

FLYING

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OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Colonel's Letter



Since being appointed superintendent, I have had the unique privilege to travel, meet and speak with many of our current and retired employees. I always knew our people were the best and brightest around, and those thoughts are validated in every interaction. There is no doubt our corporate success as national leaders in law enforcement is directly tied to the passion for service of our past and present employees.

In the last six months, we have accomplished several important goals. The Strategic Plan Committee refined ideas and recommendations into the new Strategic Plan. By now, each of you have had the opportunity to review the plan and think about how it impacts you and the services we provide. More importantly, I hope you have had the opportunity to think how you can leverage your talents to help us achieve our goals. Our Diversity training curriculum was developed and implemented. Training was completed across the state and the feedback and results indicate this training was a huge success. By better understanding ourselves and others, we can all improve the way we deliver our services.

We also formally opened the Akron Post, the first Patrol post located on a university campus; the Jackson Post was dedicated to retired Colonel Pride; and we recently launched the OSTATS program which puts the information to solve traffic problems in the hands of our commanders and first line supervisors.

The summer brought highs and lows. We had a great time hosting our retirees at the annual retiree cookout, but we also dealt with tragedy. As you know, Trooper Jason Phillips was struck in June by a wrong-way driver. The outpouring of support from our employees, safety partners and the community was inspirational to us all. Often times, events like this serve as a reminder of what is really important. We all are forever grateful to everyone involved with his care and recovery.

I want to emphasize the importance of family. Our families give us the strength to do the noble work of law enforcement. We need to take every opportunity to tell them what they mean to us and how important they are to our success. Time is precious, let's not put ourselves in a position where we are wishing we would have, when we could have.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro
Superintendent



3. Jackson Post Dedication to Retired Colonel Pride

The Patrol dedicates the Jackson Post to Retired Colonel Paul A. Pride.

4. Patrol Hosts Annual Retirees' Cookout

This year's Retirees' Cookout honors the firsts of the Patrol.

6. Students visit Akron Post

Students from the Helen Arnold Community Learning Center visit the new Akron Post.

Jackson Post Dedication to Retired Colonel Pride

More than 100 people gathered at the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Jackson Post for the official Post Dedication Ceremony for retired Colonel Paul A. Pride. The dedication took place on June 21 at the Jackson Post, 10179 Chillicothe Pike.

"I doubt there is anyone in the Ohio State Highway Patrol who doesn't know how I feel about our organization," said retired Colonel Pride. "When I graduated the Academy and earned my commission, I was filled with a sense of pride. But when I was appointed as the superintendent, it left me with a feeling of great humility. I am honored to have had a small role in our rich heritage."

Colonel Richard S. Fambro, superintendent of the Patrol, oversaw the ceremony and called Pride a forward thinker who left the Patrol a stronger organization than when he took it over.

"Colonel Pride was a visionary leader," Colonel Fambro said. "His achievements, major contributions and loyal service left an indelible mark upon the Highway Patrol."

Throughout his career and his time as superintendent, retired Colonel Pride's vision for criminal patrol efforts was integral to the program's success. He directed troopers to simply stop cars, talk to people, sell traffic safety and look beyond the original reason for the traffic stop for any signs of criminal activity.

"Dedications remind us that every time we enter a building, we go with the legacy of those who came before us," Colonel Fambro said. "They also provide an opportunity to reflect, a time to celebrate and a time to say well done. How appropriate that the Jackson Post will be named in his honor, a place he and Tina call home."

Retired Colonel Pride added that while his time with the Division has passed, he will be watching with pride and he will be the biggest supporter of the Patrol and Jackson Post.

"To have the Jackson Post dedicated in my honor gives me feelings of greater magnitudes than I can describe," said retired Colonel Pride. "This is where it all started for Tina and me, even though we moved 18 times together, no other place ever meant so much to us."



Patrol Hosts Annual Retirees' Cookout

On June 14, the Sixth Annual Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Cookout took place at the Patrol's Training Academy. This year's ceremony paid homage to the Patrol's humble beginnings, reflecting on the nearly 86 years of legacy and tradition, while highlighting some of the Patrol's greatest accomplishments. Colonel Richard S. Fambro spoke about leadership and significant sacrifices of a few of the "firsts" who challenged the status quo, broke barriers and shattered glass ceilings.

Colonel Lynn Black was recognized for being the Patrol's first superintendent and served as commander-in-chief from the Division's inception in 1933 to April 1944.

"His vision remains a true and vital component of the Patrol we know today," said Colonel Fambro, who then went on to recognize others in the Patrol.

Sergeant John F. Best, a member of the first Academy Class, was the first to have his name etched in granite on the Patrol's memorial wall. While recognizing Sgt. Best, Col. Fambro emphasized the importance of taking time to acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives in the service of others.

"Throughout our history, we as an organization have learned many lessons," he said as he remembered Sanford Roan, the first African American male who applied for the Patrol in 1939 and then became a member of our 11th Academy Class. Although he did not walk the stage at graduation, he invoked change, which opened doors many never felt possible.

One of those doors opened for Louis Sharp, a member of our 44th Academy Class who on November 4, 1955, became the first African American to graduate and become an Ohio State Highway Patrolman. Even though he endured poor treatment, he persevered with a positive attitude and a fierce determination to succeed. His sacrifice and leadership led to the integration of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Another door which opened belonged to retired Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert Jones, who was in attendance. While Sanford Roan and Louis Sharp laid the groundwork, 10 years would pass before two more African Americans were accepted into the Patrol's Training Academy. Lieutenant Colonel Jones graduated with the 69th Academy Class on February 18, 1966, the last class of Hartman Farms. From there, his career made history with every promotion up to and including lieutenant colonel.



Dianne Mahar, formerly known as Dianne Harris, entered the Patrol Training Academy as a member of the 100th Academy Class. She became etched in history on February 4, 1977, after becoming the first female ever sworn in as an Ohio State Highway Patrolman. During the Patrol's nearly 86-year history, the badge has only gone through one change and that was when Dianne graduated, the wording on the badge changed from "Patrolman" to "Trooper."

In 1987, Terri Anspach from the 108th Academy Class, formerly known as Terri Marlin, earned the distinction of becoming the first female promoted to a sergeant. Sergeant Marlin retired in 2006 after 20 years of service.

While Colonel Fambro introduced the first Ohio State Highway Patrol Chaplain, those in attendance gave the beloved Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth a standing ovation. "Rev" made history by becoming the first Patrol Chaplain and made history again when he created the first Patrol Chaplaincy program ensuring that any employee in need has a chaplain near them. One of those individuals is Zedda Myers, serving the Wilmington District, who is the Patrol's first female chaplain. She was also honored by Colonel Fambro.

Fermina Sanchez, who worked for the Patrol from 1959 until her retirement in 2014, was highlighted for being the longest-serving employee in Patrol history, the first to serve 55 years. When Fermina retired, her unit number – 4108 – was also retired to recognize her years of service and dedication. The retirement of unit numbers is an honor typically reserved for the rank of colonel.

Sergeant Veroman D. Witcher was the first African American to win the Patrol's State Trooper of the Year award in 1997. Sergeant Witcher was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2009. He serves as an assistant post commander at the Piqua Post.

The final person highlighted was Lieutenant Colonel Marla K. Gaskill. In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Gaskill became the first female pilot for the Patrol's Aviation Unit and made history a second time when she became the first female to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"Every one of you in this room has left your footprint, and we thank you for your dedicated years of service," said Colonel Fambro, who spoke about the firsts, the believers and the dreamers. "The struggles you endured are not diminished by this Division, yet celebrated for your strength and for your courage."

The Patrol also thanked the sponsors; the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union, the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association, the Ohio State Troopers Retirees Association and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary for providing a great event.



Students visit Akron Post

On May 15, Akron Post Commander Lieutenant Antonio L. Matos hosted fifth grade students from the Helen Arnold Community Learning Center. The trip was to help guide the students' lives in a direction to make positive choices.

More than 30 students were shuttled in Patrol cruisers with overhead lights activated from Helen Arnold to the Akron Post. Lieutenant Matos wanted to help mentor students and encourage them with a message regardless of their circumstances they can be successful in life.



“Life is all about relationships and these kids need to know that there is support for them and they are loved,” said Lieutenant Matos. “They don't have to be a product of their environment and to understand they were designed and created to be amazing people.”

Lieutenant Matos brought together troopers, Ohio Investigative Unit agents, police officers, deputies, and others who came from the inner city or similar backgrounds. Speakers included Colonel Richard S. Fambro, troopers Milan V. Milosevic and Bounthan T. Saengsiphanh, and Chief Financial Officer of the University of Akron Nathan J. Mortimer. Colonel Fambro spoke about how important it is to take time to speak to our youth.

“There is so much hope out there for these children,” said Colonel Fambro. “It’s important for them not to give up on that hope.”

While implementing the special message, Lieutenant Matos wanted the students to see their reflections in the group, as if they were looking in a mirror, all while building lasting relationships.

“Building bonds between law enforcement, the community, schools and kids builds police legitimacy,” said Lieutenant Matos.

While at the post, students and troopers were able to have fellowship over lunch and receive a guided tour of the post. The students were shown a variety of displays including various Patrol cruisers and vehicles including the SRT Bear, Ohio Investigative Unit command vehicle, a motorcycle and a Patrol canine. After an event-filled day, the students were shuttled back to Helen Arnold with a flyover from Patrol pilot, Trooper Milosevic, who was flying back to the hangar.

“This may not resonate today with the kids, but they will enjoy it and it will be fun,” said Colonel Fambro. “But five, six, seven, ten years from now who knows what impression this will have and what type of an affect today’s event will have on them.”



Akron Post Hosts Open House

More than 100 local, county and state officials attended the Patrol's Akron Post on June 11 as Department of Public Safety Director Thomas Strickrath, Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Lieutenant Antonio L. Matos, University of Akron Interim President John Green and Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro cut the ribbon for the open house. The Akron Post opened February 18, 2018, on the University of Akron's campus and is the only post in the state located on a college campus.

Akron Post Commander Lieutenant Matos thanked the University of Akron and Nathan Mortimer, chief financial officer and vice president for finance and administration, for making the arrangement happen, as the building's location provides quick access to interstate highways and high traffic corridors.

"Over the years, crash and crime statistics indicated that covering Stark and Summit counties from a single location was no longer effective," Fambro said.



Summit County is the fourth most populous county in Ohio, and it also ranks fourth in vehicle miles traveled. The location provides an opportunity for members of the post to have a physical presence in the area, allowing them to interact with the community they serve. The troopers' response times have improved as well since the opening of the post. It is also fully renovated to meet the Patrol's administrative needs along with the law enforcement needs.

The post, which employs 24 troopers, is also home to the Akron office of the District's Investigative Unit. Agents assigned to Summit County from the Cleveland office of the U.S. Secret Service occupy space in the basement.

"Their presence alone means a lot to the university," said Mortimer. "It's just an extra level of insurance to our community."

The opening of the post allows the Patrol to establish new relationships in the community while strengthening existing ones.

"I want to thank the University of Akron, our law enforcement partners, and the city, county and community leaders for their support," Colonel Fambro said. "Together we are making Akron and Summit County a safer place to live, work and drive."



Findlay District



Trooper Kayla L. Mehki of the Toledo Post, who also serves as a First Sergeant in the Ohio Air National Guard, nominated the Ohio State Highway Patrol for the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve's Above and Beyond Award. This award signifies their support for Trooper Mehki and her efforts in the military. Captain John C. Altman,

Findlay District Commander, and Lieutenant Shaun J. Robinson, Toledo Post Commander, accepted the prestigious award on behalf of the Patrol on June 21. Trooper Mehki commended her post and district leadership for their professionalism and support of the National Guard's mission.

Bucyrus District

Trooper Matthew H. Gramlich of the Milan Post participated in an Ohio Turnpike Patron Appreciation Event at the Erie Islands travel plaza on Friday June 7. A patrol car was on display and many children who were traveling had the opportunity to sit in and view the equipment.



On August 9, the Bucyrus District sent more than 20 troopers and professional staff members to attend a leadership conference where Dr. Rick Rigsby was the key note speaker. Dr. Rigsby, a world renowned motivation speaker and author, delivered a powerful message to those in attendance on how make a better impact on their team and offered ways to empower those around them.

Cleveland District



Lieutenant Robert E. Gable and troopers from the Cleveland Post assisted with security and traffic during the Major League Baseball All Star Weekend in Cleveland on July 5-9.



For 10 days during the Memorial Day Holiday and Bike Week, dispatchers from the Sandusky Post dispatched for eight motorcycle units.

Warren District

On July 23, Trooper Dominic J. Danesi assisted Lake County Safe Communities at the Lake County Fair. He partnered with officers from the Mentor Police Department, Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Lake Metro Parks Division to bring awareness about the importance of safety belt usage and the dangers of distracted driving. Trooper Danesi took advantage of this opportunity to promote the Division in a positive light by interacting with fairgoers and passing out "Buckle Up For Safety" pamphlets.



This year at the Canfield Fair, August 28 through September 2, the Patrol's Licensing and Commercial Standards team partnered with the YRC Trucking Company and educated visitors on "the No-Zone." The No-Zone refers to the blind spot areas around large commercial vehicles that can limit the driver's ability to see around the vehicle.



On July 15, Trooper Michael S. Shonk, Ravenna Post, handled a crash where, a "not at fault" motorcyclist sustained life-threatening injuries when a driver pulled into his path of travel. The motorcyclist, Hunter Lauby, avoided fatal injuries thanks to wearing a helmet. On August 12, at the Portage County "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Campaign kickoff, Lauby was presented the Motorcycle Ohio "Saved by the Helmet" Award, and given a brand new motorcycle helmet by Trooper Shonk and members of the Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Ohio program.



On August 4, the Warren Post partnered with the Bazetta Police Department, Trumbull County Educational Service Center and the Cortland Walmart for a "Cram the Cruisers" event. The event raised 2,119 pounds - the most since the program began - of school supplies which were donated to Trumbull County students for the 2020 school year. Trooper Matthew R. Abbey organizes the event each year and was assisted by his wife Kaylynn Abbey. Warren Post AP1 Valerie J. Maffitt assisted during the event with her husband, Terry Maffitt, who dressed as Teddy the Trooper.



Piqua District



During June 10-14, the Springfield Post assisted the Clark County Sheriff's Office with their "Explorers" Academy. Trooper Toby L. Sebastian and Sergeant David G. Slanker conducted stops and approaches, Trooper Robert W. Sabo and Sergeant Shane E. Meddock presented a class on crash investigations, and Lieutenant Brian K. Aller gave a presentation on identifying impaired drivers.

Wilmington District

Trooper Trevor A. T. Jasper of the Batavia Post attended the Milford and Miami Township's National Night Out Event on August 6. He used a hands-on demonstration to show children the importance of wearing a safety belt. The National Night Out event is a national community-building campaign which promotes police-community partnerships.



Retired and current members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Batavia and Georgetown posts gathered on the morning of July 11 for the annual retiree appreciation breakfast.



The Wilmington Post and Wilmington Headquarters hosted a Maintenance Repair Workers (MRW) Appreciation Day for maintenance and repair workers Bruce E. Fassig and Richard P. Spence. There was a realization that there was no MRW Day - so the dispatchers, officers, and administrative professionals at the Wilmington Post and District 8 pitched in and held a cookout at the post to celebrate the hard work and dedication of MRWs Fassig and Spence.



On June 18, representatives from VFW Post 6710 in Wilmington presented Post 14 Trooper Kyle L. Prose, Wilmington Post, with the VFW Post 6710 and District 4 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award for 2019. VFW Commander Richard James congratulated Trooper Prose for his hard work and dedicated service to the community. Trooper Prose has also served as a member of the Ohio National Guard for the last 8 years.

Jackson District



Trooper Theodore H. Neal, Portsmouth Post, escorted Grand Marshall Dr. Robert Nelson in the Portsmouth Memorial Parade on May 27. Dr. Nelson is the father of Ironton Post Administrative Professional Patricia A. Scarberry.



On July 3, the Athens Post held its monthly retiree breakfast at Jack's Steakhouse in Logan. Retired Trooper Len Grey coordinated a surprise for Lieutenant Virgil S. Conley. His second, fourth and sixth grade teachers were in attendance and bonded with Lieutenant Conley over grade school memories.

GHQ

K9 Bady, who worked at the Statehouse, retired from the Patrol on June 6. He was recognized by senators William Coley and Teresa Fedor for his service to the citizens of Ohio. K9 Bady and Trooper James K. Hedges were partners for more than 7 years.



On June 8 and 9, the Patrol partnered with Ford Driving Skills for Life; Governors Highway Safety Association; and the Ohio Family, Career and Community Leaders of America to bring a free driving clinic to Columbus to teach teens necessary skills for safe driving.



At this year's Ohio State Fair, the Ohio State Highway Patrol partnered with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Ohio Trucking Association, and YRC freight to raise awareness and remind motorists to avoid the "No-Zone." The No-Zone refers to the blind spot areas around large commercial vehicles that can limit the driver's ability to see around the vehicle. They also reminded travelers that these areas can be present around commercial trucks and school buses and that drivers need to ensure they can always see the vehicles' mirrors.

Law Enforcement Torch Run

Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol Senior Staff, and Patrol personnel participated in the 2019 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. The final leg of the run began on August 14 and started at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy and concluded at the Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, just west of The Ohio State University.

Dozens of relay teams ran and biked their way to Columbus and the Patrol's Training Academy from Athens, Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Marietta with several community satellite legs throughout the state. The final leg of the run culminated with the final passing of the torch to Special Olympics athletes signifying the official start to the Summer Games.

Troopers, police officers and athletes from every corner of Ohio carried the "Flame of Hope" through more than 150 communities and neighborhoods. The carrying and passing of the Flame of Hope is meant to not only raise awareness for the Special Olympics, but is also to encourage monetary donations to the cause and the Special Olympics Ohio team. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics Ohio.

Representative Haraz N. Ghanbari honored Ohio's law enforcement community for its participation in this year's Torch Run with a proclamation delivered before the opening ceremonies. The proclamation, received by Colonel Fambro, pays tribute to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and all those who were involved for their unwavering service.



166th Academy Class

On the morning of June 26, the 63 members of the 166th Academy Class entered the Patrol's Training Academy for their first day.

During the next 30 weeks, the cadets will learn crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, detection of impaired drivers, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense, and emergency vehicle operations. The cadets also conducted traffic detail in the parking lots, and staffed both the lost kids booth and the trailer inside fairgrounds during the 2019 Ohio State Fair.

On September 6, the 166th class welcomed their families at the Patrol's Training Academy during their Open House. The cadet's families met Academy staff and saw the training that goes into becoming a Trooper.

Since the beginning, 17 have resigned from training. The remaining 46 cadets are expected to graduate on January 17, 2020.



Buckeye Boys and Girls State

A select number of Ohio high school seniors attended the annual Buckeye Girls State and Buckeye Boys State programs, sponsored by the Ohio American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. The events bring a group of students together to experience the operation of a democratic form of government. As part of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's long-standing affiliation with the American Legion, the Division participates in the programs to provide students with a unique hands-on experience of learning what it is like to be a trooper.

University of Mount Union hosted 807 Buckeye Girls State participants. Of those, 20 had the opportunity to interact with members of the Patrol and became Buckeye Girls State troopers.

The Buckeye Boys State was hosted at Miami University and had 980 participants. Twenty young men were selected for the Buckeye Boys State Highway Patrol. Each trained as cadets with troopers and eventually got to take part in a cadet graduation.

Both programs offer students interested in law enforcement a glimpse of the Patrol and life as trooper. Participants of the programs often enroll in the Patrol's Junior Cadet Week.



Junior Cadet Week

Junior Cadet Week was held June 23 through 27 and culminated with a formal graduation of this year's 22 participants. The ceremony was attended by Patrol Senior Staff, Ohio American Legion department commander, Buckeye Boys State president, Buckeye Girls State director and members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary.

On December 9, 1970, during the 70th meeting of the State Highway Patrol Auxiliary Council of Administration the concept of creating a "Cadet Corps" was presented. In June of the following year the inaugural "Cadet Corps" was formed by 25 young men who participated in what was referred to as "Youth Week."

The boys were selected from those which had served as members of the Buckeye Boy's State Highway Patrol earlier that year. What is now known as "Junior Cadet Week" has evolved into a program for both young women and men with an interest in law enforcement.

The program is available to participants of the Buckeye Boys and Girls State Programs, sons and daughters of Patrol personnel and students sponsored by a Patrol member. Those selected spend five days at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy going through a mini-training course. The students are trained in unarmed self-defense, criminal law, weapons familiarization and other topics.



OIU Swearing In

Patrol's 143 Basic Peace Officer course has five new enforcement agents. During the 23-week course, the agents will receive comprehensive instruction on more than 150 topics, including criminal law, community relations, physical training, self-defense, firearms and emergency vehicle operations. The 143 Basic class began on August 19 and will graduate on January 20, 2020.

Once the five OIU basics graduate, they will go through a two week OIU orientation. On the last day of their orientation, they will meet their field training officer and take the Oath of Office.

Three agents have already been sworn in and are working in the field. These three were already Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certified and did not need to go through the basic academy again. The three were sworn in on August 30.



K9 Graduation



Eleven K9 officers graduated on August 13 from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. All K9 officers were trained in-house and will become instrumental in continuing the mission to remove drugs from Ohio's roads and neighborhoods. Graduates include: K9 Gaban with Trooper Logan M. Kirkendall, K9 Danny with Trooper Jacob A. Dickerson, K9 Noro with Trooper Jeff R. McNamara, K9 Grippen with Trooper James K. Hedges, K9 Raider with Reynoldsburg Police Department Officer Daniel E. Downing, K9 Summit with Reynoldsburg Police Department Officer Sean McGrew, K9 Beau with Norwood Police Department Officer Philip Harvey, K9 Bear with North Royalton Police Department Patrolman Dan McClintic, K9 Cobra III with Ross County Sheriff's Office Deputy Michael R. Reffett and K9 Rin with Chillicothe Police Department Officer Shane Simmons II.

Ace and Criminal Patrol Awards



Congratulations to the winners of Ace and Criminal Patrol Awards who were recognized on August 13. These troopers worked diligently to look “beyond the plate” in order to remove drugs from Ohio communities and return stolen vehicles to their rightful owners.

Lieutenant Meredith receives CARES Award



Mircea Handru, Seneca County Opiate Task Force Chairperson, nominated Lieutenant Matthew B. Meredith, Fremont Post commander, for the CARES Award for the integral role he played in supporting the efforts to mitigate the Opioid epidemic in his community. Not only is Lieutenant Meredith involved with Five Minutes for Life, a program that empowers high school students to become role models in their community and resist opioids and other addictive substances, he also serves as the chairperson for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug committee. Lieutenant Meredith is a member of the Community Action for Reducing Substance Abuse and frequently assists the Opiate Task Force Committee. Handru said that Lieutenant Meredith has been an important player with opiate fatality reviews and has been a champion for the elderly population with safety and the opiate epidemic.

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Retirees' Association



The Ohio State Highway Patrol Retiree's Association 45th Annual Business Meeting and Dinner was held on October 12 at the Embassy Suites Hilton Columbus. Colonel Richard S. Fambro was present, along with members of the Senior Staff, and provided an update from the active ranks. Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas Strickrath also attended the dinner where retired Colonel Thomas Rice administered oaths to the incumbent members of the OSHPR Executive Board: President Robert Booker, 1st Vice President Dale LaRue, 2nd Vice President Ginny Fogt, Treasure Brenda Collins and Secretary Christine Freund Untrauer.

David A. Church

Major David A. Church, Office of Personnel, retired on August 16, 2019, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1991 as a member of the 121st Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Fremont Post, where he earned Post and District Trooper of the Year in 1996. In 1997, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Fremont Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served in the Office of Logistic Services. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and remained in the Office of Logistic Services to serve as commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Marion and Delaware posts. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Columbus District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of captain and transferred to the Bucyrus District Headquarters to serve as commander. In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of major and transferred to the Office of Personnel to serve as commander. Major Church completed advance leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in March 2005.



Chris J. Zurcher

Captain Chris J. Zurcher, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on June 20, 2019, after 33 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 1985 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Elyria Post. He began his 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 Findlay Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice and District Trooper of the Year in 1993. As a trooper, he also served at the Elyria Post. In 1994, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Mt. Gilead Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Milan and Norwalk posts. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Elyria Post to serve as commander. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Bucyrus District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander. As a staff lieutenant, he also served at the Berea District Headquarters. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of captain and remained at the



Bucyrus District Headquarters to serve as commander. As a captain, he also served at the Berea, Cleveland, Massillon and Warren district headquarters.

Nathan D. Dickerson

Lieutenant Nathan D. Dickerson, Office of Personnel, Ohio ASSIST, retired on June 21, 2019, after 22 years of state service. He began his state service with the University of Toledo as an Assistant Hall Director and Resident Advisor from August 1994 through May 1997. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Findlay Post. As a trooper, he served at the Patrol's Training Academy. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Office of Personnel. As a sergeant, he served at the Patrol's Training Academy and Expo Operations. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Critical Communications Center. As a lieutenant, he also served in the Columbus District Criminal Patrol Unit. Lieutenant Dickerson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1997 and a Juris Doctor degree in law in 2000 from the University of Toledo.



George F. King

Sergeant George F. King, Aviation Unit, retired on June 1, 2019, after 22 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 Mansfield Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Delaware Post, Crash Reconstruction Unit and the Aviation Unit. Sergeant King served in the United States Marines from 1987 to 1991. He earned an Associate of Science degree in business administration from Franklin University in 1993 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in cross disciplinary studies from Ohio Dominican University in 1995.



Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from June - August 2019.

Daniel S. Bionci

Trooper Daniel S. Bionci, Findlay District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on June 7, 2019, after 29 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 Norwalk Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Hiram Post, Cleveland Operations, Warren District Headquarters and the Findlay District Criminal Investigations Unit as a Polygraph Examiner. Trooper Bionci earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from University of Phoenix in 2006.



Jason A. Cummins

Trooper Jason A. Cummins, Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, entered disability retirement on June 23, 2019, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Wapakoneta Post. In 2008, he transferred to the Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Eric A. Gekler

Trooper Eric A. Gekler, Marion Post, retired on June 28, 2019, after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1998 as a member of the 131st Academy Class. He earned his commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. In 2001, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper, he also served at the Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations Unit and the Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Steven D. Jefferies

Trooper Steven D. Jefferies, Chardon Post, retired on August 2, 2019, after 32 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1987 as a member of the 116th Academy class. He earned his commission in September of that year

and was assigned to the Chardon Post. In 2015, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Warren District Headquarters. Trooper Jefferies earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from California University of Pennsylvania in 1983.



Matthew J. Majoy

Trooper Matthew J. Majoy, Sandusky Post, retired on June 12, 2019, after 25 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 Fremont Post. He also served at the Milan Post.



Gregory A. Mamula

Trooper Gregory A. Mamula, Steubenville Post, retired on August 2, 2019, after 22 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 Lisbon Post. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement in 2013 and earned the Criminal Patrol Award four times. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year four times and District Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Steubenville Post. Trooper Mamula served in the United States Army National Guard from 1986 to 1992. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from The Ohio State University in 1991.



Jonathan R. Werner

Trooper Jonathan R. Werner, Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on July 19, 2019, after 21 years of state service. In October 1997, he began his state service with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction as a Corrections Officer.



He joined the Patrol in June 1999 as a member of the 134th Academy Class and earned his commission in December of that year. Throughout his career he was assigned to the Mansfield Post and the Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations Unit.

Richard C. Cruder

Police Officer 2 Richard C. Cruder, Expo Center, entered disability retirement on June 1, 2019, after 27 years of state service. He began his state career in November 1992 with the Warren Correction Facility as a correction officer. As a Correction Officer, he also worked for the Correctional Medical Center. In 2007, he was promoted to a Police Officer 2 and transferred to the Columbus Developmental Center. He joined the Patrol in 2009 as a Police Officer 2 assigned to the Expo Center. As a Police Officer 2, he also served at Capitol Operations and the Patrol's Training Academy. Officer Cruder served in the United States Air Force from 1982 to 1992. He earned an Associate's degree in law enforcement from Columbus State Community College in 2002.



Susan E. Hamilton

Dispatcher Susan E. Hamilton, Wilmington Dispatch Center, retired on June 30, 2019, after 19 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 2000 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Xenia Post. In 2005, she transferred to the Wilmington Dispatch Center. She was selected as Dispatcher of the Year five times.



Michele Krichbaum

Dispatcher Michele Krichbaum, Medina Dispatch Center, retired on August 31, 2019, after 19 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in October 1999 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Ashland Post. She also served at the Berea and Medina dispatch centers, as well as the Medina Post. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year three times.



Sharon A. Puckett

Administrative Professional 1 Sharon A. Puckett, Wilmington District Headquarters, retired on August 30, 2019, after 15 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in March 2004 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Wilmington Post. As a Dispatcher, she also served at the Wilmington Dispatch Center. In 2011, she transferred to the Wilmington District Driver License Exam Station as a Driver License Examiner 1. In 2013, she transferred to the Hamilton Post as an Administrative Professional 1. As an Administrative Professional 1, she also served at the Wilmington District Headquarters.



Jacqueline Cook-Stephenson

Planner 3 Jacqueline Cook-Stephenson, Ohio Traffic Safety Office, retired on July 31, 2019, after 34 years of state service. She began her state career with the Ohio Student Aid Commission in July 1985. She transferred to the Patrol's Ohio Traffic Safety Office in January 1997. While in the Ohio Traffic Safety Office, she was promoted to a Planner 2 and Planner 3. Planner 3 Cook-Stephenson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from The Ohio State University.



Pamela A. Hibbs

Senior Financial Analyst Pamela A. Hibbs, Fiscal Services, retired on July 31, 2019, after 34 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in June 1985 as a Data Entry Operator 2 in the Traffic Crash Records Unit. In May 1994, she was promoted to a Statistics Clerk and remained in the Traffic Crash Records Unit. In December 1999, she was promoted to an Account Clerk 3 and transferred to the Revenue Management Unit. In 2001, she was promoted to an Accountant Examiner 3 and remained in the Revenue Management Unit. In September 2011, she transferred to the Fiscal Services Unit as a Financial Analyst. In 2016, she was promoted to a Senior Financial Analyst and remained in Fiscal Services Unit.



OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Chaplain's Comments



As I write this article I have just returned home from a visit with a family at the hospital. The father of a 35-year-old daughter had been told that she was brain dead. The hospital was holding her body so as to be able to harvest many organs to provide life to others. We shared together the memories of the beautiful service of baptism which had been held about 35 years ago. We shed tears together as we remembered the untimely death of the mother about three years ago. We searched together for the reason why this great individual should have to experience so much loss of that which he held to be so precious.

We came to the conclusion that we are not always given an answer as to why the storms come upon us, but we can discover how we can make it through those storms. We make it through by putting down the anchors of faith and riding out the storm.

In the 27th chapter of the Book of Acts, there is the account of the shipwreck Paul and his companions experienced on their journey to Rome. As the wind and waves drove them through the storm, they measured the depth of the water and found it decreasing rather rapidly. Fearful of crashing into the rocky coastline, they cast four anchors out of the stern of the ship and waited until the light of day when they could see the situation more clearly (Acts 27:27-29). What might be the anchors of faith we could cast out when we are caught in a violent storm on the sea of life?

I submit that one of those anchors is faith in ourselves as survivors rather than victims. The storm may batter us and the waves might toss us to and fro, but there is a resiliency within each one which refuses to surrender when we begin to lay claim to the courage and positive determination with which we are endowed. During the Revolutionary War, John Paul was caught in a seemingly "no hope" battle using his small frigate against one of England's great battleships. Facing the overwhelming power, Jones was asked if he was ready to surrender. His reply is a matter of historic record. "Surrender? We have not even begun to fight!" There is an inner strength that kept the British from surrendering even though they were being bombed every night during the awful time of the Second World War. There is the anchor of self-determination, value, and inner strength which holds us on course during those destructive storms we encounter on the sea of life.

There is also the anchor of faith in associates. The "Cop Nature" is a sense of personal determination which says "I can handle this alone; I can handle this by myself." This is different from a self-determination which sense value which will accept help from associates. The Patrol is family working together for both the common good as well as personal health. When the storms of grief, discouragement, failure, and loneliness come it is good to know that there are nonjudgmental associates who are always available. We all need associates who are willing to not give advice, but are ready to just sit with us--the ministry of presence. The strongest person to have lived called out for the anchor of support in His time of need (Matthew 26:36-46). The disciples failed Him, but later discovered the need for and the power in faith experienced in faith through the anchor of shared love and life.

The anchor of faith in self-determination, the anchor of faith in associates (including family), but most of all, there is the anchor of faith in God and His promises. One of the most powerful expressions of that assurance is recorded in Isaiah 43:1,2. In this passage, God proclaims that He knows us, and that He calls us by name. In those days the giving of one's name was the giving of self. God has given Himself to us. He wants to be more than a spectator--He wants to be a participant. When the storm clouds gather, when the winds of adversity whirl around us, when the waters of defeat begin to engulf us there comes the strong reassuring voice of the Creator declaring:

Fear not. I have called you by name. You are mine!"

The anchors of faith do not prevent us from experiencing the storms on the sea of life, they are there to save us from self-destruction, holding us steady until the light of day comes. We do not get over the storms in life. We just use the anchors of faith to see us through to calm sailing.

All the District Chaplains are available to every one of you as we pray for safe, meaningful, and enjoyable sailing into the future.

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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