2021 Patrol Memorial Moment of Silence
On May 24, 2021, Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth officially retired from the active rank of state chaplain. With his retirement, I was honored to announce his new status of chaplain emeritus.

Reverend Ellsworth now retains an honorary lifelong designation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. For 30 years, our sworn officers, professional staff and retirees have valued Reverend Ellsworth for his wisdom, unwavering loyalty and grace.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Reverend Ellsworth for his three decades of devotion and dedication to the Division. We will be forever grateful for his contributions of faithful service.

In this issue you can read about Philip A. Hurlbert, the new Reverend of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Reverend Hurlbert will also oversee our Chaplaincy Program, and I know he has significant plans for the future direction of the program.

As organizationally we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to reflect on where we have been, and more importantly, setting a course for our future.

The public health emergency challenged us to extend our operations outside our core mission to fill the needs of communities around the state. This brought opportunity to transform the landscape of our role in communities. Troopers redefined service while maintaining safety on our roadways by removing violations that were a threat to the public.

Never before in our history had we faced such enormous opposing obstacles simultaneously and on multiple fronts. As part of our COVID-19 pandemic response, we modified our primary focus to provide essential assistance to local communities, while also meeting the needs of our public safety partners.

It is through the combination of what each of you did in that service, held in such high regard by Gov. Mike DeWine and members of the Ohio General Assembly, that propelled us successfully through the recent biennium budget process this spring. Even during this unsteady economic climate, you should know we received bipartisan support and are fully funded for the next two years.

So, with our two-year fiscal solvency, where do we go from here?

To be clear, our core mission has not changed. Traffic safety and professional security operations are what we do.

We will accomplish our goals, and meet our new challenges and opportunities, by committing to excellence in three key areas: collaboration, workforce retention and community outreach. Here is a look at each:

**Collaboration** – For well over a year, I have been inspired by how much all of you have sacrificed. You have sacrificed at work, at home and with your families. And amidst all of your sacrifices, each time a new challenge presented itself, you rose and met it head on.

In mid-April, once again we were asked to rise to a challenge and you exceeded all expectations. When a call went out from Minnesota for support in preparation of the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial, as has been the case throughout our 87 year history – again you responded.

We had Electronic Technicians, staff from Fleet, the Academy and several other GHQ support offices all come out on a Sunday to get the detail of 100 troopers ready to deploy to Minnesota. Becky Landis from the Credit Union even came out and provided snack bags for all the people departing. It really does tell the story of how much our people are willing to give of themselves in order to give to the agency.

Those are the things that sometimes get lost in the everyday activities of what we do. Despite the numbers – fatalities are at levels not seen in decades – we still have people who are out there working extremely hard, both behind the scenes and out in public.

We will continue in our role as the state’s safety net and provide free services and resources to communities in need. From our Special Response Team, Aviation, Mobile Field Force, Intel and training courses, we will continue to serve the public by rendering assistance, answering calls for service, providing emergency and lifesaving actions if needed, and remaining visible in an effort to provide safety and instill calm.

**Workforce retention** – Make no mistake, our future success will largely be based on recruiting and retaining the most qualified and diverse workforce. A new cadet class starts this summer, with two more classes scheduled for 2022.

On average, we are losing eight sworn personnel a month. We watched as 57 sworn officers left from January 1-May 31, 2021. Some through retirements, but the bulk of those who left went to other agencies or left law enforcement as a career altogether.

We are in the process of hiring an outside firm to look at and identify where our gaps are in retaining employees, both on the sworn and dispatching sides. I believe having an entity outside the confines of the Patrol analyze our situation and recommend long-term strategies about recruitment and retention can affect the future viability of our agency in a positive way.

Putting a focus on protected classes is very important in terms of both recruitment and retention. A lot people may not want to hear that because they think as a black Colonel my focus is trying to make things easy for minorities and I am going to lower the standards. That could not be further from the truth.
We have to, as best as we can, mirror the state that we serve. More than 80 percent of our sworn ranks are caucasian males. When I was named superintendent, promoting qualified and deserving minorities and females was a priority.

This is important because for a potential young minority or female recruit, if there is nobody who looks like them in leadership positions, it is difficult to make that leap and see themselves in a future leadership capacity. And that young recruit, who could become an outstanding trooper and future leader, is right to ask themselves, ‘Who is supervising me?’ and ‘Are there people with whom I can identify?’

The Recruitment office just debuted a new website with features specifically designed to attract minority and female interest. Our recruitment efforts will continue to focus on community and faith-based groups such as NAACP, Urban League, minority festivals to include Asian festivals, women’s events, YMCA’s and YWCA’s and historically black colleges. And we will continue to expand our Women’s Mentorship Program which is based on enriching successful careers, fostering skills and abilities for future leaders, facilitating personal development and continuing to build an inclusive organizational culture.

Community outreach – A lot of what we have been about over the past two years has been doing things differently, hearing the voices of the community and engaging.

We will be expanding the SERVICE Operational Plan introduced last year. SERVICE is an acronym for SErvice with Respect while Valuing Inclusion and Community Engagement. At its core, SERVICE is about collaborative community partnerships between us and the people and organizations we serve across Ohio.

It works by the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime.

Already successful SERVICE programs have produced tangible results in Franklin and Lucas counties. This year, additional SERVICE programs will positively impact traffic safety in other communities.

Another example of community outreach is featured in this Flying Wheel. Sergeants Travis H. Woodyard and Kaitlin D. Fuller befriended Bentley Cherup, who is a young boy from Newark with a serious medical condition. Bentley was recently commissioned as a Junior Trooper in a celebration that uplifted his school and community, illustrating the positive impact we have in peoples’ lives.

There have been countless other examples around the state. So many letters come into my office about what the service of a trooper, or OIU agent or dispatcher has meant to some member of the public. Amidst the clouds of the pandemic, those are the rays of sunlight that break through. I encourage each of you to continue looking for ways to improve the lives of others.

I know there is a bunch of proud people wearing the uniform and their civilian clothes every day to work, or working behind the scenes from home, who are really committed to what we do. Stay devoted to the ways in which you can contribute, so we can be our best as we come out of the pandemic.

Be safe, take care of your families and each other.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro
Superintendent

4. A Tribute to Dispatcher D’Apolito
Patrol pays tribute to fallen Dispatcher D’Apolito.

5. Patrol’s Virtual Memorial Ceremony
The Patrol hosts annual Memorial Ceremony virtually.

6. Troopers Deploy to Minnesota
The Patrol assists Minnesota State Patrol.
A Tribute to Dispatcher D’Apolito

The Ohio State Highway Patrol mourns the loss of Dispatcher Anthony J. D’Apolito of the Canfield Dispatch Center, who passed away while on duty on March 17, 2021.

Sergeant Matthew R. Abbey remembers “Dap” as someone who he could bounce ideas off of, and go to when he needed some advice. He said Anthony was someone who spoke his mind and had no qualms about telling you the honest truth. Sergeant Abbey also knew Dap to be very proud of his family, and said that he “learned about his life before the Patrol, about his family and what he enjoyed about his life. He learned the same about mine. He always lit up when talking about his family.”

Dispatch Supervisor Dotti O’Neil said Dispatcher D’Apolito always put his units first, making sure that they were taken care of during critical incidents, and taking the time to talk to them afterwards too. She said he treated troopers like family, and echoed Sergeant Abbey’s sentiment, saying that “his kids and wife were his life.”

One thing Lieutenant Bucey of the Canfield Post remembers most about Dispatcher D’Apolito was his positive relationships with other dispatchers on his shift, as well as from other departments. He said Dispatcher D’Apolito “was very proud to be part of the organization, and was always willing to help out his units.” Lieutenant Bucey added he was always there to help and spoke of his family often.

Dispatcher D’Apolito, 47, started his career with the Patrol in June 2007 as a dispatcher assigned to the Warren Post. In June 2008, he transferred to the Lisbon Dispatch Center. In August 2012, he transferred to his assignment at the Canfield Dispatch Center. Dispatcher D’Apolito was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2010 and 2018. He is survived by his wife and two children.
Patrol’s Virtual Memorial Ceremony

The pen hits the paper and Colonel Richard S. Fambro begins speaking as he writes:
“To the families, from the moment I joined the Patrol it was apparent the Memorial was special and it was sacred...”

His tone is reflective as he remembers his first Memorial ceremony.
“I knew the importance of honoring not just our fallen, but these families’ sacrifices as well,” Colonel Fambro said. “At that time, I did not know the families and they did not know me. But that day, their emotion was real and surrounded everyone. It shaped me as a person and as a young trooper.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the second consecutive year, the Patrol was unable to host the Patrol Memorial ceremony and instead distributed a video which paid tribute to our fallen. The video showed Colonel Fambro sitting down at his desk to write a heart-felt letter to the families of our fallen.

Prior to 2020, the in-person Memorial ceremony had never been canceled. Colonel Fambro described it as unchartered waters. Even though the families could not join in person, a small contingent of Patrol Honor Guard personnel gathered at 1 p.m. on May 7, the scheduled start time of the canceled ceremony. They stood guard in the courtyard at our black granite wall laying a wreath, one solemn rose and a symbolic bell tolled in their honor.

“Throughout this past year, we never guessed that we would be here faced with having to make a choice to host or cancel the event,” he said. “In fact, we truly believed we would be able to gather this year – at least for a modified tribute. Yet, here we are in the same position. With COVID numbers rising, safety was the correct decision - as heartbreaking as it is.”

His written words showed throughout the video, with photos and videos of life during the pandemic and the colonel walking through the empty Training Academy halls. Then photos and videos of past Memorial ceremonies flashed on screen, showing families as they walk from the granite wall where their loved one’s name is engraved.

Prior to the roll call to conclude the video, Colonel Fambro noted, “While, you may not be with us in spirit, you will be with us in our hearts,” Colonel Fambro said: “It is my sincerest hope that our families can come together again next year to honor our fallen with the formality you have come to expect. They will forever be in our hearts and minds, we will always honor them and their sacrifice. God Speed.”

The video ended with each name being read, their photo on the screen and the sound of the bell echoing for each person.
Troopers Deploy to Minnesota

On the morning of April 19, 100 members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol left the Training Academy for St. Paul, Minnesota to provide mutual aid.

The trial against Derek Chauvin, a former Minneapolis police officer, was nearing the end. Chauvin was on trial for the murder of George Floyd, a black man who the former officer handcuffed, had face down on the street with his knee pressed into his neck – for nearly nine minutes. Bystanders recorded the entire incident. For several days following Floyd’s death, Minneapolis filled with protesters and also rioters.

Knowing the jury would soon be reaching a verdict, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz reached out to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and Minnesota State Patrol Colonel Matt Langer contacted Colonel Richard S. Fambro. Each requested Ohio troopers to help keep people safe and to protect property, all while ensuring individuals could exercise their constitutional rights.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) made the deployment possible. EMAC is an all hazard, all discipline mutual aid compact. EMAC is implemented within the state Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the governor of the state and provides a consistent and coordinated response.

For Lieutenant Maurice Waddell and sergeants Samuel C. Criswell and Pablo Cruz, they had little time to pack and get things in order at work and home before they left. They were supposed to be in Minnesota for 10 days.

“It’s never easy (leaving your family behind),” Sergeant Cruz said. “There are what ifs and unknowns, but it goes back to training.”

Lieutenant Waddell said his deployment was made easier because of the great sergeants he has at the St. Clairsville post. He was able to concentrate on the mission.

After 16 hours, the cadre of troopers arrived late Monday evening.

“Our people wanted to go and do a good job,” Sergeant Criswell said. “There was clear direction. Our people were ready to go, on time and early.”
On the morning of April 20 at the Minnesota Statehouse, troopers from Ohio and the Nebraska State Patrol were sworn in. Some troopers began roving patrols on the statehouse grounds, while another group went back to their hotels in preparation for what could be a tumultuous evening.

The Patrol had platoons both inside and outside the Minnesota Statehouse, which at that time was experiencing little activity in the area. As the day went on, it was released via media that a verdict would be announced later in the day. “The verdict dictated what happened,” Lieutenant Waddell said. “No one knew what to expect.”

The verdict came in and the former officer was found guilty on all counts. On the streets of Minneapolis, celebration erupted.

“There was a calmness and you see a shift in tension, the weight lifted,” Sergeant Cruz said describing the scene that afternoon.

From the beginning, Sergeant Criswell said being forthright and open with the deployed troopers was important. He worked under Captain Matthew L. Them. This was his first deployment in a logistics capacity. Prior to this, he worked on the operations side.

Minnesota’s officials had their operations put together so well. Their leadership communicated and that information was relayed down the chain.

“Our troopers were impressed with the set up,” Sergeant Criswell said. “You could see it in the morale. It reflected in morale.”

Not only were our troopers impressed with the Minnesota State Patrol, the Minnesota state legislature was equally as impressed with the Patrol. After the deployment concluded, 59 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives sent a letter to Governors DeWine and Pete Ricketts of Nebraska expressing their gratitude.

“They were beyond thankful,” Sergeant Cruz said. “State representatives stopped and thanked us.”

Sergeant Cruz said he would deploy again. “I would deploy again - 100 percent without thinking about it,” he said. “I signed up to do a job. I’m confident it’s the right thing. They’re reaching out to another state to help. It’s the right thing to do.”

Coming home early was a nice surprise for the 100 troopers who deployed. They were home by the end of the week. When they returned, they were shown how much they were appreciated by the Patrol.

“Senior staff was there when we left and they were there when we got back,” Sergeant Criswell said. “It meant a lot to us to have Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford there to thank us. It meant a lot.”
On April 7, the Ohio State Highway Patrol released a new dashboard devoted to enforcement and education involving motorists operating a vehicle while impaired by drugs, alcohol or a combination of them (OVI). The OVI Dashboard is a detailed view of impaired driving crashes and violations across Ohio, and the important work that troopers, Ohio Investigative Unit agents, and our law enforcement partners around the state are doing to reduce the impact of this dangerous and deadly crime.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine lauded the new Dashboard, noting OVI drivers continue to threaten the safety of citizens across Ohio every day. The OVI Dashboard can be viewed at: http://www.OVIDashboard.ohio.gov

“There is never a good excuse for impaired driving, yet there are drivers who choose to get behind the wheel while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol every day,” Governor DeWine said. “By launching this new dashboard, we hope to enhance the public’s understanding of how often OVI crashes are happening and where they’re taking place.”

The new OVI Dashboard is a part of the Ohio Statistics and Analytics for Traffic Safety (OSTATS), a series of internal and public-facing dashboards dedicated to exploration, analysis and visualization of crash data across Ohio. Users of the public-facing OVI Dashboard have the ability to filter data, find specific county and route statistics and get a front seat view of what our troopers do every day to stop impaired driving. In addition, an interactive map shows videos of troopers enforcing OVI violations.
“We recognize alcohol and drug impaired driving remains a top safety concern for Ohioans and people travelling through our state,” Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol superintendent said. “This new Dashboard furthers the Patrol’s prioritization to protecting innocent lives from this devastating crime and is a new tool for the public and our troopers, who are arresting impaired drivers through focused enforcement every day.”

The Patrol remains committed to using every available resource to make our roadways safer. Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) add to Ohio’s OVI enforcement by utilizing a standardized and systematic process to examine drivers who may be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or a combination of them. OVI task forces with partnering agencies are also shown on the dashboard, listing partnering agencies in participating counties.

Since 2016, there have been more than 71,000 crashes in Ohio attributed to impaired driving, with 2,349 of them being fatal. During the same timeframe, troopers issued over 123,000 OVI citations, with 31% of those being to repeat offenders. Additional Dashboard projects pertaining to distracted driving and safety belts are planned for later in 2021.

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is a traffic safety program that focuses on the detection, apprehension, and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is a law enforcement officer that is highly trained to recognize impairment of drivers under the influence of drugs other than or in addition to alcohol.

The DRE program is a federally funded program through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office.
Reverend Hurlbert Appointed as State Chaplain

On May 24, Colonel Richard S. Fambro announced the appointment of Reverend Philip A. Hurlbert as state chaplain of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth recently retired as state chaplain after 30 years.

Reverend Hurlbert recognizes and honors the significant achievements made by Reverend Ellsworth. In fact, he is grateful for the foundation and the chaplaincy program started by Reverend Ellsworth. He also plans to maintain Reverend Ellsworth's ministry of presence, while progressing it further.

“The ministry of presence is a central principle to what we will do,” Reverend Hurlbert said. “Being present means being there for the good times. Establishing that relationship. We want the troopers to know who we are on the good days, so we can be a better help to them on the bad days.”

“For me, part of being present means doing physical training with the cadets. If safe and feasible, chaplains will also be at district events, such as awards, retirements and other events.”

Reverend Hurlbert was ordained in 1998 with the Church of the Nazarene. He completed his undergraduate work at Mount Vernon Nazarene University where he double majored in Religion and Christian Education with a minor in Psychology. He has a master's degree in Spiritual Formation with an emphasis on Pastoral Counseling. He has served as a hospital chaplain, hospice chaplain, director of spiritual care for several organizations and taught chaplaincy.

He has been a regional and district chaplain for the Ohio State Highway Patrol since 2007, and is currently the pastor of State Road Community Church of the Nazarene in North Royalton.

“Truthfully, I have a soft spot for the Patrol and all of law enforcement,” Reverend Hurlbert said. “I am honored and humbled.”

Reverend Hurlbert also added that all of the district chaplains are good, talented and bright people. He is confident the chaplaincy program is in good shape.

District Chaplains

Reverend Terry McBeath - Findlay District
Reverend Daniel Vickey - Bucyrus District
Reverend Philip A. Hurlbert - State Chaplain/Cleveland District
Reverend Anthony Davis - Warren District
Reverend John W. Young - Piqua District
Minister Tamaul Boston, Reverend William A. Pellum - Columbus District/GHQ
Reverend Edward G. Zell- Jackson District
Superintendent Citations of Merit

On February 21, Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Zachary M. Witmer and Officer Cody B. Lindsey and Officer Johnathan J. Miniard, Dayton Police Department, were instrumental in saving a suspect from possibly drowning in the Great Miami River.

Troopers were being led on a 3-mile pursuit by a suspect who eventually fled on foot and jumped into the river. Trooper Witmer observed the suspect submerging himself in the frigid water and gave commands for him to exit. He believed the suspect’s life was in danger and entered the river to rescue him. Officers Lindsey and Miniard arrived on the bank of the river and noticed Trooper Witmer was struggling to rescue the unresponsive suspect. Both officers assisted Trooper Witmer in pulling the suspect safely to the shore. Officers Lindsey and Miniard began performing CPR until emergency medical services arrived on scene.

For their selfless actions, Trooper Witmer and officers Lindsey and Miniard were presented on May 12 with the Superintendent’s Citation of Merit award on behalf of Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol superintendent.

On January 6, Ohio Turnpike Assistant Foreman Ryan Hake was instrumental in assisting Trooper Brian S. Mull with a traffic stop.

Hake was clearing his work area when he heard Trooper Mull call over the radio for assistance with a suspect at a traffic stop. Hake had observed the initial incident earlier that day and responded to the area. The suspect had been pulled over for speeding and was found to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs. When Hake arrived, he noticed Trooper Mull struggling with the suspect by the edge of the roadway and immediately helped him safely secure the suspect.

For his selfless actions, Hake was presented on April 5 with the Superintendent’s Citation of Merit award on behalf of Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol superintendent.

On January 23, Trooper Hiram Morales and Cleveland Division of Police officers Molly Madaras and Corey Rose were instrumental in saving the lives of an elderly couple from a house fire.

Trooper Morales was notified by a passerby that a house was on fire visible from the freeway. Trooper Morales immediately contacted dispatch to have them notify the fire department. As he drove to locate the house, officers Madaras and Rose noticed the lights and siren, and followed Trooper Morales for backup. Trooper Morales was able to locate the house on fire with officers Madaras and Rose close behind. He was informed there was an elderly man in a wheelchair in a nearby house. At the house, he saw an elderly woman frantically trying to push the wheelchair-bound man out of the doorway and began talking to them in Spanish to help calm them down. Trooper Morales was assisted by officers Madaras and Rose in getting the couple out of the house and to somewhere safe.

For their quick thinking and life-saving actions, Trooper Morales was presented with the Superintendent’s Citation of Merit award, and Officer Madaras and Officer Rose were each presented on March 23 with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol superintendent.
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

From April 11-17, the Patrol took time to express gratitude for its dispatchers’ hard work and dedication as part of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This annual event, which occurs during the second week of April, was originated in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office in California, as a way to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public.

This year, Patrol posts around the state celebrated their dispatchers in unique ways. Lieutenant Shad E. Caplinger of the Lancaster Post said they honored their dispatchers with a meal and a small gift as a token of appreciation.

“We just want all dispatchers to know how much we value them,” Lieutenant Caplinger said. “We need to put as much effort into showing them appreciation as they do ensuring we are safe each shift.”

As a special tribute, district dispatchers were recognized daily on our different social media platforms. Additionally, personnel from the Public Affairs Unit visited each district to collect video messages from the field in recognition of our dispatchers. These messages were then compiled into one video and made available to the entire Division to view as part of the Patrol’s recognition and appreciation. All social media graphics can be viewed on page 28.

Bentley becomes honorary Junior Trooper

On April 15, Bentley Cherup became an honorary Junior Trooper. His commission was read by Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Patrol superintendent, as Bentley’s second grade classmates at Newton Elementary School in Newark watched. Colonel Fambro joined the class through a Teams Meeting as sergeants Travis H. Woodyard and Kaitlin D. Fuller attended in the classroom.

“Let’s make it official,” Colonel Fambro said. “Raise your right hand.”

After Colonel Fambro read his commission, Bentley proudly proclaimed, “I do!” with a smile hidden under his mask. His class and observers applauded.

Bentley, 8, was added to the transplant list for a new heart in December 2020. He has hypoplastic left heart syndrome. The American Heart Association states that the syndrome is an underdeveloped left side of the heart where the aorta and left ventricle are too small and the holes in the artery and septum did not properly mature and close.

The class was also pretty excited after Colonel Fambro told them they were all going home with Patrol swag. Each child received a cinch sack with coloring books, crayons, lanyards and a plastic trooper Stetson.

“We love you and we support you,” Colonel Fambro told Bentley. “We have your back.”

According to Sergeant Woodyard, that night Bentley wanted to carry his commission around when he got home.
Public Safety Leadership Academy

The eighth Public Safety Leadership Academy class graduated 31 law enforcement leaders on May 28 after 10 weeks of accredited, college-level training through a partnership with The Ohio State University – John Glenn College of Public Affairs. The training was hosted at the Patrol’s Training Academy and offered at no cost to agencies through casino tax revenue distributed to the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of supporting law enforcement training efforts.

During the ceremony, Ohio State Highway Patrol Colonel Richard S. Fambro provided remarks and Delaware County Sheriff Russell L. Martin addressed the graduates.

Graduates received 10 semester hours of academic credit, along with a certificate in Senior Leadership through The Ohio State University – John Glenn College of Public Affairs. The specialized curriculum completed by the graduates is part of a carefully managed course with content in the areas of leadership and ethics; interpersonal and organizational communication; public management; organizational culture and ethics; human resources management; budgeting; and organizational behavior in law enforcement.

In addition, graduates also attended enrichment discussions, which were executive level development seminars. Distinguished speakers presented on topics such as overcoming the unique mental stressors of possible violence, as well as best practices for law enforcement who deal with employees struggling with addiction issues. Graduates also had the opportunity to meet with executive law enforcement officials to discuss how to build positive relations with law enforcement in Ohio and how to deal with future challenges in the field.

As part of a community outreach effort, graduates collected over 600 can food items and donated the food to the Lower Lights Community Food Bank located in the Franklinton neighborhood in Columbus.

Light Ohio Blue

Lieutenant Tiffiany L. Meeks, Public Affairs Unit, was presented the 2021 Blue Crier of the Year on May 10 by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost at the Light Ohio Blue kickoff annual awards presentation. The award recognizes an exceptional Public Information Officer within Ohio who shows dedication to the citizens, community and leadership within law enforcement. Light Ohio Blue cited her efforts have strengthened relationships between communities and their law enforcement officers throughout the great state of Ohio.

Light Ohio Blue honors and pays respects to the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, as well as those sworn currently serving and civilian staff. From May 9-16, the Ohio State Highway Patrol took part in Light Ohio Blue.

Additional awards were also presented: Jessica Davis was named Citizen of the Year, Detective Adam Beach of the Licking County Sheriff’s Office was named Officer of the Year, and the new Lifetime Achievement award was presented to U.S. Marshal Peter Tobin.

After the awards ceremony, Patrol personnel took part in the caravan that began in London at the Ohio Peace Officers Memorial. Law enforcement from around Central Ohio, as well as surviving family members, took part in the caravan. Retired Groveport Police Chief, Ralph Portier, was honored as grand marshal of this year’s Light Ohio Blue caravan.

During the week, Light Ohio Blue encouraged all community members, businesses and law enforcement agencies to light their exteriors blue. Every Patrol post participated, and photos showing personnel and cruisers with blue lights lighting up the background were displayed on social media.
Findlay District

Sergeant Adam M. Brincefield, Van Wert Post, discussed Work Zone Safety at a media event on April 27. The Patrol and Ohio Department of Transportation work to educate the motoring public on the importance of traveling safely through Ohio’s construction zones.

Bucyrus District

Trooper Matthew A. Dyer, Marion Post, helped Celebrate Abilities during Distracted Driving Awareness Month with employees fromMarca Industries on March 25. They help maintain the rest areas on U.S. 23 near Marion.

Cleveland District

Trooper Harold L. McCumbers showed a child the inside of his patrol car during the WQKT First Safety Event at the WQKT radio station. Wooster Post staff donned the safety line performing safety inspections handing out bags with safe driving tip materials. The event also had a raffle for safety-related prizes. Also in attendance was a shredding company promoting personal information safety.

Members from the Akron Post, Licensing and Commercial Standards, and Cleveland Headquarters - Captain Cory D. Davies, Staff Lieutenant Antonio L. Matos, Lieutenant Clifton D. Dowell, and Sergeant Richard T. Sprague, Trooper Tara L. Worner and Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Richard D. Bell - participated in an annual Bike Helmet Safety Awareness event held at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center on May 28. The Patrol partnered with House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Akron Children’s Hospital to supply over 100 helmets to 2nd and 3rd graders, while educating families on the importance of bike helmet safety.
Warren District

On May 11, Colonel Richard S. Fambro presented Holli Dapolito, wife of fallen Dispatcher TJ D’Apolito, and his extended family with his Division Service Credentials. In addition, the Canfield Post presented the family with a shadow box reflecting on Dispatcher D’Apolito’s service, as well as showing them the wooden memorial plaque which is proudly displayed at the Canfield Dispatcher Center.

Piqua District

On May 26, Trooper Diep N. Pham and Trooper Joshua D. Cross, Hiram Post, were invited to participate in Read with a Cop at Streetsboro Elementary School. They read to first graders at the school and talked about traffic safety and the importance of wearing a seatbelt. The day concluded with a hands-on “tour” of a cruiser. The children, including Trooper Pham’s son, were thrilled with the chance to spend time with law enforcement, and showed their appreciation by sending homemade cards to thank Trooper Pham and Trooper Cross.

The Marysville Post, along with local police departments, were invited to speak at the Bellefontaine Police Department Youth Academy at Bellefontaine High School. The students interacted with officers to learn more about a career in law enforcement.

The Dayton Patrol Post partnered with Trotwood Police Department in a panel discussion at Trotwood Middle School. Students were given an opportunity to ask questions about a career in law enforcement.
Cambridge District

The Steubenville Post conducted a seatbelt survey of local high school students in Harrison and Jefferson counties. Troopers checked the first 40 students who drove into the school parking lots for seatbelt compliance. After completing the survey, troopers returned to the schools and handed out coupons from McDonalds to students who drove to school and were belted. Indian Creek School students were the 2021 winners with a 95% compliance rate. Pictured are Indian Creek High School students and Principal James Retton, Lieutenant Robert J. Bodo, Trooper Eric J. Derrington, and McDonald's representatives.

Mykal Baker, Marietta, joined Ohio's "Saved by the Belt" Club after his safety belt saved him from sustaining life-threatening injuries. The crash occurred on state Route 7 in Washington County on March 16. Marietta Post troopers presented Baker with a certificate and license plate bracket.

Columbus District

The Lancaster Post, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation, participated in a joint media event to promote the success of the U.S. 33 distracted driving corridor in Fairfield County.

Patrol personnel took part in the caravan that began in London at the Ohio Peace Officers Memorial on May 10. In attendance was law enforcement from around Central Ohio, as well as surviving family members.
Wilmington District

The Click It or Ticket campaign kick-off was underway on May 20 for the Dayton and Cincinnati posts. They partnered with Safe Communities, S.A.D.D., AAA and other law enforcement agencies to bring awareness to the public of the importance of wearing your seatbelt.

Jackson District

On April 5, Trooper Stefan K. Spriggs was sitting stationary searching for distracted driving violations when a 7-year-old boy named Easton riding his bike came up to talk to him. After a short conversation, Easton continued to ride his bike. A short time later Trooper Spriggs noticed Easton having trouble with his bike. He asked Easton what was wrong with it and he told him it happened all the time. He said he could only ride it for about 20 minutes before his dad had to try and fix it. Easton said he would love to have a new bike, one with “pegs” so he could stand up on it. Easton then put the bike up and began to play basketball with his brother. After leaving the area, Trooper Spriggs went to speak with Trooper Josh C. Craft and Sergeant Ryan E. Robirds about getting Easton a new bike so he could ride without it breaking all the time.

The next day Trooper Spriggs, Trooper Craft and Sergeant Robirds went to the local Wal-Mart to find a bike. They were even lucky enough to find one with “pegs.” Due to the store being low on bikes, the one they were able to get was not put together. They purchased the bike, two helmets (one for him and one for his brothers), a football and a basketball. They put the bike together and placed it in the post garage with the helmets, basketball and football. The father brought the kids to the post so the bike could be presented to them. When the garage door opened, the look on the boys’ faces were great. They were so grateful for the surprise and could not thank us enough. The boys stayed at the post for a short time to pass ball and ride the bike in the parking lot. This was a great gesture from the troopers at the post and an experience the boys will always remember.

The Georgetown Post displayed a blue light outside of their post in honor or Light Ohio Blue (LOB). From May 9-16, LOB honors and pays respects to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, as well as those sworn currently serving and civilian staff.
Retirees: Where Are They Now?

By retired Captain Rob Jackson, Guest Columnist

Retiree: Robert “Bob” Markowski

Through his career, from trooper to captain, he served at the Lancaster Post, Patrol Training Academy, Special Response Team, Lisbon Post, Telecommunications Services, and served as Patrol Academy Commandant.

Retired Captain Bob Markowski has kept a busy pace in retirement from the Division to say the least. After he retired in 2011, he immediately rejoined the Division as a professional staff Fleet Manager for another year, before moving on to become an Adjunct Professor for Ohio University in the Law Enforcement Technology Program. “It was a great experience for me to be able to share my time at the OSHP with the students,” Markowski said.

Bob also had more time to enjoy one of his favorite hobbies, building flintlock muzzleloaders. “The rifles start with a block of wood which is hand carved, inletted, and shaped into the style of gun you are building. In staying with the older building techniques, most of the metal parts are forged by hand in the shape of trigger guards, butt plates, and many other parts found on the gun. After attaching all the parts, the final task is applying a finish to the gun using many of the same techniques developed by gunsmiths back in the 1800’s,” Markowski said.

Additionally, Bob stays in touch with retirees through the Lancaster Post Saturday morning coffees and is looking forward to these events starting up again after COVID. He thoroughly enjoys hunting with family, especially hunting turkey with his daughter Ashley, friends and fellow retirees. He has traveled the United States and into Canada hunting elk and moose. A recent moose hunting trip to Newfoundland in 2019 with fellow retirees Lieutenant Ron Klier and Lieutenant Mark Leach was a highlight of his hunting trips.

Bob and his wife Brenda live in Fairfield County and are enjoying their first grandchild from son Tim, a trooper in the Jackson District, and his wife Shelby. His family is also continuing to enjoy family vacations to Destin, Florida for the beautiful beaches and fresh seafood.
Highway Patrol Retirement System

The message that I would like to communicate to our members in this correspondence is aimed at retirement planning. Without question, our sworn members are receiving more information than they ever have about their benefits and the resources available to them to plan for retirement. However, I want to stress that participating in a few retirement readiness seminars throughout a career is not enough. I encourage our members to take that information and build on it in several ways, and I will cover a few in this message.

The first area that I would like to cover is financial planning. I cannot stress enough the need to meet with a financial planner and discuss what you should have in assets to meet your retirement expectations. To effectively plan for retirement, you need to develop a step-by-step approach to accomplish objectives that are critical to your financial plan. This plan will help guide you through life’s journey, and ensure you have the necessary control of your income, expenses, and investments. It is difficult to reach a destination if you do not know where it is that you want to get to. Having a financial plan will help you be more successful in accomplishing your financial goals and achieve the retirement lifestyle you desire.

The three-legged stool concept is one of the most common concepts used to describe the need for more than one source of income in retirement. Envision sitting on a three-legged stool. Now, imagine that the stool has only two legs, or even worse, one leg. This analogy helps explain the need for more than one revenue source. In addition to your defined benefit pension, the next most common source of income is your personal savings. For most of our members, that is found in a deferred compensation account. Keep in mind, the amount you have invested in this area represents the strength of that leg on the stool.

For many, an additional revenue source may be a small amount of a Social Security benefit. Although state employees do not pay into Social Security, you may qualify through other employment. If you have not done so already, please go to https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/ and access your account. Many of our members have found that they already qualify, or only need a few credits. If you do qualify, keep in mind that there is a Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that will reduce the benefit. For most of our members that reduction will result in about half of the benefit stated, depending on the years of substantial earnings. Please contact the Social Security Administration with any questions.

As most of our members are aware, contributing to Ohio Deferred Compensation is an excellent way to meet your goals. But what many do not take advantage of are the financial planning resources available. Their Retirement Planning Specialists are available at no charge. You can make an appointment for this service by calling 877-644-6457. The earlier you begin investing for your future, the easier it is to accomplish your goals.

Best Regards,

Carl Roark, Ph.D.
HPRS Executive Director

Join the Auxiliary!

Interested in helping the Ohio State Highway Patrol? The Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary is accepting applications for Auxiliary Officers. The Auxiliary is an all-volunteer force that provides assistance to troopers in the course of their duties. The Auxiliary has also been extremely active during the pandemic, assisting with food drives and other emergency duties.

Apply at:
https://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruit/auxiliary.html
Karla M. Taulbee
Staff Lieutenant Karla M. Taulbee, Jackson District Headquarters, retired on May 21, 2021, after 24 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 1997 as a member of the 128th Academy Class. She earned her commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Portsmouth Post. She earned the Criminal Patrol Award three times. As a trooper, she also served at the Jackson District Headquarters. In 2003, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Portsmouth Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, she also served in the Public Affairs Unit. In 2010, she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and returned to the Portsmouth Post to serve as commander. As a lieutenant, she also served at the Jackson District Criminal Patrol Unit. In 2018, she was promoted to staff lieutenant and remained at the Jackson District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander. Staff Lieutenant Taulbee earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in paralegal from Shawnee State University in 1994. She completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2008. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public administration with a minor in public safety management from Franklin University in 2016.

Stanley A. Jordan
Lieutenant Stanley A. Jordan, Wilmington Post, retired on April 23, 2021, after 31 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the former Eaton Post. In 1997, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to Wilmington District Criminal Patrol Unit. As a sergeant, he also served at the Dayton Post. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Springfield Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Wilmington District Criminal Patrol Unit. In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Delaware Post. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Marion Post. Sergeant Carpenter served in the United States Navy from 1993 to 1997, the Navy Reserve from 1997 to 2000 and the United States Navy from 2000 to 2016.

John C. Chesser
Sergeant John C. Chesser, Xenia Post, retired on May 7, 2021, after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1998 as a member of the 132nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the former Eaton Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Dayton Post. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Dayton Post to serve as an assistant district commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Piqua Post. Sergeant Chesser earned a Bachelor of Science degree in management information systems from Wright State University in 1987.

Joseph J. Luebbers
Sergeant Joseph J. Luebbers, Lebanon Post, retired on March 26, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Batavia Post. In 2015, he earned the prestigious Superintendent’s Citation of Merit Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Hamilton Post and the Wilmington District Headquarters. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Springfield Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Hamilton and Xenia posts, and the Wilmington District Criminal Patrol Unit.
Jeremy B. Mendenhall
Sergeant Jeremy B. Mendenhall, Athens Post, retired on May 14, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 1990 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Marietta Post. He became a member of the 121st Academy Class in May 1991. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Jackson Post. In 2008, he earned the Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Athens and Gallipolis posts, the Jackson District Headquarters and the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2009, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Zanesville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In June 2014, he was elected Ohio State Troopers Association President where he remained throughout his career.

Archie L. Spradlin
Sergeant Archie L. Spradlin, Regional Training Unit, retired on April 9, 2021, after 26 years with the Patrol. Sergeant Spradlin began his Patrol Career in July 1994 as a police officer assigned to Capitol Operations. He began training as a member of the 127th Academy Class in May 1995. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Zanesville Post. In 2010, he earned the Employee Recognition Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Lancaster Post, Office of Special Operations, Office of Criminal Investigations and the Columbus District Criminal Investigations Unit. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Patrol’s Regional Training Unit.

Richard O. Menges
Sergeant Richard O. Menges, Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit, retired on March 29, 2021, after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1993 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the New Philadelphia Post. He became a member of the 127th Academy Class in May 1995. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Wooster Post. In 2005, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. In 2011, he earned the Trooper Recognition Award. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Bowling Green Post.

Raul Cuellar
Trooper Raul Cuellar, Toledo Post, retired on April 9, 2021, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1997 as a member of the 130th Academy Class. He earned his commission in May of the following year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. In 2007, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. In 2011, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Bowling Green Post.

Shawn A. Cunningham
Trooper Shawn A. Cunningham, Gallipolis Post, retired on April 9, 2021, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Bowling Green Post. In 1993, he transferred to the Gallipolis Post.

Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from March - May 2021.
Christopher C. Demuth  
Trooper Christopher C. Demuth, New Philadelphia Post, retired on May 7, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in July 1990 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Steubenville 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 Toledo Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the year four times.

Marty J. Ferguson  
Trooper Marty J. Ferguson, Delaware Post, retired on April 23, 2021, after 20 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a member of the 137th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to Capitol Operations. As a trooper, he also served at the Marion and Mt. Gilead posts, Office of Security Services and the Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Jeffery T. Fowler  
Trooper Jeffery T. Fowler, Capitol Operations, retired on March 28, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 2000 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Zanesville Post. He became a member of the 137th Academy Class in March 2001. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to Capitol Operations. As a trooper, he also served at the Zanesville Post.

Charles M. Gannon  
Trooper Charles M. Gannon, Dayton Post, retired on April 30, 2021, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in July 1991 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Xenia Post. He became a member of the 124th Academy Class in January 1993. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post. In 2005, he earned the Blue Max Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Xenia Post.

Cynthia A. Gehlmann  
Trooper Cynthia A. Gehlmann, Elyria Post, entered disability retirement on April 24, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. She earned her commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Norwalk Post. Trooper Gehlmann earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in police science from Hocking Technical College in 1991.

Christopher T. Jester  
Trooper Christopher T. Jester, Warren District Crash Reconstruction Unit, retired on April 29, 2021, after 27 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 Ravenna Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times and District Trooper of the Year in 2006. In 2014, he earned the Ohio State Trooper Recognition Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Lisbon Post and the Cleveland District Headquarters. Trooper Jester served in the United States Army from 1988 to 1991.

Matina K. Moore  
Trooper Matina K. Moore, Ironton Post, retired on April 23, 2021, after 20 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a member of the 137th Academy Class. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to Chillicothe Post. In 2004, she transferred to the Ironton Post. In 2009, she earned the Criminal Patrol Award.
David J. Schultz
Trooper David J. Schultz, Findlay District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on April 23, 2021, after 35 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 1985 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the former Walbridge Post. He became a member of the 117th Academy Class in March 1988. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the St. Clairsville Post. In 2019, he earned the District Trooper Recognition Award. He also earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice. During his Patrol career, he also served at the Mt. Gilead, Mansfield, Wooster, Findlay, and the former Massillon posts, and the Findlay District Criminal Patrol Unit.

Eric D. Weinman
Trooper Eric D. Weinman, Wilmington District License and Commercial Standards Unit, retired on May 7, 2021, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Georgetown Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Wooster Post. Trooper Weinman earned an Associate of Science degree in criminal justice from Hocking College in 1990 and a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Ohio University in 1998.

John Phillips
Enforcement Agent John Phillips, Cleveland District Office, retired on April 13, 2021, after 16 years of service to the state of Ohio. He began his service with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) in January 2005. He graduated from the University of Akron Police Academy. He was assigned to the Toledo District Office. Prior to his work with OIU, Agent Phillips served as an auxiliary officer for 29 years with the Lakewood Police Department.

Tony Storey
Enforcement Agent Tony Storey, Columbus District Office, retired on March 26, 2021, after 20 years of service to the state of Ohio. He began his service with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) in August 2000. He was assigned to the Cincinnati District Office. He also served at the Cincinnati District Office and the former Dayton satellite office. Prior to his work with OIU, Agent Storey served as a deputy with the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office. He graduated from the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Academy in 1995. Agent Storey served in the United States Marine Corps from 1989 to 2010.

Lydia G. Frey
Dispatcher Manager Lydia G. Frey, Office of Finance and Logistics, retired on March 5, 2021, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in 1990 as a dispatcher assigned to the Bucyrus Post. As a dispatcher, she also served at the Marion Post. She was selected as Marion Post Dispatcher of the Year 10 times. She was selected as Bucyrus District Dispatcher of the Year three times and State Dispatcher of the Year twice. In 1994, she was promoted to a dispatcher 2 and remained at the Marion Post. In 2003, she was promoted to a cad specialist and transferred to the Technology and Communications Unit. In 2004, she was promoted to communications center supervisor. In 2008, she was promoted to a program administrator 2, and in 2010, promoted to a dispatcher manager. As a dispatcher manager, she also served in the Office of Strategic Services and in the Office of Security Communications.

Linda J. Colley
Dispatcher Linda J. Colley, Findlay Dispatch Center, retired on April 15, 2021, after 32 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 1989 as a dispatcher assigned to the Lima Post. As a dispatcher, she also served at the Van Wert Dispatch Center and Findlay Post.
Thomas J. Drawl  
Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector
Thomas J. Drawl, Warren District Licensing and Commercial Standards Unit, retired on April 23, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1991 as a stationary load limit inspector assigned to the Ashtabula Post. In 1996, he was promoted to a motor carrier enforcement inspector and transferred to the Chardon Post. He earned the Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year twice.

Jackie W. Goins  
Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Supervisor Jackie W. Goins, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on May 28, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1991 as a maintenance repair worker 2 assigned to the Lebanon Post. In 1992, he was promoted to a clerk 3 and remained at the Lebanon Post. In 1993, he was promoted to a driver license examiner 1 and transferred to the Wilmington District Headquarters. In 2000, he was promoted to a motor carrier enforcement inspector and transferred to the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2016, he was promoted to a motor carrier enforcement inspector supervisor and remained at the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit. MCEIS Goins received a certificate in automotive mechanics from Laurel Oaks Career Campus in 1978.

Mark L. Thompson  
Stationary Load Limit Inspector Mark L. Thompson, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on March 19, 2021, after 39 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 1981 as a stationary load limit inspector and was assigned to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit throughout his career.

Shawn A. Piper  
Electronic Technician Manager Shawn A. Piper, Electronic Technician Unit, retired on April 30, 2021, after 31 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 1989 as an electronic technician 2 assigned to the Findlay District Headquarters. In 1995, he was promoted to an electronic technician 3 and transferred to the Findlay District Electronic Technician Unit. In 2007, he was a member of the Electronic Technician Team of the Year. In that same year, he was promoted to the rank of electronic technician manager and transferred to the Technology Communications Unit. Electronic Technician Manager Piper received a certificate in electricity from Vantage Vocational School in 1983 and an Associate of Art degree in electronics from ITT Technical Institute in 1989.

Richard D. Ellsworth  
State Chaplain Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth retired on May 24, 2021, after 30 years of service to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He was appointed state chaplain of the Ohio State Highway Patrol in May 1991, serving under nine superintendents. Rev. Ellsworth was honored in 2016 with the Military Service Award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. He was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Civilian Leadership Award during the 2018 Distinguished Law Enforcement Achievement Awards. In 2019, he was recognized with the Ford Oval of Honor. In November 2020, he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Rev. Ellsworth has served as pastor of Central College Church in Westerville since 1958. He also served as chaplain for the Division of Police and Fire in the city of Columbus. In November 2001, he served as chaplain at Ground Zero, New York, through the International Council of Police Chaplains. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Case Institute of Technology in January 1950. He attended the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary at Capital University (now known as Trinity Seminary) in Columbus. He received his Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Seminary in June 1960. In May 1995, he was the recipient of the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Muskingum College. He served in the United States Army from September 1943 until April 1946 serving in World War II as a member of the 86th Infantry Division “Fighting Blackhawks” with India “I” Company.
Highway Highlights
Comments received via social media.

Sergeant Mike Ross
This evening at around 11pm on Saturday March 13th, I pulled into the OSP station in Wilmington, Ohio after noticing I was having steering troubles. I checked my vehicle and realized I had a sway linkage bar that was loose. So I went to the door and was let in where I asked the Dispatcher if there was any troopers on station that may have a wrench I can use to tighten the bolt. Sergeant Ross came to assist me and was very patient while we tried to determine the size of the nut. We unfortunately didn’t get it tightened tight as we could find the right wrench but I did make it home safely. I just wanna say thank you to Sergeant Ross and OSP for being so courteous and kind to try and help me fix my issue. It means the world to me that he took time out of his schedule to try and assist me. He was super respectful and very chill which was calming for me. Thank you all for everything you do for all of us. You guys are absolutely amazing!!!

Patrick Henahan
I want to give a Shout Out to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper who assisted my close friend who had a medical emergency and his wife yesterday on I-80 near mile marker/exit 204. I’m a 44 year Law Enforcement Veteran (now retired) and I appreciate everything you did for them. They are safe back home in “that state up north” (Michigan LOL). They called me to tell me what had transpired and couldn’t be more appreciative and thankful for helping them in this stressful time. Thank you so much, and please be careful out there! 

Molly Hogue
I’m not able to post on your FB page but I wanted to publicly say thank you to Trooper Sark for seeing my husband and his motorcycle broken down on the side of a very busy interstate in the middle of a highway exchange and staying with him until I could get there with a backup battery. She turned on her lights and made sure he was protected from drivers as it was dark and there weren’t any pole lights. Thank you so much!!!!

Recruitment - Taking Applications
This is your opportunity to make a difference.

statepatrol.ohio.gov or call 1- 866 -Trooper
If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.

Sir Isaac Newton first coined the phrase in the late 1600’s. Newton was the son of a farmer, but found his niche in math, science, and philosophy. Sir Isaac Newton’s greatest contribution to the world of science is his work defining the effects of gravity. Later in life, amidst the fame and accolades, Newton wrote a letter to fellow scientist Robert Hooke in which he said, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” The phrase is understood to mean if Newton had been able to discover more about the universe than others, it was because he was benefitting from the discoveries made by fellow scientists, either in his own time or earlier.

While my contributions are perhaps not as significant as understanding the effects of gravity, I certainly can relate to the sentiment. Today, the chaplaincy program is healthy and robust. Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth has done a phenomenal job laying the foundation for what we have today. He is one of the giants who have given me the opportunity to step into this moment in the history of the Patrol. He is not the only giant. Giants like Colonel Thomas W. Rice who had the vision to begin the chaplaincy program in 1991, giants like Colonel Richard H. Collins who gave me a chance to serve the men and women of the premier law enforcement agency in the nation, giants like Colonel Paul A. Pride and his deep concern for the people entrusted to his care who demanded excellence in the care provided to the Patrol family thus adding a chaplain in every district, giants like Colonel Richard S. Fambro who continues to provide the chaplaincy program with direction and unwavering support. These giants have allowed us the privilege of catching a glimpse of what is to come for the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the future is truly bright.

It is truly a humbling honor to be appointed to serve for such a time as this. I want to serve well. I want to serve the Patrol family well, both past and present. I want to serve my fellow chaplains well. With God’s help, I will. Would you pray for me as I pray for you? Thank you for all you do!

Blessings!
Reverend Phil Hurlbert

State Chaplain