, President Robert Booker, Treasurer Brenda Collins, Second VP Ginny Setty Fogt and Secretary Christine Freund Untrauer.

On October 21, members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association held its annual business meeting and dinner. During the evening, retired Colonel

Thomas Rice provided the oath of office to the newly-elected officers and read the names of retirees who have passed away were pinned to a wreath (*pictured above right*).

Ohio State Highway Patrol, Michigan State Police Face Off on Facebook

The Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Michigan State Police (MSP) took to Facebook to engage fans in a friendly battle.

The challenge was to get Ohioans

and Michiganders to designate a sober driver. Fans were encouraged to like the video on either OSHP or MSP's Facebook page. The agency with the fewest likes had to wear the

winning team's colors.

The contest ran November 16 through 22. The Patrol came out victorious with 4,800 likes compared to MSP's 3,200 likes.



National School Bus Safety Week

The theme of this year's National School Bus Safety Week was "Stop on Red." The week of Oct. 16 - 20, troopers became highly visible on school bus routes and school related safety zones by following or riding on school buses to identify violations.

From 2014 to 2016, over 4,160 drivers were convicted of failing to stop for a stopped school bus and 3,958 traffic crashes were reported involving school buses.



As part of National School Bus Safety week, Columbus City Schools and the Ohio State Highway Patrol revealed a school bus prototype with new safety features and troopers and auxiliaries rode on school buses around the state to raise safety awareness and identify violations.

School Bus Prototype Equipped with New Safety Features

By Alexis Bartolomucci

Some children in the Columbus City Schools district rode a new bus to school over the past several months. The district, along with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, revealed a school bus prototype with several new safety features during National School Bus Safety Week.

The district worked in collaboration with the Patrol and the Ohio Department of Education. The project was started when the question was asked about how safety can be increased in and around the bus and how drivers can be warned from a greater distance to exercise caution as they're approaching a school bus.

The prototype, shorter than a full-size bus, is the first of its kind. It included safer seating with booster seats and seatbelts, flashing red and amber LED

lights and an audible warning system to alert both occupants and bystanders the bus is getting ready to move, along with several other features intended to keep students, bus drivers and motorists safe.

Flashing lights on the front of the bus alert oncoming traffic if a bus is slowing down, white ground wash lights on the side help the bus driver see the children better when they're outside of the bus and reflective striping placed on the back of the bus is to help prevent rear-end crashes. A camera on the back helps bus drivers when they back up.

Columbus City Schools is the first to test the high visibility lighting and reflective markers on the streets. The project was underway for six months before moving into the test phase. The district and Patrol have been monitoring and analyzing data from a

safety stand point, as well as measuring usability, costs and practicality.

Ohio transported more than 878,866 students during the 2016-2017 school year. Each day Columbus City Schools transports around 34,000 students using nearly 850 buses. The collective goal for the updated school bus is to provide the safest mode of transportation for children traveling to and home from school. Ohio's school bus construction standards are some of the toughest in the nation and are designed to keep the students safe.

The prototype operated for three months and after the trial run, the data was submitted to the Patrol. If it receives good feedback and results, the safety features could become fully-approved and eventually used on every school bus in Ohio and across the nation.



The third quarter Ace/Criminal Patrol awards ceremony was held on October 30. 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.

Coshocton Highway Dedicated to Ret. Major David Sturtz



Friends and family gathered on Route 541 in October as the roadway was dedicated to retired Major David D. Sturtz, who served as Ohio’s first inspector general after retiring from the Patrol.

Retired Major David D. Sturtz was honored in October as a section of Route 541 in Coshocton County was dedicated to him for his service to Ohio.

The stretch of highway is near where Major Sturtz was born and raised. Major Sturtz graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in 1959 as a member of the 50th Academy Class. He retired after 31 years with the Patrol.

After retiring, retired Major Sturtz was appointed by Governor Richard Celeste to become Ohio’s first inspector general. He was reappointed to the position by Governor George Voinovich.

Retired Major Sturtz passed away on September 18, 2015.



Sergeant Coil Presented with ODPS Military Service Award

Sergeant Alec Coil, Lima Post, was honored on November 7 by the Department of Public Safety's Military Committee. Sgt. Coil served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the Indiana Army National Guard.

He was nominated by Administrative Professional 1 Beth Stewart Bullinger, who said Sgt. Coil's military experience made him a valuable asset to the Patrol. She said he has an ability to inspire and is dedicated to making Ohio safer, saving the lives of countless motorists.

He enlisted in the Marines during the fall of 1995, but did not leave for basic training until August 1996. He was deployed for six months in 1998 to the Mediterranean Sea.

In 2000, his active military career had come to an end. However, Sgt. Coil decided to continue serving and enlisted in the Indiana Army National Guard in January 2001.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sgt. Coil was sent to Kuwait to provide security services.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sgt. Coil provided convoy security services throughout Iraq and security at Talil Air Base in Nasiriya. Sgt. Coil and his unit participated in and provided crucial support in the rescue of a captured soldier, Private Jessica Lynch.

In 2005, Sgt. Coil was deployed for a humanitarian mission to support to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He completed his service with the Indiana National Guard in January 2006.

Sgt. Coil is active with his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, serving as chaplain and as a member of their honor guard.

During the ceremony, Sgt. Coil



thanked his family and the senior staff for their support, and noted that he had big shoes to fill because Reverend Dr. Richard Ellsworth previously won this award.

Trooper Mull Receives Medal of Valor

On November 27, Trooper Brian S. Mull received the Medal of Valor award from the Blissfield, Mich. Village Police Department and the Blissfield Village Hall.

On July 21, Trooper Mull engaged in a pursuit that the Blissfield police originated. During the pursuit, Trooper Mull's patrol car was struck intentionally by the suspect's vehicle. Trooper Mull continued to pursue the suspect until the suspect got out of his vehicle and fled on foot across several lanes of interstate traffic.

As he attempted to place the suspect in custody, both Trooper Mull and the suspect fell approximately 30 feet from an overpass to the ground below. Trooper Mull received serious injuries and is still recovering.

The Medal of Valor, as described by Blissfield Village Police department, is conferred in those exceptional cases when an officer performs a hazardous duty and the life of the officer was at great risk of peril. The act must be of such extraordinary nature that by engaging in the act, the officer's exposure to peril was above and beyond the call of duty.

Blissfield Police Chief Dale Greenleaf presented the award to Trooper Mull during a Blissfield Village Town Hall meeting.



Trooper Deluca Honored



Trooper Daniel L. Deluca received the "Friends of 4-H Award" for his volunteer work with CARteens in Mahoning County. Trooper Deluca was presented the award by Robin Adams, director of CARteens, during the Raising Our Hands for 4-H Volunteer Recognition Banquet on November 2.

Patrol celebrates 84 years

On November 15, Patrol staff around the state took time out of their day to celebrate and reflect on 84 years. In each Patrol section, the highest-ranking officer read a letter from Colonel Paul A. Pride honoring retirees for their sacrifices, expressing gratitude to active members and remembering those we have lost during their service. Colonel Pride also shared his gratitude to the families of the Patrol for the difficulties they endure.

“It is important we focus on what is at stake and reflect on where we have been,” Pride said. “Our goal is not about an obscure number – it is and has always been about saving lives one traffic stop at a time. The influence of the Highway Patrol in our communities is real, it is measureable and it can be healing. We must encourage one another to be purposeful and to look for opportunities to have a positive impact on those we meet on a daily basis, knowing that our presence is an opportunity to serve.”



Office of Planning & Finance

In November, Major Marla K. Gaskill and Staff Lieutenant Matthew L. Them presented certificates of recognition to hotel representatives who assisted with lodging for the Mobile Field Force deployment during the Ray Tensing Trial in Cincinnati.



Van Wert Post

The Van Wert Post partnered with Braun Custom Ambulances, National Door and Trim, the Van Wert County Hospital and their employees who pledged to not drive distracted.



Lima Post



The Lima Post hosted a Meet the W.I.L.D. or Wildlife in Legendary Disguise. The event was held in October at Hermon Woodlands. The Patrol was joined by the Johnny Applesseed Metro Park District, Allen County Sheriff's Office, Allen County Public Health, the Shawnee Township and Lima police departments, the Shawnee Township and American Township fire departments, and the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission. During the evening, participants met local law enforcement and received Halloween safety tips.



Trooper Murphy volunteered in the village of Bluffton during a recent "trunk or treat" event. Both Trooper Murphy and Trooper Mahaffey volunteered for "trunk or treat" events in Bluffton, Ottawa, Lima and Wapakoneta.

Save the Date
for the Retiree Cookout, June 15, 2018.
More information will be coming soon.

Fremont Post



In October, Woodmore High School held a First Responder's night at the last home football game. Sergeant Matthew W. Davis, Sergeant Jordan L. Schwochow and Trooper Richard E. Donovan, as well as members of the Woodville and Elmore police departments and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office were in attendance for the tribute.



In September, Trooper Mark R. Sorg read to two elementary classes for Books with Badges in the Lakota Local School District, in Northwest Ohio.

Elyria Post

Trooper Juan "Ray" Santiago organized a hurricane supply relief drive at the Elyria Post in conjunction with the Sacred Heart Chapel in Lorain. On September 29, 2017, Trooper Santiago, Trooper Matthew H. Gramlich, Trooper Alijandro J. Torres and Sergeant Timmothy J. Hoffman delivered the collected supplies to the collection site. In all, six Patrol cars were filled with every day essentials, such as cases of water, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, diapers, Pedialyte and bug spray. Between the efforts of the church, community and the Patrol, seven semi-truck trailers were filled with relief supplies headed for Puerto Rico.



Zanesville Post

OSHP hosted a Tons of Trucks event at the Muskingum County fairgrounds in October. The event was planned by Trooper Jordan Butler to give residents, particularly children, the opportunity to meet the people who serve their community, as well as see the vehicles and equipment they use for their jobs. Many local agencies, wrecker companies and public utilities participated in the event.

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Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Kessler Sign Company provided the Zanesville Post with billboard space in Zanesville and Licking counties.



Canfield Post



Troopers Daniel L. Deluca and Ray D. Ellis visited St. Joseph's the Provider Catholic School in October to talk to the students about wearing safety belts while riding in the car with their parents. During their visit, they also helped serve lunch to the kids.



Daniel L. Deluca



Benjamin T. Miller

Troopers Daniel L. Deluca and Benjamin T. Miller performed the Heimlich maneuver on a young boy in November. While eating at a Chick-fil-a in Boardman, the two noticed a commotion and immediately jumped in to help. At first the young boy said he was okay, but then Trooper Deluca noticed his body language changed and told Trooper Miller to perform the life-saving maneuver.

Portsmouth



Troopers, their families and local businesses teamed together to raise money in preparation for the annual Shop with a Cop events. The money raised is put towards funds to help purchase Christmas presents for children and families in the area who are less fortunate.

The event was held in October at Gatti's in Portsmouth. Sarah Lloyd, wife of Trooper Matthew Lloyd, put together 14 gift baskets, while Rita Brackman, mother of Sergeant Ryan Robirds, made and donated a quilt. More than \$3,000 was raised.

Ravenna Post



In October, Lieutenant Antonio L. Matos took part in a safety event at the Walgreens in Ravenna, which was hosted by Portage County Safe Communities. During the event, customers had a chance to answer trivia questions pertaining to traffic safety.

Jackson District



On October 7, Trooper Charles “Chip” Robinson, Athens Post, was on duty when he was notified of a fire at his residence. The fire spread throughout the entire home. No one in his family was injured, however they lost all their personal items. In order to help Trooper Robinson and his family replace essential items, District 9 staff collected funds to assist them. Donations were collected at the Athens Post and an account set up through the Ohio State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union.

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Chillicothe Post

In October, thousands of students from eight different high schools took to the streets of Chillicothe during a march and rally at the Ross County Courthouse. The rally was a part of the My Attitude Determines Everything – or M.A.D.E. During the rally, law enforcement from the area, including the Chillicothe Patrol Post, provided escorts for the students as they marched.



Academy



From left: Retired Captain Daniel Lay (family friend), Dale Hallett, David Hallett, and retired Sergeant Donald Lay (family friend).

A Cessna 182 radio-controlled replica airplane was recently added to Heritage Hall. The plane was built by Fulton County resident Dale Hallett and his sons Rich and David in the 1970s. In February, the Halletts donated the plane to the Patrol. It was displayed in the Aviation Unit until October when it was moved to the academy. On October 31, Mr. Hallett and his friends and family visited Heritage Hall.

Delaware & Columbus Posts



Trooper Eric S. Sheumaker, Trooper Nicholas R. Shaw and Auxiliary Sergeant Michael Wolfe participated in the annual Westerville Cops and Kids Day in September. The Westerville Police Department hosted the event, which brought together approximately 10,000 community members and more than 25 public safety agencies.

Richard L. Meadows

Captain Richard L. Meadows, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired on October 6, 2017, after 33 years with the Patrol.

He began his patrol career in May 1984 as a dispatcher assigned to the Gallipolis Post. He began training as a member of the 117th Academy Class in March 1988. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Athens Post.

In 1995, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Ironton Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2005, he earned the Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award. As a sergeant, he also served at the Jackson and Athens posts, and the Jackson District Criminal Patrol Unit.

In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Southeast Regional Criminal Patrol Unit where he served as commander. As a lieutenant he also served in the Office of Criminal Investigations. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and remained in the Office of Criminal Investigations. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of captain and served as commander of the Office of Criminal Investigations.



Mark S. Bocsy

Sergeant Mark S. Bocsy, Expo Center, retired on October 10, 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 West Jefferson Post.

As a trooper, he also served at the Patrol's Training Academy. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Training Academy. As a sergeant, he served in Capitol Operations, Logistical and Security Services and the Expo Center.



Anthony L. DeChoudens

Sergeant Anthony L. DeChoudens, Milan Post, retired on October 2, 2017, after 20 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1997 as a member of the 128th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Norwalk Post.

In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Milan Post to serve as an assistant post commander. Throughout his career, he served at the Norwalk and Sandusky posts. He was also selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times, and selected as District Trooper of the Year in 2013.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1988 to 1992.



Wesley S. Stought

Sergeant Wesley S. Stought, Granville Post, retired on October 19, 2017, after 20 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 Mansfield Post.

In 2003 he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marion Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Mt. Gilead Post, Office of Personnel, Patrol's Training Academy, Security Services, Office of Field Operations, Ohio Traffic Safety Office and at the Granville Post.



Rod W. Tyree

Sergeant Rod W. Tyree, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired on October 10, 2017, after 34 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1983 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Columbus General Headquarters. He became a member of the 113th Academy Class in April 1984. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Dayton Post.

As a trooper, he also served in the Office of Special Operations/Criminal Investigations. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Computer Criminal Unit.



Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from October – November 2017.

Alan S. Derikito

Trooper Alan S. Derikito, Security Services, retired on November 24, 2017, after 35 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1982 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Elyria Post. He began his training as a member of the 113th Academy Class in April 1984. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post.

As a trooper, he also served at the Marion Post, Capitol Operations, Office of Criminal Investigations, Executive Protection Unit and Security Services.



Jesus J. Reyes

Trooper Jesus J. Reyes, Swanton Post, retired on October 20, 2017, after 34 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in June 1983 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the former Walbridge Post. He became a member of the 113th Academy Class in April 1984. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post.

In 1994, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Toledo Post and the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Ricardo "Rico" Jones

Trooper Ricardo "Rico" Jones, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on October 27, 2017, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1989 as a member of the 118th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Portsmouth Post.

As a trooper, he served at the Granville Post, Capitol Operations and the Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit. He also earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice.

Trooper Jones served in the United States Army Reserve from 1988 to 1996.



James R. Barlow

Dispatcher James R. Barlow, Bowling Green Dispatch Center, retired on October 14, 2017, after 30 years with the Patrol. He began his Patrol career in October 1987 as a dispatcher assigned to the Toledo Post. He was selected as Post Dispatcher of Year five times. In 2011, he was selected as Findlay District Dispatcher of the Year. As a dispatcher, he also served at the Swanton Post.



Darrell L. McClain

Trooper Darrell L. McClain, Cleveland Post, retired on November 27, 2017, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 1991 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Cleveland Post. He became a member of the 122nd Academy Class in January 1992. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Ravenna and Cleveland Metro posts. In 2007, he was selected as Ravenna Post Trooper of the Year.



David M. Spratt

Dispatcher David M. Spratt, Cambridge Dispatch Center, entered disability retirement on October 31, 2017, after nearly 11 years with the Patrol.

He began his Patrol career in November 2006 as a dispatcher assigned to the Cambridge Dispatch Center where he has been assigned throughout his career. He was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year five times, and District Dispatcher of the Year twice.

He earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in communications in 1998 and a Bachelor of Science degree in communications in 1999 from Ohio University.



Maureen Benich

Administrative Professional 1 Maureen Benich, Columbus District Headquarters, retired on October 27, 2017, after 25 years of state service. She began her state career with the Youngstown Adult Parole Authority of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in 1992 as an Administrative Professional 1.



As an Administrative Professional 1, she also served at the Columbus Adult Parole Authority and the Central Office of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. In 2013, she transferred to the Patrol as an Administrative Professional 1 assigned to the Columbus District Headquarters and was assigned there throughout her career.

In the next issue:

- Leadership Awards
- Patrol personnel helping communities during the holidays

In Memory of Auxiliary Captain Steve Martin

Auxiliary Captain Stephen "Steve" C. Martin, 61, passed away on November 30, 2017, after a battle with cancer. Martin joined the Auxiliary on May 14, 2011, and quickly proved himself as an essential part of the program.

Riding out of the Delaware Post, he volunteered hundreds of hours each year and worked countless special details, including OVI checkpoints, Ohio State football games, the Ohio State Fair and Shop with a Cop. He was promoted to rank of the Auxiliary Lieutenant for the Delaware Post on June 30, 2014. On January 1, 2016, he was promoted to Auxiliary Staff Lieutenant, working directly with the Auxiliary commander out of General Headquarters (GHQ) on a number of projects

including recruitment and staff management.

In recent years, Martin volunteered over 500 hours each year across multiple years, resulting in him receiving one of the Auxiliary's highest honors, the Duffy Award.

He also received the Auxiliary Excellence in Service Award, which is presented to those who live up to the Auxiliary's goals and ideals of service to both the Patrol and the citizens of Ohio. Martin's final promotion was to Aux. Captain, remaining at GHQ, on Nov. 12, 2017.

He graduated from the Ohio Technical Institute with a degree in field engineering. He was employed by Solutions (Medicine Hat, Canada) providing IT support.



He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Belinda; daughters, Sarah (Korey) Kincade of Grove City, Rhonda (Jason) Litton of Delaware, and Sarah Carletti of MA; and grandsons, Mason and Bennett Kincade.

Thank You

A collection of messages received through mail and social media

The message below was captured from OIU's Facebook page in response to a Perry County trace-back investigation:

It's encouraging to read that the investigative hours had a favorable outcome for this family. I hope it helps in their healing process.

This certainly wasn't the outcome when a dear friend was killed by an intoxicated juvenile in 2016. The person(s) providing alcohol to a minor need to be held accountable, too.

I am thankful for the work of the OIU.

...

Dear Lt. Gebhart,

I want to take a moment to thank you and the Patrol for your kind hospitality at the Patrol's recent birthday and the retired employee appreciation. It means a lot that the Patrol takes the time. The best part of my career as an architect was the opportunity to be associated with the fine men and women of the Patrol. Good people, working hard to do good things. People, who are many times under-appreciated for their effort.

Again, thank you, the Post and the Patrol for your effort and kind hospitality.

Dan Richhart
Retired Architect Supervisor

I just wanted to acknowledge Trooper Jerrold T. March for his professionalism at the Deer Creek Safety Days on Saturday, October 21st at the Deer Creek Campground. Several Law Enforcement and EMS personnel were on display for the camp guests to meet. Trooper March and his K9 Jack put on several demonstrations and went above and beyond for the kids.



Trooper March with Noah Fellure, son of Staff Lieutenant Heber M. Fellure and Program Administrator 1 Melissa J. Fellure, at Deer Creek Safety Days.

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Ohio State Highway Patrol Credit Union membership consists of:

- Current full-time OSHP employees and their families
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- Spouses of persons who died while within the field of membership of this credit union; employees of this credit union; persons retired as pensioners or annuitants from the above employment; members of the immediate family or household; or organizations of such persons

Start saving now for 2018 holiday season through the Christmas Club Savings Account:

- Start at any time with as little as \$5
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Visit patrolcu.com for more information.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Chaplain's Comments



With the Christmas holiday came the end of the year and we all had to learn to write 2018 instead of 2017. There were also the self-imposed changes that came with the all-too-often forgotten resolutions made at the beginning of the new year. Except for these small ripples on the sea of life, the new year has not brought significant changes and the mission to make Ohio Safer remains the same. The slate is clear and the challenge to show improved activity in the coming year is very real. But as the years seem to slip by at an ever increasing speed, I believe there needs to be more time for listening, learning and leaving a good footprint.

This idea came to me as I heard Steve Green singing the song, "May those who come behind us find us faithful." This song is based in part on the words of Paul recorded in Philippians 3:12-14. As we run the race of life, we are not to forget the sacrifices and efforts of those who have gone before us. They have laid down a good foundation and set a true compass.

Stop once in awhile and study the picture of the first class of patrolmen, graduated and commissioned back in 1933. There may not be an audible message, but how can you miss the message of commitment and courage as these leather-helmeted individuals rode out into snow on icy roads to put service above self. Having ridden a motorcycle on snowy roads and on frozen Shaker Lakes – not because I was committed and courageous, but because I was a crazy kid – I am aware of the danger those first officers faced.

The mode of transportation and method of communication have changed tremendously, but the spirit and commitment have only grown stronger. It is like a relay race where the baton of leadership is passed along from one generation to the next. But unlike the race where the baton transfer is to be made quickly, the ideal transfer of knowledge and history takes time for listening and learning.

One of the many blessings which has come to me is the acceptance offered by the retirees – many of whom are my juniors by a significant number of years. It is interesting and inspiring to listen to them tell of the events of yesteryear.

The cloth on the mailbox indicating that the officer has a phone call in the farmhouse or a place of business seems so far removed from the hand-held cell phone. But it is part of the history that must never be forgotten. It is important to pause and look back upon the circumstances and events which have brought us to a new year. But it is vitally important to leave clear and positive footprints for those who follow us.

The core values of the Patrol have been rephrased but not compromised over the years. Justice is justice; right is right; truth is truth; integrity is integrity; loyalty is loyalty; commitment is commitment.

The definitions of the attributes are crystal clear. They are like signposts on the road we travel. It is often identified as the path of righteousness. As those who have gone before us have shown us the way by both word and deed, so those of us still on the journey have a responsibility to leave good footprints and signposts for those who follow us.

As 2017 is left to the history book and 2018 lies before us full of opportunity, let us pause to learn from the past, take time to plan for the future, and then forge ahead to make the new year the best ever for the Ohio State Highway Patrol as well as for each one individually.

All the district chaplains join me in claiming the Lord's protection and blessing for you and all in your family.

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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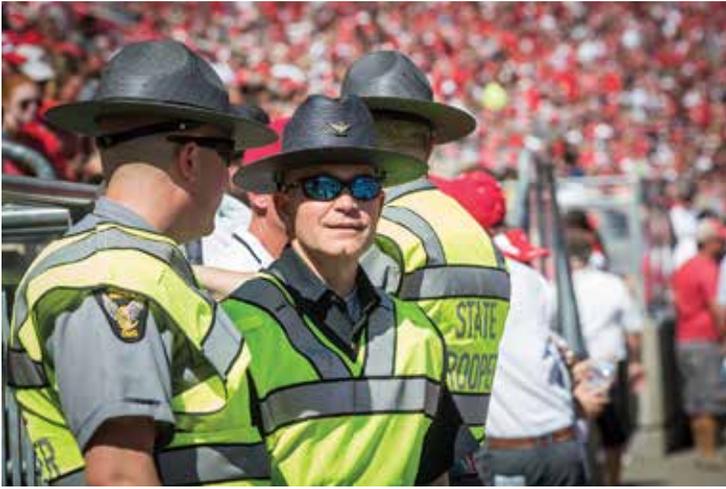
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