CALEA
Patrol Academy Earns Accreditation
A lot has happened since the COVID-19 pandemic upended our way of living and working in March 2020, and I know a lot has been asked of our people over that time.

I want to open my letter in this issue to drive home the point that I, Lieutenant Colonels Gaskill and Jones, and the senior staff, recognize and appreciate that despite all the obstacles you have faced, professionally and personally, you have gone out and answered the call to do the job. I want to sincerely thank each of you for what you have done in support of our great state, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

This Flying Wheel issue illustrates some of the unique ways we were called to serve in recent months, and just how emotionally challenging these times have been individually and collectively.

We remember Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth, Patrol chaplain emeritus, who passed away on August 25. To so many of us he was known as “Rev,” and for 30 years he served the women and men of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, our law enforcement partners and the people of Ohio with faith, unwavering loyalty and grace.

The mark he made on the entire Division and our families is immense. His ministry was one of presence as much as it was words. He talked frequently about “Service above self,” but more importantly, he showed us what that meant through his faith, mentorship and personification of excellence in service. We all will be forever grateful for his contributions of faithful service to our Patrol family.

We also continue to mourn the losses of two of our own who are memorialized in these pages.

Trooper Donald “Andy” Ward, who unexpectedly passed away at his residence on August 30. Trooper Ward had 24 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, having spent his entire career at the Lancaster Post.

And on July 31, we were saddened by the loss of Sergeant Jared M. Ulinski, who had served the Division for 21 years during assignments at the Findlay, Bowling Green and Toledo posts.

There is a line that was recently brought to my attention from the musical Les Miserables – “Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise.”

I think that provides the encouragement to examine how our resilience can help us rise above the obstacles, regardless of their size or impact.

How we recover from our challenges and carry forward the admirable qualities of Rev. Ellsworth, Tpr. Ward and Sgt. Ulinski will be important for where we go in the future.

www.everydayhealth.com states, “Resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult life events. Being resilient does not mean that people don’t experience stress, emotional upheaval, and suffering. ... Resilience is important because it gives people the strength needed to process and overcome hardship.”

Being resilient does not mean that you need to face life's challenges alone. The Office of Personnel recently established a new Employee Mental Wellness site that is available to sworn and professional staff on the Gateway. The site supports our employees and fosters mental wellness in a variety of ways including: support from our Members Assistance Team (MAT), Patrol chaplains and the Employee Assistance Program: self-help resources: and nutrition guidance.

On behalf of the senior staff, know that we care about you immensely. During the time we were preparing for the budget earlier this year, I told you in video messages and other communications that we are appreciative of what you do and asked you to stay the course. We asked you to trust your leadership, and you did.

In the end, we got the funding we needed to take care of us for the next two years. That too was through the hard work of our people.

It’s not a secret that we have some staffing challenges right now, and we are trying our best to address those issues. I am extremely thankful for the people who continue to stay the course with us. We have faced some difficult times throughout the history of the Patrol, and it has always been our people who are resilient and deliver for us through the tough times.

I’ll close with a sincere thank you. Keep answering the call to serve every day, and know you are valued and supported.

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

Colonel Richard S. Fambro  
Superintendent
# OSHP Tribute

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    “Keep climbing. Don’t quit. We are going to make it. I’ll look for you on the top!”
On August 25, members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol lost its champion, hero and healer. Few have meant more to the modern day members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol than Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth, or as we called him, Rev.

For 30 years, Rev was the voice of care when we were hurting. He was the laughter when we needed a lighter moment. Rev was the light when we felt dark, as he guided us through times of trouble. He walked beside and presided over weddings, baptisms, promotions and retirements.

Rev had too many contributions to list them all, but some notable highlights of his service include creating the Patrol’s Chaplaincy Program, and acting as chaplain for Ohio ASSIST and at Ground Zero.

Rev was a proud WWII Veteran, serving in both the European and Pacific Theaters. He volunteered with many causes locally and internationally. He rode across the country on his Harley Davidson Tri-Glide while in his 90s to honor a sergeant, his friend. He received numerous awards for his selfless service with the military, his citizenship and work with law enforcement, including being the only non-sworn recipient of the Patrol’s prestigious Colonel Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award and in 2016, he was presented with the Military Service Award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. His unwavering dedication led senior staff at the time to name a portion of the Patrol’s Memorial – the eternal flame - to him and his wife Linda.

Rev formally retired on May 24 and was named Chaplain Emeritus. Shortly before Rev passed, Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Lieutenant Colonel Marla K. Gaskill and Lieutenant Colonel Chuck A. Jones presented him with his retirement credentials.

On Saturday, September 4, family, friends and parishioners joined together to pay their final respects at Central College Presbyterian Church, including Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas Stickrath and nine of the 10 colonels Rev served under. For one last time, his daughters Pam (Jim) Miller, Jennifer Turick, son Pete (Sarah) Ellsworth, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, shared their beloved family member with the Patrol and others.

At the conclusion of his funeral, a video played of Rev delivering various sermons at Central College Presbyterian Church. As Rev was escorted out of the church, the Columbus Division of Police and Fire and Ohio State Highway Patrol Drum and Bugle Corps played, while troopers and officers saluted.

The folding of the flag was done by the Patrol Honor Guard, and Colonel Fambro presented the flag to the Ellsworth family.

“On behalf of the men and women of the Columbus Division of Police and Fire, the members of the Westerville Police Department, the members of the Blendon Township Police Department, and the troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, we will be forever grateful for your dedicated years of service, time and sacrifice - from all of us you made us better” said Retired Colonel Thomas Rice.

“And, I cannot recall in all the years that Dick and I parted ways that he ever said goodbye. He said, ‘farewell.’ So today I say my friend, farewell. Rest in peace.”
Trooper Donald (Andy) Ward, Lancaster Post, passed away unexpectedly at his home on August 30, 2021. Funeral services were held on September 3, 2021, in Delaware.

Trooper Ward graduated from the Academy in 1998 as a member of the 130th Class and served at the Lancaster Post throughout his career. Trooper Ward is survived by his wife and two adult children.

As an avid runner, he thoroughly enjoyed watching his children compete in cross country. Contributions in Andy’s memory may be made to his children’s college education fund.

Prior to his passing, Trooper Donald A. Ward was nominated for a Superintendent’s Citation of Merit Award. On June 9, 2021, Trooper Ward was on patrol on state Route 37, when he observed a vehicle approaching him head on. He recognized something was wrong, so he utilized his patrol car to block traffic to address the situation.

As the vehicle came to a stop, Trooper Ward could see the driver did not look well so he immediately called for an ambulance and provided aid. While helping the driver, he observed an ambulance in stopped traffic, so he quickly motioned for their assistance at the scene. Charles Smyers of Portsmouth Ambulance Service arrived and helped Trooper Ward pull the driver from the vehicle. Smyers began CPR with the assistance of local nurse Erica McDaniels, who had also stopped to help.

Trooper Ward’s quick actions and decisions helped provide the critical care needed to save the driver’s life. The care and treatment took coordination and teamwork of everyone involved. The driver was taken from the scene by the Lancaster Fire Department to Fairfield Medical Center. He was treated for low blood sugar and received a multi-bypass heart surgery. Without the quick actions of Trooper Ward, Smyers and McDaniels, the driver would not have survived his medical emergency.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro will present the credentials posthumously to Trooper Ward’s family later this year.
On August 20, the Office of Personnel unveiled the new Mental Health & Wellness site that is available on the Gateway. This resource, the idea of which originated during the 2020 Sergeant Policy Group discussions, had been in development for approximately one year through the diligence and commitment of staff in the Office of Personnel and others across the Division. The Gateway is an internal communications website available to Ohio Department of Public Safety personnel.

Accessible via an ‘Employee Mental Wellness’ link on the Gateway, the site supports Division employees and fosters mental wellness in four main categories where employees can locate resources and information to help combat challenging life events. The categories include:

- **Support** – Resources include the Members Assistance Team (MAT), Patrol chaplains and the Employee Assistance Program. A Division Support Network has been developed to aid employees with challenges that may arise from a critical incident or illness. Contact information for Division employees who have had experience in incidents such as shootings, traumatic injuries, illness and addiction is available. Trained staff are available to help support any employee and walk with them to define/manage a “new normal.”

- **Self-Help** – Resources include worksheets, articles and videos that help with recognizing, improving and maintaining a healthy mental well-being. Topics such as self-care, exercise, sleep and coping techniques are included. There are plans to help recognize opportunities for change and instructional pieces on how to implement small habits to work toward individual goals.

- **Listen & Watch** – Resources include podcasts specific to mental wellness and self-care, diversity training videos, personal stories on trauma and the importance of reaching out for help.

- **Nutrition** – Resources from the Division’s Dietician include tips, recipes and information that can assist with energy levels, GXT preparation and managing health conditions. Studies have shown nutrition directly affects mental wellness.

All of the resources and support references on the Mental Health & Wellness site can be accessed on the Gateway privately and discretely from Division-issued electronic devices and from MCTs. This site has a multitude of resources that can help mitigate challenging circumstances and provide the tools to overcome obstacles impacting mental health and wellness. Additional resources will continue to be added.

Questions about the Mental Health & Wellness site, or inquiries about additional services and resources, can be directed to Lieutenant Molly Harris with the Office of Personnel via e-mail at MJHarris@dps.ohio.com.
Charles (Chuck) A. Jones, a 27-year veteran, was promoted to lieutenant colonel on July 4, becoming one of two assistant superintendents. He replaces Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford who retired on July 2 after 35 years of service, including seven years as assistant superintendent.

Lieutenant Colonel Jones began his Patrol career 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 Marion Post. In 1998, he earned the state proficiency award in auto larceny enforcement. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Delaware Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Patrol’s Training Academy.

In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and remained at the Patrol’s Training Academy. As a lieutenant, he also served in the Office of Personnel, Columbus District Criminal Patrol Unit and the Marion Post. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and remained at the Patrol’s Training Academy. As a staff lieutenant, he also served at the Bucyrus District Headquarters. In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of captain and transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy. In 2019, he was promoted to the rank of major and served as commander in the Office of Training, Recruitment and Diversity. Lieutenant Colonel Jones completed training at the FBI National Academy in 2005. He also earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in 2021.

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford, Office of the Superintendent, retired on July 2, after 35 years with the Patrol.

He joined the Patrol in March 1986 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Jackson District Headquarters and the Gallipolis 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 Jackson Post. In 1991, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Gallipolis Post.

In 1994, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Ironton Post to serve as an assistant post commander, and later served at the Gallipolis Post. In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the West Jefferson Post to serve as post commander. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Personnel. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of captain and remained in the Office of Personnel. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of major and served in the Office of the Superintendent and the Office of Strategic Services. In 2014, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and transferred to the Office of the Superintendent.

Lieutenant Colonel Teaford earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public administration from the University of Rio Grande in 1994. He completed training at the FBI National Academy in September 2000. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in public administration from The Ohio State University in 2012.
Calendar

The Ohio State Highway Patrol’s 168th Academy Class started their training at the Patrol’s Training Academy on July 14.

On August 23, the 145th Basic Peace Officer Academy Class started their first day of training at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy.

Basics and Cadets will be tested both mentally and physically as they undergo more than six months of instruction at the Patrol’s Training Academy.

OIU Swearing-In

Three new enforcement agents joined the Ohio Investigative Unit this summer. Director Thomas J. Stickrath oversaw the swearing in during a ceremony held at the Patrol’s Training Academy on August 5.
LOWRY TEXAS AWARD

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Ian E. Lowry and Texas State Trooper Joseph S. Lopez were awarded for their efforts in saving a woman’s life in Eagle Pass, Texas. The troopers encountered a woman who suffered a leg amputation while attempting to jump onto a moving train. Troopers Lopez and Lowry applied two tourniquets and stayed with her until she was transported to the hospital, where she was stabilized. Trooper Lowry received a Directors Award and Trooper Lopez received a Lifesaving Award.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol deployed a total of 14 troopers to partner with Texas Law Enforcement for a 2-week time frame, in a support role, to assist local law enforcement with border surveillance.

OSHP K9 UNITS, TROOPER LOWRY FINISH STRONG IN 2021 OHIO POLICE AND FIRE GAMES

The 2021 Ohio Police and Fire Games were held June 12-19 in Canton. More than 35 events were offered. The games drew competitors from throughout Ohio, and from other states as well.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Bucyrus District K9 units placed in five of the K9 skills events.

- K9 Tactical Skills Course
  - Bronze – K9 Atos, Trooper Colt W. Browne

- Narcotics
  - Gold – K9 Atos, Trooper Browne
  - Silver – K9 Ure, Trooper Mayle

- Building Search/Apprehension
  - Gold – K9 Ure, Trooper Kyle J. Mayle

- Article Search/Evidence
  - Gold – K9 Atos, Trooper Browne
  - Silver – K9 Ure, Trooper Mayle

Trooper Ian E. Lowry, Steubenville Post, competed in track and field events. He earned gold medals for 60 meter dash, 100 meter run, long jump and high jump. Megan Lowry, Ian’s wife, also won a gold medal for the long jump.

OVER THE HILL

Congratulations to the new members of the Patrol’s “Over the Hill” club. The members of the 120th Academy Class achieved 30 years of service in May 2020. Back row (left to right): Trooper Gerald L. Gibson, Captain David R. Allwine and Captain H. Marty Fellure. Front row (left to right): Sergeant Michael L. McClain, Trooper Sherri E. Wells, Trooper William J. Mahone and Trooper Willie E. Richardson. Not pictured: Lieutenant Mark A. Gooding, Captain Christopher Johnson, Staff Lieutenant Edward Mejia and Sergeant John D. Hromiak.
It is one thing for the Ohio State Highway Patrol to say it has one of the best training academies in the country. It is a whole different thing when The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) says that about a training academy.

On July 16, 2021, CALEA said just that about the Patrol’s Training Academy. At the Commission hearing before CALEA, at which time the final determination was made regarding accreditation, the Patrol became only the fifth state highway patrol/state police that has an accredited academy in the country.

For the Division, Academy staff, and the citizens of Ohio, this national accreditation reinforces that the Patrol has one of the best training academies in the country and is conducting law enforcement training at an elite level.

For Highway Patrol or Basic Police cadets, CALEA accreditation lends credibility to the training. For troopers, to know the Academy and the training being provided is nationally accredited and meets all the standards, also adds to the credibility of their position when they are testifying in court or appearing as a subject-matter expert in an official law enforcement capacity.

“Having the backing of CALEA to reinforce the quality of training provided at the Patrol’s Training Academy, and also to maintain those best practices and standards, it definitely helps the operation and administration of the Academy training staff,” Caroline J. Jarka, Patrol Accreditation Manager, said.

At the time of this writing, there were only 42 other law enforcement academies across the United States with CALEA-accreditation status. The Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy is the only other CALEA-accredited academy in Ohio. The Patrol has long been accredited as an agency by CALEA, having even attained Accreditation with Excellence status.

CALEA’s Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation Program, “is designed to provide administrative and operational support to contemporary organizations with the responsibility of training public safety officials. The program focuses on basic as well as advanced curriculums, with the emphasis on sound instructional techniques, facilities management, student safety, records integrity, and a host of other issues that promote the professional delivery of training within the public safety industry.”

The path to the Academy’s accreditation was a five-year journey that started with then Colonel Paul A. Pride.

Beginning in 2016, the Patrol placed an added focus on law enforcement training. Jarka noted the Patrol Training Academy is uniquely situated because it is one of the only state law enforcement academies in the country that trains its own personnel as well as outside law enforcement agencies.

In 2017, initial strategy meetings for CALEA accreditation of the Academy began. The Division enrolled in the CALEA process in 2019, looking to get outside reinforcement of the quality of training provided at the Academy.

Jarka led a team that included Lieutenant Colonel Chuck A. Jones (who began serving as a Captain at the Academy shortly after the process began), Captain Steven R. Rine and other sworn and professional staff who were subject-matter experts at the Academy.

“We felt it was important to be accredited to make sure the way we ran our Academy, and our policies and procedures, were in line with best practices,” Jones said. “There were a lot of meetings that took place to make sure we met all the standards. A lot of work was done by Carrie (Caroline) Jarka and the Academy staff to make sure that the way we were running the Academy, and operating within policy and procedures, was good standard practice.”

They worked through a process of meeting 159 standards that constitute the CALEA Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation Program, which are completely separate standards to those required for the law enforcement agency accreditation through CALEA. For each standard, staff had to assess whether the Patrol’s Academy already met the standard, and if not, how the Patrol would come into compliance.

Jones believes a significant positive change from the Academy accreditation process is what he calls ‘accountability through documentation.’

Overall, accountability for the training provided by the staff has increased through various documentation processes put in place. Staff are also now held accountable to a much greater extent for their decisions, which

¹ www.calea.org/traing-academy
are documented as the training is occurring.

“It really made us look at how we were documenting things. We had a lot of good processes, but maybe the final piece that was missing in some of those areas was the documentation piece – to be able to show this is what we did, and this is how and why we did it,” Jones said.

Specific standards pertaining to a requirement for the reviewing of lesson plans, or standards requiring written directives to address high-risk training, needed to be assessed for compliance. If those items were not already in place, staff started drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) specific to Academy operations in accordance with the specific standards.

Once the SOPs were drafted, the next phase involved gathering specific documentation proofs that showed the standards and written directives were being met. Compiled documentation included emails, forms and lesson plans.

“What I told the Academy staff about this process was there is some stuff that is going to change, but a lot of it is reinforcing and writing down the good stuff that you are already doing,” Jarka said. “A lot of the things were already in place when the process began, but through the accreditation process now those things are written down and codified to carry on from captain to captain, or sergeant to sergeant. It was institutionalized knowledge that was passed down, but now it’s actually codified and made policy.”

Next came an off-site file review, during which time a CALEA inspector logged into the Academy network and reviewed all the documentation, SOPs and proofs. Recommendations were provided by the inspector, which were used for modifications and updates by Academy staff.

That was followed by a “virtual” on-site assessment (due to COVID protocols). This involved a series of interviews and virtual tours so the assessor could see the Academy, meet the staff and ask questions regarding compliance with the standards.

The final Commission hearing and accreditation determination was made during the July 16, 2021, hearing.

“When you are forced to go through and look at all the policies and standard operating procedures, there are things along the way that you know but you kind of forget the little nuances, so it really made us all focus on the fine details of what we do as Academy staff members,” Jones said. “It made us take that deep dive into the operating procedures and see what was working and what wasn’t. The biggest takeaway was forcing us to go back and reflect on the total operation of the Academy and the way we were running things.”

There are multiple benefits of having gone through the CALEA process for both the organization, cadets and Academy staff.

Jones noted the accreditation process helped ensure all training is in line with good practices and the Division is not putting itself in a bad liability situation.

For example, officer safety is a crucial component of Academy training. Through this process, a close examination occurred of how high-intensity tactical training, or HITT training, is conducted. That is a training area meticulously covered by policy and procedure with respect to use of force and response to resistance. Through accreditation, an evolution has occurred regarding how training meets specific related standards and how training to those individual standards is now documented. New procedural and safety protocols for HITT training are now in place that not only better protect the cadets, but also the instructors.

Organizationally, a prime benefit is risk mitigation and risk management. It forced command staff to think through some of the highest risk elements in law enforcement, and how best to prioritize training toward those topics. Through the accreditation process, the Patrol now has concrete procedures written down for how training is conducted on driving, defensive tactics, firearms and response to an active shooter. Previously there were guiding principles in place, but now specific training plans are written down associated with each topic.

In terms of Academy staff benefits, instructor evaluations are a requirement going forward that came out of this process, which will help with the development of the instructors as employees along with the quality of instruction they provide.

Other benefits include better checks and balances on training lesson plans and implementation of the training, and better lines of communication between different areas of the Academy.

“The history of our Academy is storied and we never want to erode that away. Quite honestly, that’s why the chiefs and sheriffs are sending their Basic officers to us is because of that professionalism and the way we run our Academy,” Jones said. “This was another way to make sure we are performing at the highest level possible and maintaining our professionalism as an organization, particularly at the Academy in the way we are training cadets and Basic police officers.”
BUCKEYE BOYS AND GIRLS STATE

The 2021 Buckeye Girls State and Buckeye Boys State took place this year after being put on hold in 2020 for COVID-19 health protocols. Once again, the Ohio State Highway Patrol proudly supported the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary in conducting the programs.

The 40th Buckeye Girls State took place June 12-19 at Mount Union University in Alliance. Sergeant Kaitlin D. Fuller, Granville Post; Sergeant Kristi Comstock, Delaware Post and Trooper Cyara Castillo, Elyria Post presided over the week taking 10 girls through various Patrol activities. Retired Major Lisa Taylor spoke to the soon-to-be high school seniors and Lieutenant Colonel Marla K. Gaskill was the keynote speaker at the Girls State graduation ceremony.

Buckeye Boys State has taken place each summer since 1936, with the exception of World War II in 1945, a flood in 1952 and the pandemic in 2020. This year’s Buckeye Boys State was held from June 13-20 at Miami University in Oxford. Sergeant Drew M. Hertlein, Wilmington Post; Sergeant Bryan J. Cook, Cincinnati Post; Sergeant Eric D. Holbrook, Columbus Post (2019 Trooper of the Year) and Trooper Tyler S. Ross, Hamilton Post (2020 Trooper of the Year) oversaw 24 young men who went through Patrol activities for the week. Colonel Richard S. Fambro spoke during the graduation ceremony.

Both Buckeye Girls and Boys State were instructed on aviation, self-defense, Office of Investigative Services, K9, Special Response Team and Drug Recognition Experts.

JUNIOR CADET

The 2021 Junior Cadet Week took place from June 27-July 1 at the Patrol’s Training Academy. This year, 35 junior cadets were selected, instead of the traditional 50 due to COVID-19 health orders. Junior cadets remained socially distanced and wore masks unless they were vaccinated.

Junior cadets are rising high school seniors who are given the opportunity to spend a week at the Patrol’s Training Academy to experience similar training undertaken by an Ohio State Highway Patrol cadet. They can be children of, or sponsored by, a Patrol employee. Training included:

- Physical training
- Criminal Patrol operations
- Unarmed self-defense
- Stops and approaches
- Alcohol impairment countermeasures
- Use of aircraft in law enforcement
- Weapons familiarization
- Patrol car familiarization
- Crime scene familiarization
- Crash investigation
The Patrol once again participated in the Nationwide ‘America’s Best Looking Cruiser Contest’ for the eighth year. A lot of planning and dedication went into capturing the perfect photo for submission. After careful consideration, the photo submitted (pictured above) was taken on Mohawk Dam in Coshocton County. The competition was fierce and our position fluctuated during the contest voting period, with us ultimately finishing in second place with 65,529 votes. Kentucky State Police took top honors with 77,944 votes. The top 13 finalists will be featured in the 2022 calendar created by the American Association of State Troopers, which is available for purchase on their website. Next year’s contest will be here before you know it. Email ADPAU@dps.ohio.gov if you have a good idea or location for next year’s contest photo.

**FINDLAY DISTRICT**

On August 14, troopers from the Bowling Green Post joined public safety partners and the community for a car show at Mercy Health Perrysburg Hospital. The event was hosted by Mercy Health Police to fill a cruiser with school supplies.

Pictured Left to Right: Trooper Nicholas L. Palmer, Jay Willman, Michael Shaffer.

On August 19, troopers from the Toledo Post participated in pizza with the police. They joined officers from the University of Toledo Police Department and international students for a slice of pizza and conversation.

(Photo - @UToledoPolice Twitter page)

**BUCYRUS DISTRICT**

On August 27, Bucyrus District troopers, Huron County first responders, and their families and friends took part in a charity golf outing at Millstone Hills in New London. The charity event was held to raise money for the Norwalk Area United Fund and for the family of fallen USN Corpsman Max Soviak, a 2017 graduate of Edison High School in Milan.

Pictured Left to Right: Trooper Cody W. McCoy, Colton Grant, Trooper Jordan M. Cole and Trooper Robert M. Jones pose after winning a charity golf outing at Millstone Hills in New London.
Richard Zoss was a trooper in the early 1970’s, and served at the Ashland and Wooster posts. His daughter-in-law asked if troopers could come say hello as she surprised him with a visit to the Wooster Post. Richard is 93 years young and has wonderful memories of the Patrol. His daughter-in-law and nurse stated that he talks about his time in the military and with the Patrol often. Pictured are Trooper Nathan H. A. Rubenstein, Trooper James M. Donohue and Lieutenant A. Norman of the Wooster Post.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose stopped at the Wooster Post to recognize Lieutenant Stephanie A. Norman’s upcoming retirement and presented her with a Certificate of Recognition, along with a challenge coin, for her years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

On July 10, units from the Cleveland Post and Office of Recruitment participated in Community Resource Day in the city of Cleveland. The event was in conjunction with the SERVICE_CLE, one in a series of urban SERVICE initiatives throughout the state. During the event, free booster and child safety seats, food boxes, bike helmets and other goodies were distributed to those who attended.

Throughout the spring and summer, Cleveland Post Trooper Mykol A. Gardiner was a volunteer coach for the I9 Cleveland Youth Sports flag football league. Mykol taught the kids the fundamentals of football, the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship.
WARREN DISTRICT

The Warren Post partnered with the Bazetta Police Department in sponsoring a “Cram the Cruiser” event at the Bazetta Walmart on August 7. The event generated 1,300 pounds of school supplies for the Trumbull County Educational Service Center.

Pictured from left: Sergeant Erik A. Golias, Bazetta Police Officer Nick Gregory, Electronic Technician 2 Terry E. Maffitt, Administrative Professional Valerie J. Maffitt, Vicki Golias, spouse of Sergeant Golias; Madison Golias, daughter of Sergeant Golias; Trooper Matthew D. Fidram, Robert Marino Trumbull County Educational Service Center, and Chris Hubinksy Trumbull County Educational Service Center.

The Warren Post held a safety and recruitment event at Niles High School on August 3. Senior football players and cheerleaders from Niles High School and Labrae High School had the opportunity to get their picture next to division vehicles and speak with Trooper Lindsay M. Buckner about traffic safety and what it is like to be a state trooper.

First picture is with Labrae High School and second is with Niles High School. Those pictured are, from left to right: Lieutenant Brian M. Vail, Sergeant Chris F. Castellanos and Trooper Lindsay M. Buckner.
Troopers from the Ravenna Post attended the Portage County Randolph Fair from August 24 - 29. Sergeant Shaun J. Baskerville swapped headgear with one of this year’s fair contest participants.

On March 24, a distraught woman entered the Warren Post and advised the dispatchers that she had a male in her vehicle, which was in the post parking lot, who she believed was overdosing. Dispatchers Nicholas W. Johnson and Matthew C. Smith immediately ran to the vehicle to the unresponsive male. Dispatcher Stephanie M. Palumbo requested medical assistance and ensured her coworkers’ safety, while maintaining dispatch operations. Dispatchers Smith and Johnson removed the male from the vehicle, and Dispatcher Johnson administered two doses of NARCAN to the male which caused him to regain consciousness. Dispatchers Johnson, Smith and Polumbo’s quick actions and the utilization of their training allowed them to save a man from a potentially fatal situation. On July 23, they were presented with the Patrol’s Certificate of Recognition Award.

PIQUA DISTRICT

On July 17, Trooper Justin T. Picklesimon from the Marysville Post participated in the Miami Valley Steam Threshers parade and events.

Trooper Dylan J. Leugers, Springfield Post, and Dominic Root (Teddy Trooper) visited the US40 Car Show at Tecumseh High School in New Carlisle on August 1.
COLUMBUS DISTRICT

Motor Vehicle Inspector Trooper Team members, Trooper Justin D. Dement and Trooper Mark A. Murray, attended the Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation (OAPT) conference on June 18. They spoke and answered questions surrounding school bus transportation safety along with the trends Patrol inspectors are seeing.

The Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation is the pupil transportation affiliate of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, and the premier association for pupil transportation administrators in the State of Ohio. OAPT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been a driving force in the safety and efficiency of Ohio’s statewide pupil transportation program since the 1960s.

The Lancaster Post, in conjunction with ODOT, participated in a joint media event to promote the success of the US33 distracted driving corridor in Fairfield County.

Fiscal Supervisor Lori Click and her husband, retired Lieutenant Steve Click, now with ODPS/OCJS, participated in a Habitat for Humanity Wall Build in Lithopolis on August 21, 2021. The walls will be part of a new home for a family of six in Fairfield County.
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT

On August 11, Lieutenant Maurice Waddell and other members of the St. Clairsville Post met with personnel from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and representatives with the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) to celebrate the one year anniversary of the implementation of the Belmont County Distracted Driving Corridor. Lieutenant Waddell met with local news stations to discuss the corridor’s success, which saw a decrease in both the total number of crashes as well as injury and fatal crashes within the corridor.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT

On June 14, units from the Marietta Post joined with ODOT District 10 personnel to adopt a portion of state Route 7 in honor of Trooper Tim Gossett, who passed away last year. Signage in memory of Trooper Gossett was placed on the stretch of highway near where he was buried, Gravel Banks Road Cemetery. Family members of Tim were present for the sign installation, meeting with Marietta units as well as District Staff. Marietta units will periodically conduct litter cleanup and other projects along the stretch of highway throughout the year as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program.

On June 30, the Hamilton Post held a memorial service for retired Trooper Glenn W. Roddy. Trooper Roddy served in many ways in his lifetime, as a devoted husband, loving father, a veteran of the United States Air Force, and as a trooper to the citizens of Ohio.

He graduated from the Ohio State Patrol Academy as a member of the 44th Class. During his career he served at posts in Ashland and Hamilton, and with the Wilmington District Motor Vehicle Inspection team. Trooper Roddy retired from service in June 1984 ending a 29-year career with the State of Ohio. After he retired from the Patrol, he worked for the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles as a Field Investigator.

Family, friends and co-workers took this opportunity to reminisce on the work he had done during his time with the Patrol as well as telling stories of the past.
On June 23, the Georgetown Post, Brown County Sheriff’s Office, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Watercraft, Georgetown Veterans Home, the Lee Family and Bethel Church of the Nazarene treated veterans to a picnic, pontoon boat ride, fishing and games. It was a great event to recognize the veterans from the Georgetown Veterans Home.

On August 3, the Lebanon Post participated in Cram the Cruiser with Lebanon Police Department and Warren County Sheriff’s Office. The school items collected were donated to the Lebanon City Schools. Cram the Cruiser was in conjunction with Lebanon National Night Out.


On August 14, troopers from Dayton, Hamilton and Lebanon Posts participated in Warrior Weekend. This event provides a weekend of fun for our veterans.

On July 10, the Patrol’s Aviation Unit assisted ground units in Lawrence County to locate a missing 11-year-old autistic boy. Pilots located the boy in dense brush, and guided units to rescue him.

JACKSON DISTRICT
By Captain Rob Jackson, Retired

Like most retirees, Jerry Thompson didn’t slow down in retirement. Initially, Jerry and his wife, Beatrice, traveled extensively across the United States and abroad enjoying cruises and crappie fishing, a favorite activity they still enjoy.

Once their first grandchild arrived, things changed and their travel plans slowed to spend more time with family. Jerry began teaching at the Mahoning County Career Technical Center, overseeing the Public Safety program and began pursuing his second master’s degree. He also continued to teach for the Ohio Police Officers Training Academy at several police academies across the state. Jerry also began teaching at the FBI - Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA).

This latest opportunity led Jerry to travel extensively to almost all U.S. states and Canada teaching and becoming a master instructor for FBI-LEEDA. In 2019, he had the opportunity to travel to Uganda and train military and police personnel. Jerry truly enjoyed this assignment and actually traced his DNA as a direct descendent from Uganda where he had the opportunity to teach.

Jerry and Beatrice recently celebrated their 39th year of marriage. They are proud grandparents to three grandchildren from their daughters. Jerry misses the camaraderie of the Patrol and mentioned the leadership lessons I learned from my many mentors; Bill Costas, Gil Jones, Les Reel, Chris Minter, Doug Miller, Fermina Sanchez and many, many others. He also has many memories, including Cadet Fambro at the Lancaster Post where Jerry was a sergeant and watching him rise through the ranks, ultimately being able to talk with him as he became colonel and the emotion of him being the Patrol’s first African American superintendent.
KEVIN D. TEAFORD  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford, Office of the Superintendent, retired on July 2, 2021, after 35 years with the Patrol. (See page 7)

GARY ALLEN  
OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS  
Major Gary Allen, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired on August 13, 2021, after 32 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1988 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Xenia Post. He became a member of the 118th Academy Class in May 1989. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times. In 1995, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Jackson Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Chillicothe Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Patrol’s Recruitment Section. As a lieutenant, he also served as commander of the Lancaster and Granville posts. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Columbus District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander. As a staff lieutenant, he also served at the Patrol's Training Academy, Office of Field Operations and in Capitol Operations. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of captain and transferred to the Findlay District Headquarters to serve as commander. As a captain, he also served in the Ohio Investigative Unit. In 2019, he was promoted to the rank of major and transferred to the Office of Criminal Investigations to serve as commander.

Major Allen served in the United States Army from 1985 to 1993. He completed advance leadership training at the Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command in 2002.

CASSANDRA L. BREWSTER  
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
Captain Cassandra L. Brewster, Office of Personnel, retired on July 9, 2021, after 26 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Toledo Post. She became a member of the 128th Academy Class in February 1997. She earned her commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Toledo Post, Office of Investigative Services, Patrol’s Training Academy and the Findlay District Headquarters. In 2002, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Office of Human Resources. In 2009, she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Circleville Post to serve as post commander. In 2013, she earned the Criminal Patrol Award. As a lieutenant, she also served in the Regional Training and the Professional Standards units. In 2016, she was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and remained in the Professional Standards Unit. In 2018, she was promoted to the rank of captain and transferred to the Office of Personnel.

Captain Brewster earned a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational leadership in 2007 and a Master of Business Administration degree in human resource management in 2008 from Franklin University.

CORY D. DAVIES  
CLEVELAND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS  
Captain Cory D. Davies, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on June 18, 2021, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1991 as a dispatcher assigned to the Columbus District Headquarters. He became a member of the 123rd Academy Class in May 1992. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Massillon Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Ravenna Post. In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Chardon Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the New Philadelphia Post. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Medina Post to serve as post commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Canton Post. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations. As a staff
lieutenant, he also served at the Massillon District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander. In 2011, he was promoted to captain and transferred to the Cambridge District Headquarters to serve as commander. In July 2019 he transferred to the Cleveland District Headquarters to serve as commander.

Captain Davies earned a Bachelor of Science degree in police administration from Eastern Kentucky University in 1991. He completed training at the FBI National Academy in 2008.

WILLIAM R. MENENDEZ
OFFICE OF LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS
Staff Lieutenant William R. Menendez, Office of Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on July 6, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 1990 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Chillicothe Post. He became a member of the 123rd Academy Class in May 1992. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Marion Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Chillicothe Post. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit. As a sergeant, he also served at the Athens Post. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy. As a lieutenant, he also served in the Office of Licensing and Commercial Standards. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and remained in the Office of Licensing and Commercial Standards. As a staff lieutenant, he also served in the Office of Field Operations.

KEVIN D. MILLER
SECURITY SERVICES / LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UNIT
Staff Lieutenant Kevin D. Miller, Security Services, Legislative Affairs Unit, retired on June 28, 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 Toledo Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Office of Human Resources. As a sergeant, he also served at the Delaware Post as an assistant post commander. In 2008, he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Findlay District Criminal Investigations Unit and the Swanton Post. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bowling Green Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Athens Post. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations. In 2015, he was promoted the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Defiance Post to serve as post commander.

Lieutenant Ashenfelter also received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2019.

ROBERT J. ASHENFELTER
BOWLING GREEN POST / DISTRICT 1
Lieutenant Robert J. Ashenfelter, Bowling Green Post, retired on June 18, 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 Toledo Post. In 2008, he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Findlay District Criminal Investigations Unit and the Swanton Post. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bowling Green Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Athens Post. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Field Operations. In 2015, he was promoted the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Defiance Post to serve as post commander.

BARRY L. CALL
GALLIPOLIS POST / DISTRICT 9
Lieutenant Barry L. Call, Gallipolis Post, retired on July 1, 2021, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 1991 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Gallipolis 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 Marietta
Post. In 2005, he earned the Trooper Recognition Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Gallipolis Post and the Jackson District Criminal Investigations Unit. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Athens Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Gallipolis Post. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Ironton Post to serve as post commander. In 2016, he transferred to the Gallipolis Post.

TIMOTHY J. KARWATSKE
Chillicothe Post / District 9

Lieutenant Timothy J. Karwatske, Chillicothe Post, retired on July 30, 2021, after 24 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 Chillicothe Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 2003, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Jackson Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served in the Public Affairs Unit and the Chillicothe Post. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Office of Special Operations. As a lieutenant, he also served in Capitol Operations.

Lieutenant Karwatske served in the United States Marines from 1991 to 1995. He completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command in 2011.

In 2009, she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as post commander.

Lieutenant Norman received a certificate in Police Executive Leadership College from Hocking College in 2007.

TERRILL S. BARNES
Administrative Investigations Unit

Sergeant Terrill S. Barnes, Administrative Investigations Unit, retired on June 1, 2021, after 30 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 Chillicothe Post. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Gallipolis Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Chillicothe Post.

In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander.

In 2016, he transferred to the Chillicothe Post.

STEPHANIE A. NORMAN
Wooster Post / District 3

Lieutenant Stephanie A. Norman, Wooster Post, retired on July 16, 2021, after 27 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. She earned her commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Mansfield Post. In 2002, she was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, she also served at the Ashland Post. In 2003, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, she also served at the Wooster Post and the Public Affairs Unit.

In 2009, she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as post commander.

Lieutenant Norman received a certificate in Police Executive Leadership College from Hocking College in 2007.

TERRILL S. BARNES
Administrative Investigations Unit

Sergeant Terrill S. Barnes, Administrative Investigations Unit, retired on June 1, 2021, after 30 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 Chillicothe Post. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Gallipolis Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Chillicothe Post.

In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander.

In 2016, he transferred to the Chillicothe Post.

STEPHEN V. DUTEIL
Piqua District Criminal Patrol Unit

Sergeant Steven V. Duteil, Piqua District Criminal Patrol Unit, retired on August 2, 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 Dayton Post. In 2001, he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice. He also earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement three times. As a trooper, he also served at the Wilmington District Criminal Investigations Unit and the Special Response Team. In 2011, 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 Dayton Post.
FRANK J. HORVATH  
**COLUMBUS DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS**

Sergeant Frank J. Horvath, Columbus District Headquarters, retired on July 16, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Marion Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Delaware Post, Crash Reconstruction Unit and the Patrol’s Training Academy. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Crash Reconstruction Unit. As a sergeant, he also served at the Patrol’s Training Academy.

KEVIN B. KELLEY  
**ZANESVILLE POST / DISTRICT 7**

Sergeant Kevin B. Kelley, Zanesville Post, retired on August 4, 2021, after 25 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 Cambridge Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Zanesville Post. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Hamilton Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2008, he transferred to the Zanesville Post.

Sergeant Kelley served in the United States Coast Guard from 1988 to 1995.

WILLIAM F. LEE  
**AKRON POST / DISTRICT 3**

Sergeant William F. Lee, Akron Post, retired on August 3, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Wooster Post. In 2020, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. As a trooper, he also served in the Office of Personnel and at the Medina, Akron, Canton and Hiram posts. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Hiram Post to serve as an assistant post commander.

Sergeant Lee served in the United States Army from 1984 to 2004.

PAUL J. MARCH  
**ELYRIA POST / DISTRICT 3**

Sergeant Paul J. March, Elyria Post, retired on August 2, 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 Ashtabula Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Elyria Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Chillicothe Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Sandusky, Medina and Norwalk posts.

Sergeant March earned a Bachelor of Music degree in music composition from Cleveland State University in 2018. He also completed Cleveland State University’s music education licensure program in 2021.

DAVID L. ROBISON  
**PIQUA POST / DISTRICT 5**

Sergeant David L. Robison, Piqua Post, retired on July 16, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Ashtabula Post. In 1998, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Dayton Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2014, he transferred to the Piqua Post.

Sergeant Robison earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from St. Vincent College in 1989.

RICHARD T. SPRAGUE  
**AKRON POST / DISTRICT 3**

Sergeant Richard T. Sprague, Akron Post, retired on July 2, 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 Ashtabula Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Ravenna and Cleveland posts, Warren and Cleveland District Criminal Investigations units and Cleveland Operations. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Medina Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Ravenna Post.
Sergeant John E. Stevens, Norwalk Post, entered disability retirement on August 29, 2021, after 12 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 2009 as a member of the 149th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Norwalk Post. In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander.

Sergeant Stevens served in the United States Coast Guard from 2003 to 2014. He is currently in the United States Air National Guard Reserve.

Trooper Randall S. Adams, Lebanon Post, retired on June 17, 2021, after 24 years of state service. He began his state career with the Pickaway Corrections Facility as a corrections officer in July 1996. He became a member of the 129th Academy Class in May 1997. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Lebanon Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit.


Trooper Rebecca A. Adams, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on June 16, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. She earned her commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Cambridge Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Cambridge District Headquarters.

Trooper Adams earned an Associate in Applied Business degree in computer programming from Belmont College in 1983.

Trooper Jennifer A. DeLong, Polygraph Unit, retired on August 13, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 2000 as a member of the 135th Academy Class. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the West Jefferson Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Zanesville and Circleville posts, Capitol Operations and the Office of Criminal Investigative Services.

Trooper Seth T. Howard, Warren District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on June 18, 2021, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1998 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Canfield Post. He became a member of the 134th Academy Class in June 1999. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Fremont Post. In 2018, he earned the Trooper Recognition Award. As a trooper he also served at the Ravenna and Warren posts.

Trooper Kyle J. Hurles, Wilmington Post, retired on June 17, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1993 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Wilmington 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 Springfield Post. In 1998, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year and earned the Blue Max Award for excellence in auto larceny and enforcement for the entire state. He also earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice.
BRADLEY A. JOHNSON  
PORTSMOUTH POST / DISTRICT 9
Trooper Bradley A. Johnson, Portsmouth Post, retired on June 18, 2021, after 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and has been assigned to the Portsmouth Post throughout his career. In 2005, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. In 2010, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 2017, he also earned the Employee Recognition Award.


RANDY D. LEWIS  
COLUMBUS DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Trooper Randy D. Lewis, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on June 25, 2021, after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Columbus Communication Center. 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 Mansfield Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Granville Post.

REBECCA Y. MISSIG  
BUCYRUS DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Trooper Rebecca Y. Missig, Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on August 11, 2021, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in September 1989 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Elyria Post. She became a member of the 119th Academy Class in January 1990. She earned her commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Findlay Post. In 2011, she earned the Trooper Recognition Award. As a trooper, she also served at the Toledo, Norwalk and Sandusky posts.

LO’LITTA SNOW  
CAPITOL OPERATIONS
Trooper Lo’Litta Snow, Capitol Operations, retired on June 18, 2021, after 22 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. She earned her commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Piqua Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Mansfield and Mt. Gilead posts.

Trooper Snow earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in art from The Ohio State University in 1987.

SIDNEY M. STEELE  
LEBANON POST / DISTRICT 8
Trooper Sidney M. Steele, Lebanon Post, retired on July 1, 2021, after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in July 1999 as a member of the 134th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Lebanon Post throughout his career. In 2013, he earned the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award. In 2018, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year.

STEVE R. TAYLOR  
GEORGETOWN POST / DISTRICT 8
Trooper Steve R. Taylor, Georgetown Post, retired on June 4, 2021, after 24 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 Georgetown Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Batavia Post.
TODD C. THOMAS  
COLUMBUS DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT  
Trooper Todd C. Thomas, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on July 16, 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 Portsmouth Post. Throughout his career, he also served at the Circleville, West Jefferson and Chillicothe posts, and in the Office of Criminal Investigations. Trooper Thomas served in the United States Army from 1987 to 1998.

He graduated from the Akron Police Academy in 2000. Prior to his work with OIU, Agent Vassallo worked at the New York Police Department and the Broward County (Fla.) Sheriff’s Office.

PATRICK L. O’DOWD  
OIU COLUMBUS DISTRICT OFFICE  
Enforcement Agent Patrick L. O’Dowd, Columbus District Office, retired on June 30 after 20 years of service to the state of Ohio. He began his service with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) in January 2001. He was assigned to the Toledo District Office. While at the Columbus District Office, he was named District Agent of the Year in 2019. He also served at the Cincinnati District Office. Prior to his work with OIU, Agent O’Dowd worked at the Marion Police Department. Agent O’Dowd attended the police academy at the North Central Technical College in 1993. In 2008, he attended the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

PATRICK L. O’DOWD  
OIU COLUMBUS DISTRICT OFFICE  
Enforcement Agent Patrick L. O’Dowd, Columbus District Office, retired on June 30 after 20 years of service to the state of Ohio. He began his service with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) in January 2001. He was assigned to the Toledo District Office. While at the Columbus District Office, he was named District Agent of the Year in 2019. He also served at the Cincinnati District Office. Prior to his work with OIU, Agent O’Dowd worked at the Marion Police Department. Agent O’Dowd attended the police academy at the North Central Technical College in 1993. In 2008, he attended the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

TINA M. BROWN  
WARREN DISPATCH CENTER  
Dispatcher Tina M. Brown, Warren Dispatch Center, retired on August 27, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in June 1991 as a dispatcher and remained at the Batavia Post. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year four times. In 2006, she was selected as District Dispatcher of the Year. As a dispatcher, she also served at the Batavia Dispatch Center. In 2009, she was promoted to dispatch supervisor and transferred to the Wilmington District Headquarters. Dispatch Supervisor Downing earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from The Ohio State University in 1983.

REBEL L. MARTIN  
BATAVIA DISPATCH CENTER  
Dispatcher Rebel L. Martin, Batavia Dispatch Center, retired on July 29, 2021, after 18 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in April 2003 as a dispatcher and was assigned to the Georgetown Post. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year six times and District Dispatcher of the Year twice.
Dispatcher Robin L. Sanders, St. Clairsville Dispatch Center, retired on June 27, 2021, after 20 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in October 2000 as a dispatcher and was assigned to the former Wintersville Post.

Dispatcher Lisa A. Violette, Sandusky Dispatch Center, retired on July 31, 2021, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a dispatcher and has been assigned to the Sandusky Post throughout her career.

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Supervisor Michael Schneider, Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on July 2, 2021, after 11 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 2010 as a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Supervisor and has been assigned to the Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit throughout his career.

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Drew A. Fowler, Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on July 30, 2021, after 30 years of state service. He began his state service with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) in February 1989 as a PU CO investigator 2. He joined the Patrol in September 1997 as a stationary load limit inspector assigned to the Harrison Scales. In 1998, he was promoted to a motor carrier enforcement inspector and transferred to the Batavia Post. He was selected as District Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year twice.

Infrastructure Specialist 2 Mary Watson, Computer Operations, retired on July 31, 2021, after 34 years with the Patrol. She began her state service in April 1987 with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) as a data entry operator assigned to the Data Entry Unit. While with the Ohio BMV, she was promoted to a customer service representative and transferred to the Registration Unit. In 2001, she joined the Patrol as an Infrastructure Specialist 2 assigned to the Computer Operations Unit. During her time with the Patrol, she also served in the Technology and Communications Unit and in LEADS. Infrastructure Specialist 2 Watson earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer information system and user support from Columbus State Community College in 2010.

Auxiliary Staff Major Daryl E. Smith retired on April 28, 2021, with 26 years of service to the citizens of Ohio. Auxiliary Staff Major Smith served at the Lancaster Post, Columbus District, throughout his career. He joined the Auxiliary on April 29, 1995, and received multiple awards over the years. He was selected as the Statewide Auxiliary of the Year and named Columbus District Auxiliary of the Year multiple times.

Auxiliary Major Timothy S. Massie retired July 26, 2021, with 15 years of service to the citizens of Ohio. Auxiliary Major Massie served at the Gallipolis Post, Jackson District, throughout his career. He joined the Auxiliary on February 25, 2006, and was named Jackson District Auxiliary of the Year multiple times.
K9 ROY
PIQUA POST / DISTRICT 5
K9 Roy, Piqua Post, retired on June 6, 2021, after eight years with the Patrol and his handler, Trooper Jason A. Barhorst. He joined the Patrol in 2013. Since joining the Patrol, K9 Roy is responsible for recovering 149 pounds of methamphetamine, 83 pounds of heroin, 63 pounds of fentanyl, 74 grams of cocaine and 6,485 opiate pills.
K9 Roy will live out the rest of his life with Trooper Barhorst and his family.

HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS
Comments received via social media.

Mark Thomas
This officer went above and beyond to help this elderly woman who had a flat tire. Now this is something to post. This was on us224 in findlay ohio today.

Michael McKinnon
Thank You, Ohio Highway Patrol. Today, I was almost run off the road twice by an impaired driver. After calling 911 and witnessing the driver wreck his car, I approached two amazing officers who were very quick to respond. With all the negativity surrounding our Law Enforcement today, I can say (with absolute enthusiasm) that I appreciate all of you. THANK YOU!

Jim Hanson
Here is a big thank you to all our LEOS! We know these are difficult times for them, but we hope we can encourage them by letting them know we greatly appreciate everything they do for us and think very highly of them! Jim Hanson
Preparing for retirement: How well do you know your options?

Do you have sufficient savings? Do you have investments? Have you contributed significantly to Ohio Deferred Compensation? Would your family be taken care of if the worst were to happen? These are questions you must consider when you are getting ready to retire. To plan for retirement most effectively, you should meet with a financial advisor well ahead of time. In fact, it is never too early to start planning for retirement.

When considering retirement or entry into DROP, one of your most important decisions is selecting your plan of payment. HPRS recommends you request pension estimates of the different retirement option plans before you select a retirement or DROP date. HPRS strongly urges you to contact a benefits specialist to review such areas as: survivor benefits, retirement option plans, purchase of prior service credit, purchase of interrupted service credit, employment restrictions after retirement and health care.

For members whose families will rely primarily on the member’s pension, it is worth considering a Joint Survivor Annuity, or “JSA.” The two most popular ways retirees receive their pension is through a JSA or a single life annuity. In a single life annuity, a retiree receives a higher pension for life with nothing left to his or her spouse except for survivor benefits, which are currently $911.25 per month. With a JSA, the retiree receives slightly less per month in a pension, but his or her spouse receives a pension payment in addition to the survivor benefit after the retiree passes away. So, when you consider the questions listed above, you have to decide if you need to leave some of your pension to your spouse (or other beneficiary).

A JSA is not for everybody. Members should consider their financial situation before deciding which option makes the most sense. In the end, you have to ask yourself, if you were to pass away sooner than you expected, is the survivor benefit alone enough to sustain your spouse, or does the amount need to be increased? In some instances, a survivor benefit would be enough because of the investments you have made, such as Ohio Deferred Compensation or significant savings otherwise. Whether or not the spouse has their own pension is an obvious factor.

Our goal is to make sure the member understands the options available, so that they can make an educated decision. Whether a member selects a single life annuity or a JSA, the actuarial cost is the same to the retirement system. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these options in further detail, please call HPRS. We will be happy to complete a pension estimate for you and further explain the implications of your pension choice.

Best Regards,

Carl Roark, Ph.D.
HPRS Executive Director

HIGHWAY PATROL AUXILIARY

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, an all-volunteer force that provides assistance to troopers in the course of their duties, is accepting applications.

To inquire or apply for a position in the Auxiliary:
email OSHPAux@dps.ohio.gov
or apply online:
https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruit/auxiliary.html
I recently spent a few days hiking on the Appalachian Trail. The trail is absolutely beautiful, but equally challenging. One day I hope to hike all of it one section at a time. There are those who hike the trail in its 2,190 mile entirety at one time. These are known as through hikers. It is impossible to hike any of the trail and not have profound respect for through hikers. Even the experience of a few days on the trail will change you. You can imagine the kind of transformation that takes place over the five to seven months it takes to hike the entire trail from Georgia to Maine.

There is a custom along the trail, as well of similar trails across our nation, known as trail magic. Trail magic is the practice of lending support to long-distance hikers. It has many forms: a ride into town; a cold soda at the trailhead; a shower; even a bowl of leftover spaghetti. It really doesn’t take much to make a lasting impact.

Why would someone do these random acts of kindness for someone they may never even meet? Most do it for one of two reasons:

1. They were the recipients of the support themselves and therefore understand how impactful the smallest act of kindness can be at just the right moment on your journey.

2. They know someone who was the recipient of a small act of kindness and have heard the story of how that small act of kindness encouraged them to continue their journey.

There are countless stories of people who were ready to throw in the towel and call it quits, but at just the right time someone did something for them that gave them the strength to carry on.

This got me thinking about us. The reality is that we all find ourselves on a long journey. Some are at a point where they are clicking off easy miles. While others are facing some of their most challenging days. The difference between those on a journey on the trail and those on the journey called life is the ability to see the burdens that people are under. Through hikers carry everything they will need for 7-10 days. It is not difficult to distinguish between those who are out for a day hike and those who are committed to the journey for the long haul. All you need to do is look at what they carry on their shoulders.

One of the things I respect about you, the men and women of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, is you are through hikers. You are in it for the long haul, but with that comes added responsibilities and pressures that few are able to fully appreciate.

We want to lend support to those who are in it for the long haul. We want to support you. I want to invite you to join us in doing simple things that will bring encouragement to others who are on this journey with us -- especially if you, or someone you love, has been the recipient of trail magic. It doesn’t have to be anything great: a cup of coffee; a conversation; a phone call -- anything that says we are in this together. There are others who will reach the top with just a little encouragement.

Keep climbing. Don’t quit. We are going to make it. I’ll look for you on the top!

Blessing!
Reverend Phil Hurlbert
State Chaplain