

PATROL NEWS

July-August 2022

“Over 90 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”



See cover page 3.

From the Staff ...

Major Michael A. Turner
Field Operations Bureau



The year was 1996. Top Gun was my favorite movie, fuel was \$1.36 a gallon, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes II had just been born, and I began my career as a Missouri state trooper.

Cellular telephones were available but were expensive, and in my area few people had them. A telephone message from a supervisor or concerned citizen resulted in driving to “civilization” to locate a pay phone to return the call. Correspondence was handwritten and was relayed to troop on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. I had heard of the internet and email, but if the Patrol had it, I knew nothing of it.

Shifts were spent serving the public in a variety of different ways. The most common was through enforcement activities with the goal of reducing the number and severity of traffic crashes in our assigned patrol area. I remember the sense of ownership our zone felt when, despite our best efforts, someone was injured or killed in a crash.

Fast forward to 2022. Top Gun: Maverick is my favorite movie, fuel is approaching \$5 a gallon, the Kansas City Chiefs are finally championship contenders, and I still love my career. Electronic correspondence and email communication now flow at light speed through a myriad of electronic devices including computers, smart phones, and even smart watches.

The one thing that has not changed and cannot change is that sense of ownership. Regardless of your role in this agency, you contribute to the overall mission of the Patrol. Own it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The official publication of the
Missouri State Highway Patrol

Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News

PATROL NEWS

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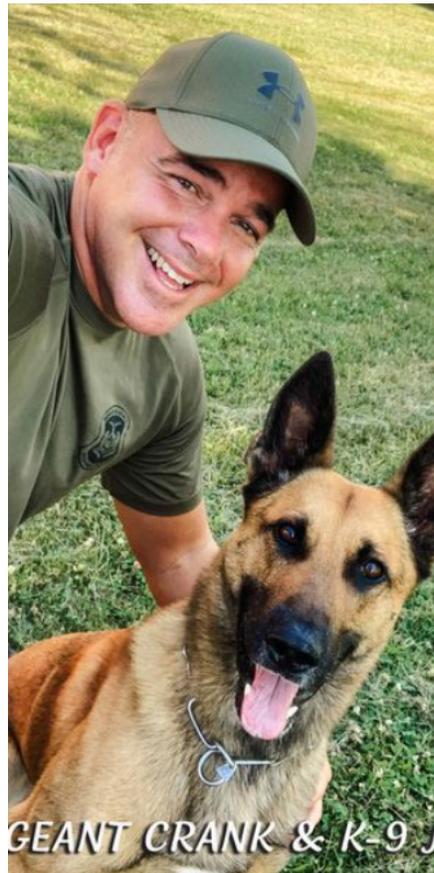
Social Media Snapshot



Missouri State Highway Patrol

June 21 at 12:40 PM

#NationalSelfieDay : K-9 Edition!



This post from National Selfie Day was quite popular! Pictured clockwise from the top are: Cpl. Timothy Barrett & K9 James (D), Tpr. Matthew Neely & K9 Aron (H), and Cpl. David Crank & K9 Jack (E).

Cover

Newly commissioned Trooper Shayla Latture (F) served as class commander for the 113th Recruit Class. She is a marine operations trooper assigned to Troop F, Lake of the Ozarks.

PERSPECTIVE

Swiftwater Training Focuses On Skill, Safety

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

Having never seen Swiftwater training, I requested permission to visit the class at Pomme de Terre during the Swiftwater II course June 13-17, 2022. Pomme de Terre is a Corps of Engineers dam and lake. The Corps works with the Swiftwater instructor Sgt. Dave F. Echternacht (Q/TND) on water flow and adjusts it for the course. Sgt. Echternacht appreciates the solid working relationship between the two agencies. On a sunny, warm June 14, Lieutenant Stephen M. Burgun (Q/WPD) and I traveled into Troop D territory to see what Swiftwater training is about.

When we arrived, the group was assembling in a much-appreciated, shaded parking lot. The instructor of the course and our host, Sgt. Echternacht, began the day with an overview of their schedule. He then moved to preliminary instructions, "Once you're in your dry suit, check your equipment, check each other's

equipment, make sure you're hydrated ..." Immediately, the troopers assessed themselves and then turned to one another to repeat the process. Although it didn't take much time, every student, assistant, and instructor closely assessed themselves and their fellow troopers. This process was repeated before each training exercise. Sgt. Echternacht also verified that Lt. Burgun and I were using life jackets. Safety was foremost in everyone's mind.

Swiftwater II and its prerequisite, Swiftwater I, allow a maximum of 20 students, although Sgt. Echternacht indicated future Swiftwater II courses might be limited to 12. The 2022 class included eight students. The course began with six hours of classroom training before moving to practical exercises for the remaining four days.

"There is more improvising in this course compared to Swiftwater I," said Tpr. Aaron A. Lindley (F).

"I was definitely worn out on the final day."

Four instructors and four assistants guided the eight students through the course. The instructors were hand-selected based on their ability to both perform and instruct, their fit with the current team of instructors, and



Tpr. Colby Tierney (I) leaps into the Pomme de Terre spillway during Swiftwater II training.

their willingness to commit to the Patrol's program and the required out-of-state Academy instructor training. The assistants were also hand-selected, and the invitation was based on their ability to instruct, boat operation skills, and fit with the Swiftwater II training team.

The assistants provided the extra layer of safety/rescue while the instructors were with the students throughout the practical exercises. On this particular day, Tpr. Rob W. Garrett (D) and Tpr. Caleb M. Morgan (E) were in a Mercury inflatable boat at the end of the spillway while students and instructors performed practical exercises in the area. Assistants also handled logistics. For example, there were no restaurants



Sgt. Dave Echternacht (Q/TND) provides instructions to the class prior to the next exercise.

– Swiftwater

Continued from page 4.

nearby, so the assistants shopped at Sam's Club and made sure lunch was available during training.

The instructors were both jumping with the class and strategically placed along the river's edge. After jumping into the swiftly moving water of the spillway, each student and instructor swam to a designated meeting place in calmer water. Once the class and instructors re-assembled, they followed one another across the current, swimming to a specific rock formation.

Prior to each exercise, Sgt. Echternacht repeated the process of explaining what the students were expected to do, followed by a safety check. Throughout the entire evolution, Sgt. Echternacht retained his relaxed, matter-of-fact style, delivered with a calm, confident voice. He was truly in his element and the students responded to his professionalism and expertise.

Before the jump into Pomme de Terre's spillway, Sgt. Echternacht walked the group from the parking lot down to a shaded area around the bend. There, they allowed a group picture of the students and he suggested they get into the water to cool off while listening to the next set of directions. This was also the area the class performed exercises using *boogie boards*. When a marine operations trooper is rescuing someone from a dangerous water situation, oftentimes that person is injured or afraid. By placing them on the boogie board and encircling them, the trooper is able to control the person and guide the board to safety.

This is the first Swiftwater II



Presenting (l to r) the 2022 Swiftwater II class: Tpr. Colby Tierney (I), Cpl. Nicholas Greiner (H) Tpr. Benjamin Giesler (C), Tpr. Aaron Lindley (F), Tpr. Adam Rice (D), Tpr. Tyler O'Brien (F), Tpr. Philip Grubaugh (B), Cpl. Kotter Kasischke (D).

course since 2017. "There are limited opportunities to attend [swift water training]," said Cpl. Kotter J. Kasischke (D), one of the students taking the course. "You have to take advantage of it when it comes."

Tpr. Adam S. Rice (D), also a student in the course, said it's the environment he works in every day. "I owe it to myself and the people I serve to be prepared to be the best marine operations trooper I can be." He spoke highly of the training. "I jumped at the opportunity to train with highly skilled individuals. Some of the best the Patrol has to offer are right here."

Tpr. Lindley said Swiftwater training is also important for those instances where marine operations troopers are sent to other areas to help during heavy flooding. In 2019, marine operations equipment was placed strategically, and officers in unaffected areas were sent to assist where needed.

"A lot of hard-headed landowners don't want to leave when there is a flood," said Tpr. Lindley. "They stay and eventually get caught up and cannot escape." He said he also uses these skills in his day-to-day patrolling. (He used the knot-tying training the weekend

following this course to secure a dock that had broken free by tying a couple ropes end-to-end.)

Tpr. Rice said training helps prepare for the real-life events, which move more quickly and require complete focus. "When I perform a swiftwater rescue, everyone is scared," he said. "You overcome that. Panic is what gets people. Their fine motor skills go away, their critical thinking goes away. You have to stay calm. Real-life situations up the ante. Here, it's not scary."

What goes through his mind before jumping into the spillway? "It's going to be cold on my face," Tpr. Rice replied with a smile. Tpr. Rice is assigned to Troop D, Zone 20, which includes Pomme de Terre, Stockton Lake, and the Niangua River. "It's a dream job for me."



Tpr. Adam Rice (D) swims across the swift current to shore after his jump.

Patrol Commissions 25 New Troopers

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

As the 113th Recruit Class marched into the Academy gymnasium, an exuberant crowd of supporters quieted. The graduation cadence reverberated throughout the room as the 25 new troopers made their way to their seats. Pastor Doug Richey, Pisgah Baptist Church in Excelsior Springs, MO, provided the invocation for the June 24, 2022, ceremony. Troop F Color Guard entered and stood proudly during the national anthem and Trooper Cole P. Justice's (H) powerful voice surrounded the audience as he paid tribute to our country.

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe gave the keynote address and expressed his appreciation to the families supporting this class and every trooper in Missouri. "I know that every time the door shuts, and these troopers leave for a shift there is uncertainty ... the families are the ones who keep the flame of hope in their hearts with each shift," said Lt. Gov. Kehoe. "Our prayers and our thanks are with you."

He then spoke directly to the new troopers, recognizing the excellent training they had completed and encouraging them to listen to their FTOs, their zone sergeants, and their troop commanders. He said as they reported to their new assignments, they should become part of their communities. "Then, when the need for you to be seen in uniform arises, it will be comforting for those in need to know you are a real person," said Lt. Gov. Kehoe. He also told the class to always remember Missourians expect



Congratulations to the members of the 113th Recruit Class!

troopers to be fair and gracious, and professionally represent the Patrol. "At the end of the day, we are all public servants," he said. "I ask you to wear your uniform with pride and distinction. Be smart. Be safe. Come home from every shift."

The Honorable Patricia Breckenridge, Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the new troopers. Afterward, Provost Roger McMillian, Mineral Area College, conferred associate degrees upon five members of the 113th Recruit Class.

Colonel Eric T. Olson presented commissions then spoke to the class. He said meeting with each member of a recruit class prior to graduation was one of the best parts of his position. He stressed that the commitment that got them through the training would ensure their ability to meet the demands and

expectations ahead. "If you stay committed through good times and bad, I am confident you will find yourself, one day looking back, very satisfied that you made the very important decision to be a part of this agency," said Col. Olson. "When you report to work for your first shift, please remember your commitment to the Patrol's core values, the public we serve, your coworkers, and most importantly returning home safely to your loved ones at the end of the day." He closed by assuring



Col. Eric Olson (l) presented the Superintendent's Award to Tpr. Trey Gaedke (center). Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe (r) also offered congratulations.

– Troopers

Continued from page 6.

the class that he and the command staff, their troop commanders, their zone sergeants, and their field training officers were committed to each of them.

Four awards were presented during the graduation ceremony. Trooper Gregory A. Bixler earned the Physical Fitness Award. Trooper John M. Haines earned the Firearms Award. Trooper Tyler R. Peoples earned the Academics Award. Trooper Trey A. Gaedke earned the Superintendent's Award.

The 113th Recruit Class made Patrol history when it selected Tpr. Shayla C. Latture to serve as the first-ever female class commander. "This was a huge opportunity and I wanted to do this as well as I could," said Tpr. Latture. "I had a lot of support. But, this isn't about me. I hope that the little girl who looks up to state troopers will have a glimmer of hope that she could do it too. I'm thankful for the opportunity."

Tpr. Latture spoke at graduation saying, "One undeniable quality this Academy teaches you how to find is grit, to find it within yourself to keep going no matter the physical or mental exhaustion. Being a state trooper will not be an easy task ... and that is where grit steps in. To the 113th, this is the good part. This is what we've been waiting for these past weeks. May we carry the banner set before us with integrity, humility, and grit in this great state we all call home."

Congratulations to the 113th Recruit Class!

The names (hometowns) and first assignments of members of the 113th Recruit Class are listed below:

Troop A

Tyler R. Peoples (Lawson, MO), Zone 5, Ray/Carroll Counties
Christian J. Drum (Webb City, MO), Zone 11, Cass County
Braeden A. Perry (Kansas City, MO), Zone 2, Platte County
John M. Haines (Deepwater, MO), Zone 8, Lafayette County
Madeleine C. Mennemeyer (Troy, MO), Zone 12, Johnson County

Troop B

Travis M. Wood (Macon, MO), Zone 5, Adair/Schuyler Counties
Santi J. Wilgus (Kansas City, MO), Zone 6, Clark/Scotland Counties

Troop C

Adam P. Billiot (Washington, MO), Zone 4, St. Louis County
Nicholas J. Bringer (Monticello, MO), Zone 13, Jefferson County
Jack J. Collins (Bolivar, MO), Zone 13, Jefferson County
Trey A. Gaedke (Newburg, MO), Zone 3, South St. Louis/Jefferson Counties
Mayer E. Mitchell (Ballwin, MO), Zone 16, Ste. Genevieve/Perry Counties
Eric R. Sikes (St. Louis, MO), Zone 2, North St. Louis County
Richard J. Waite (Troy, MO), Zone 5, Pike/Lincoln Counties
Clayton J. Walker (Marble Hill, MO), Zone 14, St. Francois/Washington Counties

Troop E

Denny J. Smith (Poplar Bluff, MO), Zone 2, Butler/Ripley Counties
Gregory A. Bixler (New Madrid, MO), Zone 8, Pemiscot/New Madrid Counties
Taylor J. Wiebe (Wichita, KS), Zone 8, Pemiscot/New Madrid Counties
Jaxon B. Edwards (Harrison, AR), Zone 10, Dunklin County

Troop F

Shayla C. Latture (Branson, MO), Zone 16, Camden/Miller Counties
Bailey N. Hunsicker (Nixa, MO), Zone 16, Camden/Miller Counties

Troop G

Noah G. Britt (Gainesville, MO), Zone 8, Carter/Reynolds Counties

Troop H

Saxton W. Pliley (Jamesport, MO), Zone 10, Daviess/Dekalb Counties
Jackson D. Schmedding (Clinton, MO), Zone 1, Atchison/Holt Counties

Troop I

Peyton L. Mason (Webb City, MO), Zone 8, Laclede County

New Troopers Share Academy Experiences

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

The 113th Recruit Class' journey through the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy began on the same day as the 114th Recruit Class. Other classes may have overlapped through the years, but this situation was different. The 114th Recruit Class consisted of experienced law enforcement officers in an accelerated training program. So, how did the 113th Recruit Class view this training in tandem?

"Having the accelerated recruit class overlap with us was a unique situation," said Tpr. Shayla C. Latture, class commander. "It was a lot to navigate at first, but they were a huge help during those first few weeks!"

Trooper Christian J. Drum felt the 114th Recruit Class' prior law enforcement experience proved beneficial to both classes. Trooper Braeden A. Perry agreed, adding that having another class in the Academy created some friendly competition.

After the first month, the classes divided into separate training schedules.

"After they left, we felt like we had lost a wealth of knowledge," said Tpr. Perry. "Maybe it was good to take away the crutch, but we still felt like we had lost part of the team."

"One of the recruits in the accelerated class stepped up immediately and took charge, basically as the interim class commander," said Trooper Adam P. Billiot. "It felt strange once the classes separated, as we had to re-organize ourselves and establish new class leadership."

It didn't take long for the 113th to discover they had their own leaders. "We found we had some awesome leaders," said Tpr. Latture. "Some were outward leaders – making sure the last guy was part of the group during a run, for instance. Some served in the background. We definitely came together."

The new troopers spoke highly of the instructors and training provided at the Academy.

"The Academy overall was an amazing experience," said Tpr. Drum, "It was easily the hardest thing I have ever done."

Tpr. Billiot said he had prepared physically for the Academy experience and still found it to be incredibly physically and mentally demanding during the first few weeks. "This Academy was a true test of grit. The Missouri State Highway Patrol trains to a high standard in all of its subjects and by far exceeds the basic minimum requirements."

All of the new troopers look forward to starting their career. Being a marine enforcement trooper was Tpr. Latture's dream job since her senior year in high school. She described her contacts with marine enforcement troopers

on Table Rock Lake as amazing and said she looked up to them.

"I chose the Patrol because of the professionalism and because frankly they are the best law enforcement agency in the state," said Tpr. Drum. He grew up around the Patrol, since his dad, Tpr. Joe Drum (D), is an active member.

"The Patrol's standards and reputation are just two of the many reasons I chose the Patrol over other law enforcement agencies," said Tpr. Perry. "Serving the State has always been a passion of mine, and I continue doing so through the Patrol."

Tpr. Billiot began looking into law enforcement as a potential career path in late 2017. He was serving in the Air Force in Northern California at the time. Ride-alongs with local agencies there convinced him law enforcement was his calling. "Shortly after moving to Missouri, I also attended a couple ride-alongs with the MSHP and knew right away that this was the agency I wanted to work for. The overall level of training and professionalism displayed by the troopers I met on my ride-alongs was apparent."



The recruits become new troopers once they've finished their Oath of Office.

DPS Recognizes Cpl. Bax, Agent Matherne

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

On January 3, 2022, Corporal Nolan A. Bax (F) was dispatched to the scene of a fatal traffic crash. A 19-year-old motorist driving southbound in the northbound lanes of Highway 63, north of Columbia, crashed head-on into another vehicle, killing three people, including a 10-year-old, and sending three children to the hospital. A bottle of whiskey was found in the 19-year-old's lap after the crash.

"Any time there is a fatality, we want to investigate and find out what led up to the crash," said Cpl. Bax. "[Given] the severity of the crash, any time a child is involved, it's the least we can do for the family. The next day, I tried to determine if he'd purchased the alcohol himself and locate where the purchase took place."

Cpl. Bax also spoke with the 19-year-old's father, who provided bank records indicating where alcohol purchases had been made. "I believe his family wanted to help prevent other families from having this experience," said Cpl. Bax.

A search warrant led to the seizing of security video from the store. Cpl. Bax reviewed footage and documented that the 19-year-old allegedly purchased alcohol the day of the crash from a convenience store.

Cpl. Bax reached out to the Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Control and Agent Joseph Matherne was assigned to the case. Joseph searched additional video from that same convenience



Cpl. Nolan Bax (F) and Agent Joseph Matherne (ATC) accepted May 2022 DPS Team Member of the Month awards recognizing their work in a joint investigation.

store and obtained evidence purportedly showing multiple sales involving the deceased 19-year-old, along with evidence of other sales to minors where identification had not been checked.

"Joseph went out of his way to acquire receipts and review additional footage from the liquor store. He truly helped further this investigation," Cpl. Bax.

Because of Cpl. Bax's and Agent Matherne's dedicated teamwork on this complicated case, the ATC was able to bring nine regulatory charges* against the convenience store's liquor license and is seeking to have the license revoked.

At 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2022, Cpl. Bax and Agent Matherne accepted the May 2022 Department of Public Safety Team Member Of The Month awards recognizing their joint investigation.

"As tragic as this case is, it is a great example of digging in and going beyond basic expectations," said Colonel Eric T. Olson (Q/SO). "This was a time to

exhaust all avenues. I thank you for that. It isn't always easy. I also appreciate the cooperation between the two DPS agencies. I am very proud of that and appreciate this was a mutual effort. This took a lot of commitment on each of your behalf to see this case through. Congratulations to each of you."

"If Cpl. Bax had not come to us, we would never have known about this event," said ATC State

Supervisor Dorothy Taylor. "We were aware there was a licensee we were having issues with. Thank you very much."

"This was tremendous teamwork and tremendous service to those in the crash," said DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten. "You have helped make a case on a problem licensee so that action can be taken to prevent future problems. This is tremendous cross investigation."

Both Cpl. Bax and Agent Matherne expressed their appreciation for the award and for those present at the ceremony. Agent Matherne added that he had gotten to know Cpl. Bax through their joint investigation. "He has a bright future ahead of him," said Agent Matherne. "We've become friends through this experience."

Congratulations Cpl. Bax and Agent Matherne!

**Note: The allegations above are mere accusation and not evidence of guilt.*

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Jake P. Angle

Sergeant
Troop H

*Retired June 1, 2022.
28 years, 10 months of dedicated
service.*



Ed J. Aylward

Lieutenant
Q/GD

*Retired June 1, 2022.
30 years, five months of dedicated
service.*



Roland H. Bartels

Sergeant
Troop B

*Retired June 1, 2022.
25 years, 11 months of dedicated
service.*



**Dave W.
Campbell**

Sergeant
Troop A

*Retired June 1, 2022.
32 years, four months of
dedicated service.*



Theresa Davis

Trooper
Q/GD

*Retired June 1, 2022.
30 years, five months of dedicated
service.*



Lori K. Enderle

Section Chief
Q/CommD

*Retired June 1, 2022.
26 years of dedicated service.*



Mike D. Hargus

Lieutenant
Q/AD

*Retired June 1, 2022.
27 years, seven months of
dedicated service.*



J. Todd Hedrick

Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired June 1, 2022.
27 years, 11 months of dedicated
service.*



Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Pat A. Henton

CJIS Trainer/Auditor IV
Q/CJISD

*Retired June 1, 2022.
15 years, three months of
dedicated service.*



Bob E. Hoehn

Sergeant
Troop C

*Retired June 1, 2022.
27 years, five months of dedicated
service.*



Casey A. Jadwin

Corporal
Troop D

*Retired June 1, 2022.
26 years, five months of dedicated
service.*



Mark C. Nelson

Comm. Oper. III
Troop B

*Retired June 1, 2022.
15 years, one month of dedicated
service.*



Wilma E. Aleshire

Lab. Evid. Tech. II
Q/CLD

*Retired July 1, 2022.
11 years, 10 months of dedicated
service.*



Noel C. Davenport

Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired July 1, 2022.
28 years, 11 months of dedicated
service.*



Greg A. Hansen

Trooper
Q/GD

*Retired July 1, 2022.
27 years of dedicated service.*



C. Rod Land

Sergeant
Q/GSD

*Retired July 1, 2022.
28 years, 11 months of dedicated
service.*



Congratulations On Your Retirement!

J. Tim Massey

Asst. Chief Oper.
Troop B

*Retired July 1, 2022.
29 years, four months of
dedicated service.*



Craig N. Ponder

Corporal
Q/GD

*Retired July 1, 2022.
29 years, six months of dedicated
service.*



Bruce L. Reinkemeyer

Sergeant
Troop F

*Retired July 1, 2022.
32 years of dedicated service.*



Vince S. Rice

Major
Q/ASB

*Retired July 1, 2022.
32 years of dedicated service.*



J. Warren Robinson

Corporal
Q/GD

*Retired July 1, 2022.
28 years of dedicated service.*



Demetrice C. Weeden

DE III
Troop C

*Retired July 1, 2022.
22 years, three months of
dedicated service.*



Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the calls, cards, texts, and expressions of condolence and sympathy following the death of my father Lloyd Dean Pitts. Your thoughtfulness and compassion were truly appreciated. A special thank you to all of the Patrol personnel who attended the funeral. It was the talk of the town!

*Respectfully,
Sgt. Trayton T. Pitts (Q/GD)*

Thank you to Sergeant Dave F. Echternacht (Q/TND), and the Swiftwater II instructors, assistants, and students. I truly appreciate your answering my questions and letting me observe some of your training. You're an impressive bunch of people! Lieutenant Stephen M. Burgun (Q/WPD), thank you for coordinating my visit and providing transportation.

*Sincerely,
Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb
(Q/PIED)*

Looking Back

... in the Patrol News

45 years ago ...

July 1977 — Fifty-two stenographers traveled to General Headquarters to review office methods used at GHQ and in the troops in order to establish consistent procedures. The group also toured the GHQ complex. The meeting lasted two days.

35 years ago ...

August 1987 — The Research & Information Division reported research was being conducting on three projects. The projects included 1) animal alert devices for patrol vehicles, 2) cassette recorders in patrol vehicles, and 3) a leg restraint strap system in the front seat of a patrol car for

unruly subjects. Each of these projects were suggested by road officers.

25 years ago ...

July 1997 — Communications Division reported on its 10th MULES conference. The Patrol honored 16 employees at its 7th Annual Highway Patrol Awards Banquet. U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton was the featured speaker that evening.

15 years ago ...

July/August 2007 — This issue announced the beginning of construction for a new Troop C Headquarters in Weldon Spring, MO. One article related the story of Missouri's first Endangered Person

Advisory several months previously. The advisory resulted in extensive media coverage and hundreds of leads, and an AMBER Alert. Ben Ownby, a 13-year-old kidnapped after school, was recovered three days later. Officers also recovered Shawn Hornbeck, a 15-year-old who had been missing since 2002, at the same apartment.

5 years ago ...

July/August 2017 — Four Dive Team members became certified technical divers. One feature provided first-hand accounts from marine enforcement troopers of rescues and incidents during spring flooding in Missouri. Twenty-seven new troopers and six new commercial vehicle enforcement inspectors graduated from their respective academies.

'I Am So Thankful'

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

Every recruit has a group of people at home encouraging them as they make their way through the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy. The support of friends and family is important and much appreciated.

Mrs. Beth Bixler's husband, Trooper Gregory A. Bixler, just graduated as a member of the 113th Recruit Class. At 50 years old, he decided his career path was going to take him through the Academy to become a trooper.

"When he first told me, I thought he had lost his mind," said Beth. "He told me he wasn't going to quit. So, I told him when he calls and says, 'It's hard,' I was going to support him and push him." She said he communicated with her every step of the way and texted after every test. He spoke of other, much younger recruits in the class as "the boys," and always encouraged them. "Through this whole experience, he has learned how to make a bed," she said with a laugh. "He's taken over that at home. He's such a perfectionist."

The experience has been life-changing for both of them. "This is the most we've been apart in 30 years. I'm proud and happy he made this decision. His determination, his drive to complete this mission ... I am so thankful."



Tpr. Gregory Bixler (center) earned the Physical Fitness Award. Col. Eric Olson (l) and Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe (r) congratulated him.

NHTSA, State Patrols Share Mother's Day Pledge

By Sgt. Andrew J. Bell (A)

On May 5, 2022, five state patrol superintendents, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 7's Administrator, met in Lee's Summit to promote highway safety. The various agencies united and pledged to strictly enforce and educate the public about the Move Over law.

Ms. Susan DeCourcy, NHTSA Region 7 administrator, spoke on the importance of obeying the speed limit and about several lives lost during high-speed crashes. She asked the motoring public to please travel safely during Mother's Day weekend, to allow loved ones to spend time with their mothers. Ms. DeCourcy also reminded the public of the nationwide move over law. All motorists must slow down and/or move over when approaching an emergency responder.

Colonel Eric T. Olson emphasized how traffic crashes are preventable and strongly urged drivers to always follow traffic laws. Col. Olson also reminded what Missouri's Move Over law requires and stressed that first responders deserve a safe workplace. He closed by encouraging every driver to be courteous and asking, "What better Mother's Day present is there than making it home safely?"

"This weekend, Mother's Day

weekend, will be a very busy travel weekend, said Colonel John Bolduc, Nebraska State Patrol. "Many folks will be traveling to visit their mom. We want you to drive like your mom. Slow down. Buckle up. Move over." Col. Bolduc stated a trooper's routine work task can turn into tragedy if motorists do not move over and pay attention.

Mike Maynard, MoDOT Motorist Assist Emergency Response, stated he has had several "close calls" during his career along the highways. "Please move over," he said. "All of us love our families, and we want to go home to them."

Colonel Herman Jones, Kansas Highway Patrol, mentioned two Kansas state troopers' vehicles were struck during the last week of April. Fortunately, the troopers were not injured and were able to make it home to their families. Both vehicles were on display and the damage was shocking.

According to Colonel Nathan Fulk, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa has

experienced a 35 percent increase in vehicles traveling over 100 mph. Over the past two years, 18 Iowa State Patrol vehicles have been struck. Col. Fulk asked the public to do their part in helping to keep the roadways safe. "Together we can save lives."

Colonel Bill Bryant, Arkansas State Police, shared that during the past five years, 149 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty due to a traffic-related incident. "We recognize education is crucial and a large part of our role as leaders in our communities is to encourage motorists and teach them why we have certain rules of the road," said Col. Bryant.

In Missouri, it hits close to home in May, when we remember our fallen heroes during the annual memorial service. Troop A employees take time on May 22 to remember Trooper Michael L. Newton. Tpr. Newton, 25, was killed in a traffic crash on May 22, 2003, on Interstate 70 at the 47-mile marker. Tpr. Newton had stopped

a vehicle for a traffic violation. He and the driver were sitting in the patrol vehicle when a pickup pulling a large trailer traveled onto the shoulder of I-70 and struck the patrol car. The impact caused the patrol car to burst into flames and Tpr. Newton died inside the car.

Never forget, and pledge to always move over!



Speakers during the press conference included (l to r) Mr. Mike Maynard (MoDOT), Col. Herman Jones (Kansas HP), Ms. Susan DeCourcy (NHTSA), Col. John Bolduc (Nebraska SP), Col. Nathan Fulk (Iowa SP), Col. Bill Bryant (Arkansas SP), and Col. Eric Olson (Q/SO). The crashed car of a Kansas state trooper provided an appropriate backdrop for their message.

Missouri Honors Its Fallen

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

Each May, families of Missouri's fallen officers gather to remember those who have given their lives in the line of duty. The annual memorial ceremony took place on May 7, 2022. Co-workers, friends, and family took this opportunity to remember their fallen hero and spend time with one another. No matter how many years pass, Missouri mourns.

Tatum Drew, granddaughter of Tpr. Michael Newton (EOW 2003), places a flower in the memorial wreath during Missouri's Law Enforcement Memorial Service.



Tpr. Eric Smith (B) carries the Patrol's memorial wreath during the presentation of wreaths.



Lt. Col. Lance MacLaughlin (Q/ASO) and Lt. Julie Scerine (C) salute while the family of Sgt. Joe Schuengel (EOW 2010) added flowers to the memorial wreath.

TROOP C HOSTS RETIREE BREAKFAST

By Cpl. Logan M. Bolton (C)

For the first time since 2019, Troop C was able to host its *annual* retiree breakfast at Troop C Headquarters in Weldon Spring, MO. The breakfast had been a staple in Troop C, but COVID-19 and its related restrictions resulted in a brief hiatus. Thirty-eight retirees from several different divisions within the Patrol attended the May 24, 2022, event. The retirees enjoyed a hearty breakfast prepared by Troop C clerical staff, as well as some of the Troop C command staff.

Captain Ryan A. Burckhardt, commanding officer of Troop C, was adamant about making sure the annual breakfast returned after the two-year break. Afterward, he commented on this year's gathering.



A room full of retirees enjoyed breakfast and the opportunity to catch up with each other and current Troop C employees.

"I appreciated the opportunity to visit with our retirees and update them on current issues affecting the Patrol," said Capt. Burckhardt (C). "The large turnout for the breakfast indicated how eager our retirees were to continue this tradition at Troop C."

All in all, it was great to be able to welcome the retirees back for the breakfast, which will continue to be an annual event held at Troop C Headquarters.



Capt. Ryan Burckhardt (C) spoke with the group after a scrumptious breakfast.

BOYS STATE & GIRLS STATE PROVIDE LIFE EXPERIENCE

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

For the first time in its history, Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State occurred at the same location during the same week. Hundreds of high school students attended the program held June 12-18, 2022, at Lindenwood University in St. Louis, MO. During the week, citizens of each state created their own government, set up businesses, printed a newspaper, and enforced "laws." As in past years, members of the Patrol facilitated the law enforcement school. Corporals Dallas R. Thompson (C) and Justin S. Dunn (B) served as faculty for Boys State while Corporal Kyle A. Green (F) and Troopers Jordan R. Brown (C) and Olivia G. Imhoff (F) filled those roles at Girls State. Having the two events run simultaneously allowed the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to compare the programs and share strengths of each.

"The combined states made it challenging regarding schedules and sharing meeting space," said Cpl. Dunn (B). He said the young people are still getting an experience of a lifetime. "The

experience might influence what their lifelong career might be. The best part is leaving an impact on the boys by providing information and experiences about law enforcement and helping to shape their views of the profession."

This was Tpr. Imhoff's second year on staff. As a former Girls State attendee, she has a heart for the program. "We have extra things to consider with a new campus, new items in the schedule, and taking place at the same time as Boys State," she said. "It's flowing smoothly, and it's been a great experience. I love teaching the delegates why I love my job. The law enforcement program here in 2014 is the reason I joined the Patrol. Before that, it wasn't on my radar. I hope to make an impact on my delegates like the previous troopers did for me."

The Boys State Patrol and Girls State Patrol are tasked with enforcing any laws each state enacts. They issue tickets to attendees or staff members when a law is broken. The Boys State colonel and lieutenant colonel are chosen early in the week through

interviews with Cpl. Thompson and Cpl.

Tpr. Jordan Brown (C) and Tpr. Olivia Imhoff (F) stress internet safety during the Missouri Girls State law enforcement class.

Dunn. However, the Girls State colonel and lieutenant colonel selection is handled by the American Legion Auxiliary and doesn't occur until late in the week.

There is a total of eight troopers divided among the wards of Boys State. A few moments with Missouri Boys State Colonel Christopher Hensley, of Blue Springs, MO, and Lieutenant Colonel John Masson, of St. Louis County, provided proof of this program's impact.

MBS Col. Hensley said he chose the law enforcement classes because he plans to go into the military and the program looked fun. "I love it," he said. "It's a lot more than we expected."

MBS Lt. Col. Masson agreed and said they have had more contact with the cities and with Girls State. "I also wanted to serve and felt the best way for me would be through the Highway Patrol at Boys State.

"It can be stressful at times," said MBS Col. Hensley, "but, I love it. It's the most fun I'll have in law enforcement."

"I think it's awesome," said MBS Lt. Col. Masson. "Didn't think I would ever experience something like this."

Tuesday of the week found the Girls State law enforcement class learning about internet safety. Tpr. Brown and Tpr. Imhoff provided real world examples to help the young ladies understand how to protect themselves and why they need to protect their passwords.

"Think before you send," Tpr. Imhoff told the group.



Homicide Investigation Leads To Arrest

By *Cpl. Barton M. Seymore (Q/DDCC)*

On January 13, 2019, I was activated to assist the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad with a homicide investigation in Calverton Park, MO. A relative found Alvern K. Linzie deceased in Calverton Park. Officers from surrounding municipalities, the St. Louis County Police Department, and myself were activated for the Major Case Squad.

The Major Case Squad investigation determined the following:

- A vehicle was in Jeffrey E. Tod's driveway. After a Calverton Park police vehicle drove down the street in front of Tod's house, that vehicle was driven behind the residence.
- Alvern K. Linzie was found by a relative in a shed, with the vehicle he was using, behind the residence where Tod was residing.

Further Major Case Squad interviews took place and investigators followed leads indicating Tod had contact with three individuals who had been found deceased from gunshot wounds. In addition to Linzie, Deandre Moore and Melvin Whitted were linked to Tod.

- On December 10, 2018, Moore was found in a vehicle deceased from a gunshot wound. Moore was located near the intersection of Barto Drive and New Florissant Road, within walking distance of Tod's residence. Moore's homicide was investigated by the Calverton Park Police Department, which also activated the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad to assist with the investigation. No suspects were developed during the investigation.
- On December 21, 2018, Whitted was found in a vehicle deceased from a gunshot wound in the 6800 block of Berkridge, in Berkeley, MO. Whitted's homicide was investigated by the St. Louis County Police Department.

Based on the information obtained during the Major Case Squad activation interviews and investigation of Linzie's homicide, a search warrant was applied for and granted for Tod's residence. Located in Tod's residence during the search, was a .380 pistol and clothing with dried blood. Ballistics testing of the weapon recovered from Tod's residence linked ballistics related to Linzie, Moore, and Whitted's homicide investigations. Clothing located in the vehicle Whitted occupied was sent for DNA testing. The results showed a match with Tod's DNA.

Tod has been charged in all three cases with one count of murder in the first degree, two counts of murder in the second degree, and three counts of armed criminal action*. Tod is in custody in St. Louis County awaiting trial, which is currently scheduled for September 2022.



Cpl. Barton Seymore (Q/DDCC) accepted a Certificate of Merit from the St. Louis Major Case Squad recognizing his work during a homicide investigation.

* *The above charges are mere accusation and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence in support of these charges must be presented before a court of competent jurisdiction whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.*

Deaths

David J. Risinger



David J. Risinger, 80, of Poplar Bluff, MO, died Friday, May 6, 2022, at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center. Mr. Risinger served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and had 10 years on active duty. He retired from the Navy Reserves as chief warrant officer. Mr. Risinger was a dispatcher with the Missouri Highway Patrol for 25 years. He was also a member of the U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans

Association. He is survived by one son, one daughter, three grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by one daughter. The family requests any memorials be made to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, P.O. Box 568, Jefferson City, MO 65102. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Risinger family.

John A. Leonardo



John A. Leonardo, 87, of Cameron, MO, died May 12, 2022.

He was a graduate of Christian Brothers High School. John was a United States Navy veteran. He became a police officer for the city of St. Joseph, MO, and a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper assigned to Troop H. John joined the Patrol as a member of the 24th Recruit Class in 1961. He retired as a corporal after 30 years of service. John was preceded in death by his parents, his wife (Betty) of 44 years and mother of his children, his second wife (Beth), and a son. He is survived by two daughters, two sons, a sister, and many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. The family suggests memorials be made to Comfort Care Hospice and/or Cameron First Christian Church. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Leonardo family.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:

Lt. Greg K. Leftwich (B) - son
Ret. Auto. Tech. III Leon J. Libbert - brother
Ret. Fingerprint Tech. Sprv. Debbie A. Libbert -
brother-in-law
Ret. Comm. Oper. III Charlie E. Bradley - mother
CVO II Brian C. Sanders (A) - mother
DE II Melanie A. Wyatt (B) - father
MVI III Donny D. Wyatt (B) - father
Ret. Clerk IV Janet L. Waer - daughter-in-law
Tpr. Chad D. Primm (B) - father-in-law
Ret. Sgt. Robert E. Meyer - wife
Ret. Chief Tele. Eng. Delbert H. McCormick - wife
DE Sprv. Linda A. Bradley (D) - mother
Ret. Sgt. Donnie L. Schmitz - mother

CDL Exam. Ashley L. Adams (E) - mother
Technician III Heidi J. Lewis (Q/PRD) - mother
Criminalist Sprv. Jason W. Crafton (Q/CLD) - grandmother
Criminalist III Leamon E. Crafton (Q/CLD) - grandmother
Ret. Lt. Wes E. Benitz - father-in-law
CVO II Clinton R. Flynn (A) - mother
Sgt. Tray T. Pitts (Q/GD) - father
Technician I Taylor N. Whittle (Q/PRD) - great-grandfather
HR Analyst II Caitlan L. Elley (Q/HRD) - grandfather
Ret. Chief CVO Martha A. McCartney - mother
Tpr. Micah G. Bennett (A) - grandmother
Sgt. Doug P. Little (H) - mother
Sgt. Kenny R. Sanders (D) - grandmother

Deaths

Daniel L. Wyatt



Daniel L. Wyatt, 56, died Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at his home in Macon, MO. Daniel was born March 17, 1966, the son of Vernon Dale and Julia Mae (Wood) Wyatt of Macon, MO. He was united in marriage to Linda Fay Benda on June 20, 1987, in Atlanta, MO. He is survived by his wife and parents; four daughters, Valerie Garner and husband Trevor of Jacksonville, MO, Melanie Wyatt, Emily Wyatt and partner Aaron Knouse, and Natalie Wyatt all of Macon, MO; two brothers, Darren Wyatt and wife Amy of Jacksonville, MO, Donald Wyatt and wife Melissa of Macon, MO; several nieces, nephews, aunts, and cousins.

Daniel was a 1984 graduate of Macon High School. Following high school, he attended Tulsa Welding School in Tulsa, OK, where he received his certification. He worked several jobs, but is mostly known for employment with Macon County Road and Bridge, Missouri Department of Transportation, and Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop B, all in Macon. He also farmed soybeans with his brothers on the family farm. Danny loved camping, being outdoors, spending time with his family and friends, grilling

steaks on Saturday night, and joking around with coworkers and friends. He was a great husband and father, and a faithful man of God. Visitation occurred Monday, May 23, 2022, with the funeral service taking place Tuesday, May 24, at the First Baptist Church in Macon. Danny was buried at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Macon. Memorials may be made to the Randy Johnson Memorial Fund or First Baptist Church. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Wyatt family.

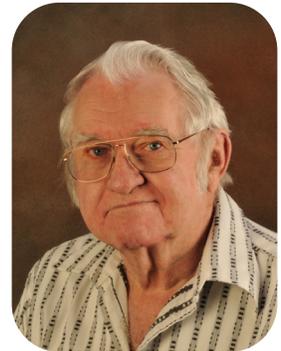
Marilyn A. Mueller



Marilyn A. Mueller, 86, of St. Louis, MO, died Friday, May 29, 2022. According to a retirement article in the October 1998 *Patrol News*, Ms. Mueller began her career with the Patrol on October 1, 1976, and was assigned to Troop C at the North Grand Driver Examination Station as a driver examiner. She also worked at the South Kingshighway, Ferguson, and Grasso Plaza driver examination stations. She was assigned to the Deer Creek DE Station when she retired on June 1, 1998. The Patrol family extends

its sincerest condolences to the Mueller family.

Conrad H. Henley



Conrad H. "Connie" Henley, 93, of Pleasant Hill, MO, died Sunday May 29, 2022, at his home in the country near Pleasant Hill. Connie graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1947. He attended Missouri University at Columbia for one year before being called into service. He was given a year of Army Engineer OCS training. Connie was commissioned as a second lieutenant at Fort Belvoir, VA, and was sent to Korea, where he and his crew were assigned to the Air Force building airfields. He joined the Patrol in 1956 as a member of the 17th Recruit Class. He served with the Patrol for 31 years living in Clinton, Windsor, Harrisonville, and Lee's Summit, retiring on April 1, 1989. Connie was preceded in death by his parents, sister, brother, and one son. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Edith, of the home,

Continued on the next page.

Deaths

— Henley

Continued from page 19.

one son and daughter-in-law, two grandsons, several nieces and nephews, other relatives, and friends. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Pleasant Hill Animal Shelter and may be sent in care of the Stanley-Edenburn Funeral Home, 203 N. Armstrong St., Pleasant Hill, Missouri 64080. To learn more about Connie, visit the Lee's Summit Tribune website at <https://1stribune.net/index.php/2022/06/06/conrad-harris-connie-henley/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Henley family.

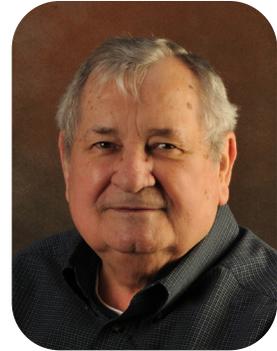
Corbett V. "Corky" Cundiff



Corbett V. "Corky" Cundiff passed away June 2, 2022, at a local healthcare facility. Corky graduated from Lafayette High School, class of 1946. Immediately upon graduation, he and seven other classmates enlisted in the Army. After basic training, they were deployed to Korea from 1946 to 1947. Returning to the States with an honorable discharge, Corky was selected for the

Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy in 1950. Corky married Virginia Ann Jenkins in 1950, at Savannah Avenue Baptist Church. They had been married 71 years at the time of his death. After graduating from the Academy in 1951, he spent the next 35 years with Troop H, Saint Joseph. He retired at the rank of sergeant in 1986. During his career, he was assigned to numerous security details, including the Missouri Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair in New York; bodyguard to Betty Ford at the Republican Convention in Kansas City, MO; and Honor Guard for the funeral of Governor John Dalton. He was preceded in death by a daughter and four sisters. Corky is survived by his wife, a son, former son-in-law, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren, a nephew, and four nieces. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Mosaic Life Care Hospice or the National Kidney Foundation. To learn more about Corky, visit the Meierhoffer Funeral Home website at <https://www.meierhoffer.com/obituaries/Corbett-Corky-Cundiff?obId=25036420#/obituaryInfo>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Cundiff family.

Roger M. Collier



Roger M. Collier, 90, of Fayette, MO, died Sunday, June 5, 2022, at University Hospital in Columbia, MO. Roger graduated from Owensville High School in 1950. He served his country during the Korean War. Roger was a communications engineer for the Missouri State Highway Patrol from 1958 to 1991. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie, a brother, three sisters, and a great-grandson. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son, two grandchildren, and one great-grandson. The family suggests memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association. To learn more about Roger, visit the Gasconade County Republican website at <https://www.gasconadecountyrepublican.com/stories/roger-collier,44559>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Collier family.

“The most I can do for my friend is simply be his friend.”

— Henry David Thoreau, naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher

Deaths

Willard R. Petrus



Willard R. (Pete) Petrus, 94, formerly of West Plains, MO, and recently from Chandler, AZ, died June 11, 2022, surrounded by his daughter and her family. Pete was in the Air Force during World War II and was stationed in Colorado Springs, CO. He joined the Patrol on July 9, 1950, as a weight inspector in Troop G, Willow Springs. Pete entered the Patrol's Academy as a member of the 13th Recruit Class on June 16, 1952. He retired as a major on February 29, 1988. He was preceded in death by his wife, Maggie, two brothers, and two sisters. Pete is survived by his daughter, two grandsons, a brother, two sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews. The family suggests in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. To learn more about Pete, visit the Columbia Daily Tribune website at <https://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/pclm0242908> The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Petrus family.

Larry R. Stobbs



Larry R. Stobbs, 84, of St. Joseph, MO, died June 20, 2022. The Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory posted this notice from the family: He Came – He Served – He's Gone. The notice indicated there would be a private family graveside service with inurnment at Memorial Park Cemetery in St. Joseph. The family suggested memorial contributions to the charity of the donor's choice to honor Larry's legacy of service and giving.

His retirement article in the September 1992 *Patrol News* shared that he joined the Patrol on October 15, 1961, as a member of the 24th Recruit Class. He worked in the Troop H area his entire career. Larry worked in commercial vehicle enforcement and motor vehicle inspection prior to the creation of uniformed civilian positions. He was instrumental in developing and implementing the MVI program in Troop H. In 1983, Larry became a criminal investigator in the Intelligence and Investigations Unit, which later became the Division of Drug and Crime Control. He retired at the rank of sergeant after 31 years of service.

His retirement article indicated Larry was married and had four children. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Stobbs family.

Dennis R. Herndon



Dennis R. Herndon, 78, of Kingdom City, MO, died Saturday June 18, 2022, at Boone Hospital in Columbia. Dennis served the public as a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper. He joined the agency in 1967, as a member of the 33rd Recruit Class He was first stationed in Troop I, Rolla, MO, and later Troop F, Jefferson City, MO. He retired in 1995, as a corporal after 27 years of service. In addition to his wife, Marilyn, survivors include a granddaughter and a sister. He was preceded in death by a son. Memorials may be given to the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, or the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. To view his complete obituary, visit the Pickering Funeral Home website at <https://www.pickeringfh.com/obituary/dennis-herndon>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Herndon family.

Patrol Celebrates 13th CVO Class Graduation

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

At 10 am. Friday, June 3, 2022, friends and co-workers gathered to celebrate the 13th CVO Class' graduation. Captain Kevin C. Kelley (Q/CVED) served as emcee for the event. After welcoming those present and leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, he addressed the members of the class. "Thank you to each of you for your commitment to the Patrol and to commercial vehicle enforcement."

Colonel Eric T. Olson addressed the class to congratulate them and recognize the commitment it takes to complete 22 weeks of training in a contained environment. "Congratulations on reaching this important day. Every year we complete tens of thousands of commercial vehicle inspections," said Col. Olson. "Many result in out-of-service violations. The impact is hard to measure. It's not always clean and neat to see what we do every day. I don't want you to forget you are absolutely the front line of defense. Not just trucks moving commerce, but also from the standpoint of homeland security. Stay focused on your job. You have received some of the best training and you have my complete support."

"When we first started this journey, most of us didn't know what to expect," said CVO I Clinton R. Cook, class commander (D). "We've learned an exorbitant amount over these last 22 weeks,



Members of the 13th CVO Class recite their oath, promising to uphold the constitution and laws of the nation and state and to faithfully demean themselves in the position of commercial vehicle officer.

The Honorable S. Cotton Walker, District III Cole County Circuit Court, witnesses CVO I LyTyron D. Robinson Sr. (E) sign his oath.



in each class and about each other. I am leaving here with five coworkers I call friends. Today marks the beginning of our careers as CVOs. I wish each of my classmates a long and successful career with the MSHP." CVO Cook also expressed his appreciation to the Patrol's command staff, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, Academy staff, and the new CVOs' families.

The Honorable S. Cotton Walker, District III Cole County

Circuit Court, administered the Oath of Office to the new commercial vehicle officers.

Two awards were presented during the graduation. CVO I Jeffery L. Cassidy (C) accepted the Academic Award earning a 94.93%. The class average was an impressive 91.67 percent. CVO I Jamey B. Dockins (E) accepted the Firearms Award earning 96%.

**Congratulations,
13th CVO Class!**

Getting To Know The 13th CVO Class

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

A variety of professional paths brought the six members of the 13th Commercial Vehicle Officer Class together. After 22 weeks of training, they have become friends as well as co-workers. Enjoy getting to know them.



Members of the 13th CVO Class are: (l to r) CVO I Jamey B. Dockins (E), CVO I Jeffery L. Cassidy (C), CVO I Clinton R. Cook (D), CVO I Randy J. Glover (F), CVO I Danton E. Harvey (B), and CVO I LyTyron D. Robinson Sr. (E).

CVO I Jeffery L. Cassidy (C) retired from the military after 23 years of honorable service. “I was driving a truck and was pulled in for an inspection at the St. Clair scale house,” said CVO Cassidy. “The CVO supervisor began talking to me about it. I decided you’re never too old for a challenge, and here I am. The Academy was a challenge, but took me back to what I was familiar with in the military, the structure and the camaraderie.” CVO Cassidy said he feels prepared and is assigned to Troop C’s St. Clair scale house.

CVO I Clinton R. Cook (D) joined the Patrol as a commercial vehicle inspector in 2017. The 13th CVO Class was the first opportunity for him to attend Academy training for commercial vehicle officer. CVO Cook said he helped his classmates understand the Patrol, forms, etc. “I thought training was very enjoyable,” said CVO Cook, “challenging at times, but enjoyable.” The training he most enjoyed occurred on the range. “Sgt. [Aaron K.] Griffin is top of the top.” CVO Cook is assigned to Troop D’s Joplin, MO, scale house.

CVO I Jamey B. Dockins (E) said after 28 years in a family business, it was time for a drastic change. “It has been challenging and fun with opportunities to meet people from all walks of life and make lifelong friendships,” said CVO Dockins. “Through his family business, he had contact with many troopers and Patrol retirees over the years prior to joining the Patrol. He appreciates the structure of the CVO position, which will allow him more time with family. CVO Dockins is assigned to Troop E’s Charleston, MO, scale house.

CVO I Randy J. Glover (F) comes with over 18 years of experience in municipal, county, and state government agencies. CVO Glover retired from the Glenwood (IL) Fire Department as a lieutenant overseeing fire prevention and arson investigation. He coordinated fire investigative teams with a jurisdiction of three counties and worked with many agencies on large scale incidents. “I was ready for change, but wanted to stay in law enforcement,” said CVO Glover. After an internet search took him to the Patrol’s website where he saw the opening for commercial vehicle officer, he reached out to a recruiter. He described training as challenging, and enjoyed firearms and the emergency vehicle operations course training the most. CVO Glover is assigned to a portable scale truck in Troop F. “I plan to learn the job to the best of my abilities and make the Patrol proud,” he said.

CVO I Danton E. Harvey (B) — “I’ve grown up around commercial vehicles,” said CVO Harvey. His great-grandpa started a trucking agency in the 1930s, which his family still operates. He said he’s always been drawn to the criminal justice system. “I got my degree in criminal justice administration,” said CVO Harvey. “I worked in adult institutions and as a parole officer. After I talked with a retiree about being a CVO, I thought with my background it would be a good fit.” He said it was good training. “One thing the Patrol is good at is training their people,” he said. “You know what to do and exactly what is expected of you.” CVO Harvey is assigned to a portable scale truck in Troop B.

CVO I LyTyron D. Robinson Sr. (E) — CVO Robinson applied previously, but when he didn’t make that particular CVO class, he figured, “It wasn’t my time. They told me to make sure I come back. I applied again, and here I am.” CVO Robinson drove a truck for 20 years prior to joining the Patrol. “I was all about safety as a driver, and I figured why not go to an agency that promotes safety?” He described training as very unique and admitted not being able to share his training experiences with his mom, who died in 2020, was hard for him. “I will be in Troop E, assigned to the Steele, MO, scale house,” CVO Robinson said. “I plan on being here for a long time.”

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov • Home Page: <http://www.statepatrol.dps.mo.gov> www.facebook.com/motrooper



mshptrooper



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Patrol Supports Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony

On Wednesday, April 28, 2022, Missouri held its annual Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony inside the Capitol rotunda. The Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony reminds us of the many challenges a victim and/or their family experience following a criminal act. Law enforcement has a significant impact during their contact with victims and their families. Trooper Bradley J. Lueckenhoff (D) sang the National Anthem and Troop F Color Guard presented the colors at the event. Pictured are Tpr. Lueckenhoff (podium) and the Troop F Color Guard (l to r) Cpl. Tim C. Fick, Sgt. Nick J. Borgmeyer, Tpr. Jonathan R. Atherton, and Tpr. Catlynn E. McKinney.

