

# PATROL NEWS

May-June 2021

“Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”



See cover page 3.

# From the Staff ...

**Major Greg K. Smith**  
**Field Operations Bureau**



As we approach the Patrol's 90th Anniversary, I am reminded of the historical impact the Patrol has had on the citizens of our great state. In 1931, our country was coping with the challenges of the Great Depression, the average cost of a new house was \$6,790, and a pound of ground beef cost 11 cents. A new car could be purchased for \$640 and one could fill the gas tank for 10 cents per gallon. In Missouri that year, Bagnell Dam was completed forming the Lake of the Ozarks, and Governor Henry S. Caulfield signed legislation creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

A brief historical review of our early years showed an ever-changing organization that was rapidly growing as demands and responsibilities grew. The agency rank structure at the time included first sergeants, sergeants, and technical sergeants. The tech sergeant rank, established for specialists, was established in 1934 and ended in 1943. Prior to 1953, troop captains reported directly to the superintendent. When Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner was reappointed that year, he reorganized General Headquarters. The state was then divided into two districts with one field captain assigned to each district. The field captains served as a liaison between the superintendent and the troop commanders. Although there were some changes in agency composition and rank during the next 37 years it wasn't until 1990 that Colonel C.E. "Mel" Fisher organizationally restructured the Patrol and created the Field Operations Bureau. The new bureau encompassed the nine troops and the Aircraft Division.

Of course, the bureau's name isn't the only thing that changed throughout our history. The first troopers stopped along their route and spoke with various business owners to get messages from their troop headquarters. As technology progressed, troopers had some form of radio communication in their patrol cars beginning in the late 1930s and rapidly progressing in the mid-1940s. Today, with the development of the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN), troop staff and gaming officers can use the Wave app on an iPhone to transmit and speak to any troop radio room in the state.

Although exponential change continues to drastically shape the landscape of how troopers perform their duties, one critical aspect remains a constant since 1931. Whether from a traffic stop, following a tragic event, the changing of a flat tire, or offering assistance in their greatest time of need, it's the **professional** but **personal contact** with citizens that remains the hallmark of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This year, as we mark 90 years of service and protection, we recognize those who built the solid reputation we enjoy today and work hard to retain it. We remember the sacrifices of 31 brave troopers who have died since 1931. We remain committed to setting the standard regarding integrity, responsibility, respect, professionalism, compassion, resourcefulness, character, and commitment for law enforcement agencies in Missouri and the nation.

*Happy 90th anniversary, Missouri State Highway Patrol!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G.K. Smith". 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

Michael L. Parson, Governor  
State of Missouri

Sandra K. Karsten, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Eric T. Olson, Superintendent  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

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# PATROL NEWS

May-June 2021

"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

Volume 55 • Number 6

## Social Media Snapshot



MSHP Troop C  
@MSHPTrooperC

Members of Troop C stopped by to wish Retired Major Bud Jones a Happy 100th Birthday. We enjoyed hearing Bud tell stories from his days with the MSHP and as a WWII fighter pilot. Happy Birthday Bud and thank you for your service!



8:31 AM · May 13, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

## Cover

*The MASTERS President (and retired Patrol Colonel) James Keathley presented the 2020 MASTERS Public Service Award to Sgt. Andy Bell (A). "I was thrilled to be the Troop A nominee," said Sgt. Bell. "Upon learning I received the award for the entire state, I was very surprised and humbled. I know many others that serve their communities daily, regardless of being on duty or off duty. I am honored to be recognized along with all the other award recipients."*

# CPL. HUFF NAMED STATE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Colonel Eric T. Olson, superintendent of the Patrol, and Department of Public Safety Deputy Director Kevin Bond recognized Corporal Jeff Huff (A) as the March 2021 State Employee of the Month. They congratulated Cpl. Huff and presented the award on behalf of Governor Mike Parson. The recognition came as a result of Cpl. Huff's actions during a traffic stop in 2020. When he learned the teen driver was suicidal, Cpl. Huff empathetically intervened and saved the teen's life.

"This is exactly the type of pro law enforcement effort that we make that sustains us and will carry us into the future," said Col. Olson.

*Congratulations, Cpl. Huff!*

*(r) Col. Eric Olson (Q) congratulated Cpl. Jeff Huff (A) for being named State Employee of the Month for March 2021.*



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*Michael L. Parson*

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI

March 15, 2021

Dear Corporal Jeffrey Huff,

On behalf of the State of Missouri, it is my honor to congratulate you on being recognized as State Employee of the Month for March 2021. Your dedicated public service and commitment to our citizens is commendable. It is with great pride and admiration that I congratulate you on this award.

These past several months have presented challenges that have pushed us to be better than we were before. Thinking outside the box and adapting quickly to take care of business has never been more important. I know that even before this unprecedented time you were doing great work, and I appreciate your continued efforts to embrace the essence of public service.

As we celebrate your contribution to serving Missourians and moving Missouri forward, I pause and give thanks for having you as a vital part of our team. I look forward to the wonderful things to come from you and those you inspire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael L. Parson".

Michael L. Parson  
Governor

## T-Rex Takes The Plunge For SOMO



*By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)*

On March 6, 2021, Troop B employees formed the Troopersaurus Rex team, which welcomed spouses and local law enforcement, to take the plunge for Special Olympics Missouri. The Troop B team joined teams from other law enforcement agencies and local supporters to help raise funds for SOMO. Once again, the SOMO Polar Plunge took place at Thousand Hills State Park in Kirksville, MO. It was another successful year and much fun was had.



# THAT ICE WASN'T KEEPING ANYTHING COLD

By Cpl. Kyle A. Green (F)

On the evening of March 6, 2021, Corporal Zachary A. Czerniewski (F) was observing traffic from the median on Interstate 70 at the 93-mile marker in Cooper County. As he was watching traffic, an eastbound Jeep Cherokee drew his attention as it traveled past his location. Cpl. Czerniewski pulled out into traffic and as he followed the Jeep, he saw it commit several lane violations and fail to use its turn signal. Cpl. Czerniewski activated his emergency equipment and the Jeep stopped on the shoulder.

Cpl. Czerniewski approached the Jeep on the passenger side and informed the driver, who was the sole occupant, why he was being stopped. The driver responded, "Yeah, I'm a little bit sleepy."

As the driver searched for his driver license and rental agreement, Cpl. Czerniewski observed indicators of criminal activity. The driver provided a California driver license and said the rental agreement was on his phone.

The driver advised he rented the car for one week and was going to St. Louis, MO, from Ontario, CA. While the driver attempted to locate the rental agreement on his phone, Cpl. Czerniewski engaged him in conversation. Cpl. Czerniewski's training and experience led him to



*The ice in this cooler wasn't keeping anything cold.*

believe the driver was engaged in criminal activity. He requested consent to search the Jeep, which was initially granted and then denied.

Cooper County Deputy Aaron Schanzmeyer then arrived on scene

*Cooper County Deputy Aaron Schanzmeyer and K-9 Grimm joined Cpl. Zachary Czerniewski for this photo.*

with K-9 Grimm. Deputy Schanzmeyer and K-9 Grimm conducted a free air sniff of the exterior of the Jeep, resulting in K-9 Grimm positively alerting to the odor of narcotics emitting from the interior of the Jeep. A probable cause search of the Jeep revealed a plastic bag containing a white crystalline substance Cpl. Czerniewski immediately recognized it as methamphetamine. The driver was placed in handcuffs and told he was under arrest. A continued search of the Jeep revealed a total of 35 bags of methamphetamine totaling 75 pounds.

The driver was transported to the Cooper County Jail, where he was charged with drug trafficking-first degree. The approximate street value of the methamphetamine is \$1.8 million. Cpl. Czerniewski's diligence and skill in looking beyond the stop resulted in a large seizure and potentially saved lives.

## See Ya In 2022!

After a lot of consideration, the organizers have decided to cancel the retirees' luncheon normally held in Lee's Summit again this year. We feel it is still not safe for us to congregate in an enclosed area. Here's hoping we can have it next year! Any questions or comments call: Pat Spire @ 816-229-0154

# Area Students Experience Alliance Program

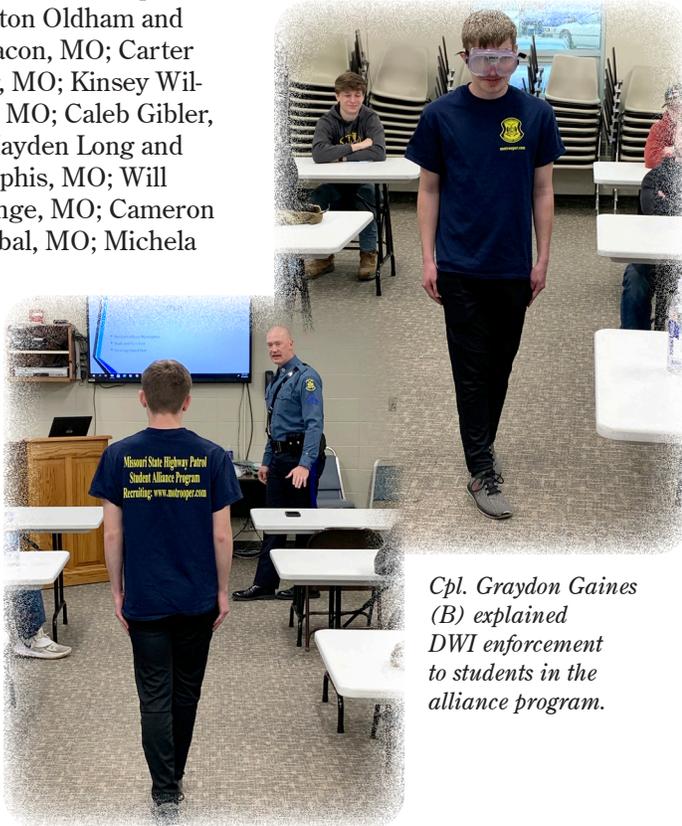
By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)

On Saturday, March 13, 2021, 15 Troop B area high school students representing 12 high schools completed the troop's 2021 Student Alliance Program. The program was conducted at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon, MO, on Saturday, March 6, 2021, and Saturday, March 13, 2021. During the two-day program, students were familiarized with many duties performed by a Missouri state trooper, and participated in hands-on activities such as firing a Glock pistol, stop and approach, and crime scene investigations. The students observed a canine demonstration and heard presentations from several members and civilian employees of the Patrol. The program, which targeted juniors and seniors in high school, provided an opportunity for interested individuals to learn more about law enforcement and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Each participant was presented a certificate of completion and a Missouri State Highway Patrol T-shirt.

Students who attended the program included: Dalton Oldham and Jacob Nelson of Macon, MO; Carter Hummel, of Center, MO; Kinsey Wilhoit, of Keytesville, MO; Caleb Gibler, of Madison, MO; Hayden Long and Alex Long, of Memphis, MO; Will Harmon, of La Grange, MO; Cameron Hampton, of Hannibal, MO; Michela Ham, of Linneus, MO; Wilson Matheis, of Jacksonville, MO; Jarrett Hubble and Cameron Bringer, of Lewistown, MO; Chris Moore, of Ewing, MO; and Tyler Polley of Brookfield, MO.



*This group of high school students came together for the Troop B Student Alliance Program.*



*Cpl. Graydon Gaines (B) explained DWI enforcement to students in the alliance program.*



*This student experienced stop and approach under the watchful eye of Tpr. Chad Walton (B).*

# Welker, Jenkins Prove Resourceful In Solving Case

By Cpl. Dallas R. Thompson (C)

Trooper Kurtis T. Welker (C) and Sergeant Tyler R. Jenkins (C) accepted the April 2021 DPS Sworn Employees of the Month award for their tireless and thorough investigative work that led to charges against two people in a murder case. An award ceremony took place on April 13, 2021, at Troop C Headquarters.

On August 30, 2020, Tpr. Welker responded to a reported roadside assault on Interstate 64 in St. Charles County. The suspect had fled in a pick-up pulling a car hauler trailer, images of which were captured on a vehicle's dash camera. At the scene, Tpr. Welker found an unconscious 68-year-old man in grave condition with trauma to his face. The victim died at a hospital.

Tpr. Welker, Sgt. Jenkins, and investigators assigned to the Division of Drug and Crime Control initially had few leads beyond the dash cam video. Sgt. Jenkins took the initiative and asked a popular, local Facebook page to post the video of the truck driving away. The post quickly resulted in numerous leads. Over several weeks Tpr. Welker, Sgt. Jenkins, and DDCC investigators followed leads, conducted multiple witness interviews, reviewed surveillance video captured by local businesses, and obtained cell phone records. They then obtained and executed search warrants at several locations.

Eventually, video and photographic evidence seized through the warrants led to the arrest of a husband and wife. The man was charged with murder in the second degree and his wife was charged with being an accessory to second-degree murder. Without Tpr. Welker's and Sgt. Jenkins' tireless work ethic, this case may not have been solved.

Colonel Eric T. Olson spoke to the two award recipients and presented challenge coins to them. He thanked them first for conducting such a thorough investigation. He then highlight-



DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond, DPS Director Sandra Karsten, Tpr. Kurtis Welker (C), Sgt. Tyler Jenkins (C), and Col. Eric Olson (Q) paused for this photo after the awards ceremony.

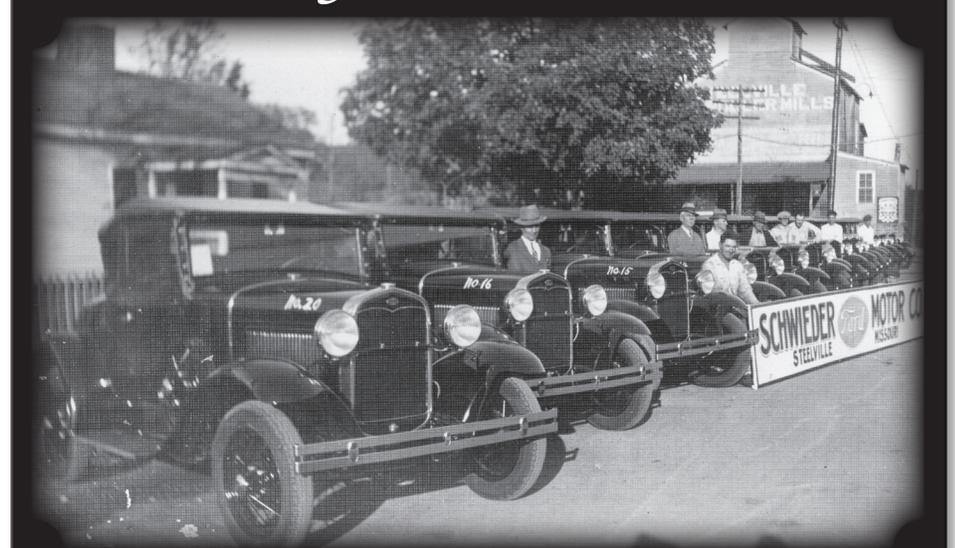
ed the core value of resourcefulness and how they utilized it during the investigation of this case. Using technology such as social media and dash camera videos helped bring this case to a close.

DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten also spoke with the two award recipients. "We really appreciate what

you did and how you did it," Director Karsten said. "That is what people have come to expect from the Highway Patrol across this state ... to come together and work as a team. You both exemplified that here."

*Congratulations Tpr. Welker and Sgt. Jenkins!*

## 90 Years Of Service & Protection



In 1969, this photo appeared in a 50th anniversary advertisement for Schwieder Ford with the following caption: This was the biggest single sale, 42 new Fords to the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1931. Price of each \$432 on a competitive bid. This was the beginning of the present Highway Patrol which now numbers several hundred. Pictured (l to r) George F. Schwieder, A.J. Schwieder, A.D. Schwieder, C.P. Lahnar, Lay Schwieder, others unknown.

# All In A Day's Work ...

By Sgt. Andrew J. Bell (A)

On a warm, sunny, Monday morning, April 5, 2021, Corporal Beau M. Ryun (A) was patrolling eastbound Interstate 70 at the 79-mile marker, in Saline County, MO, when a white 2011 Volkswagen Jetta, displaying California registration, caught his eye. Cpl. Ryun observed the driver commit a traffic violation and effected a traffic stop. While obtaining information from the driver and two other occupants, Cpl. Ryun detected a strong odor of raw and burnt marijuana emitting from the vehicle.

Using his superior observation skills, Cpl. Ryun noticed a plastic bag of marijuana and a partially smoked marijuana cigar within the vehicle. Not only has probable cause been established through his observations, it was readily apparent the occupants were being deceptive about their travel itinerary. It was clear the occupant's day was not going well. But, just as things couldn't get worse for them ... they did.



*This loaded handgun was located during a traffic stop.*

*This methamphetamine confiscated during a traffic stop weighed 88.7 pounds.*

Corporal Nick A. Perez (A) arrived to assist, and as he detained the rear seat occupant, a loaded handgun was located. Subsequently, all three occupants were detained. Cpl. Ryun's search of the vehicle revealed four cardboard boxes in the trunk containing 88.7 pounds of methamphetamine and \$5,505 in U.S. currency.

Additional Troop A troopers and investigators with the Division of Drug and Crime Control assisted Cpl. Ryun with transportation, processing, and

interviews of each suspect. The Saline County Prosecuting Attorney's Office charged the suspects with first degree drug trafficking, possession of up to 11-34 grams of marijuana, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and unlawful use of a weapon. This arrest is a great example of looking beyond the initial reason for the stop and working as a team and should remind us all: There is no such thing as a "routine" traffic stop!

## BLUE BLOODS TAKE SECOND IN TOURNNEY



*The Missouri State Highway Patrol and legislative partners, Mr. Ryan G. Gill (chief of staff for Senator Jason Bean), Representative Ron Copeland (retired MSHP), Mr. Elijah Mayfield (Governor's Office), and Mr. Adam Gresham (chief of staff for Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe) were fortunate to play in the 2021 Annual Legislative Charity Softball Tourney for a great cause! The "Blue Bloods" experienced success, taking second place, having fun, and, most importantly, raising money for charity. This year's charity tournament raised over \$10k for the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City, MO!*

# TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION LEADS TO CRIMINAL CHARGES

*By Cpl. Dallas R. Thompson (C)*

Trooper Thomas Reents (C), Sergeant Paul J. Kempke (Q/FOB), Corporal Dustin B. Reed (Q/DDCC), and Corporal Jason A. Ashby (Q/DDCC) accepted the DPS March 2021 Sworn Employees of the Month for their thorough investigative work on what appeared to be a typical fatal traffic crash, but led to charges being filed in a criminal death case. The award ceremony took place on April 13, 2021, at Troop C Headquarters.

On August 23, 2020, Tpr. Reents responded to a traffic crash on the Discovery Bridge in St. Louis County. A motorcycle struck the median wall and the driver was ejected into the river. Tpr. Reents noticed two fresh skid marks traveling parallel with the motorcycle's skid marks and determined a second vehicle was involved, but had left the scene. This led to his requesting the Major Crash Investigation Team respond to assist with the investigation.

Sgt. Kempke, a member of Major Crash Investigation Team #2 in Wen-

tzville, MO, responded. An investigation of the physical evidence led Sgt. Kempke to determine a motor vehicle intentionally struck the motorcycle. Cpls. Reed and Ashby then responded to the scene. Their investigation resulted in criminal charges being filed.

From start to conclusion, this was a strong example of thoroughness and training put into action. Tpr. Reents recognized this incident was more than a traffic crash and took action. Sgt. Kempke applied his technical crash investigation expertise. Cpls. Reed and Ashby diligently put their investigative skills to work. Because of their combined efforts, what could have been mistakenly classified as a fatal traffic crash investigation resulted in charges being filed in a criminal death investigation.

During the award ceremony, Colonel Eric T. Olson (Q) praised the award recipients. "As an agency, one thing we ought to be able to do and

get right every time, is a traffic crash investigation; however, they aren't all that simple," said Col. Olson. "So, I appreciate the extra look this one got." The colonel presented a challenge coin to each award recipient. He then highlighted the core values of commitment and professionalism, saying that these troopers showed both during this investigation.

DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten also spoke to the award recipients and praised them for their excellent work. "This is an excellent example of teamwork," said Director Karsten. "The road troopers, DDCC, and Major Crash Investigation Team worked together and went above and beyond what is normally expected. I appreciate you doing the extra work to bring this case to light and to give a voice to the victim who couldn't speak himself."

Congratulations, Tpr. Reents, Sgt. Kempke, Cpl. Reed, and Cpl. Ashby!



*Pictured (l to r) are: DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond, DPS Director Sandra Karsten, Tpr. Thomas Reents (C), Sgt. Paul Kempke (Q/FOB), Cpl. Jason Ashby (Q/DDCC), Cpl. Dustin Reed (Q/DDCC), and Col. Eric Olson (Q).*

# BRAVO!

## Facebook Live Provides Audience For Awards Banquet

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

“We are about to honor two years of achievement and sacrifice by members of our team,” said Colonel Eric T. Olson, superintendent of the Patrol, in his opening remarks at the Patrol awards ceremony April 10, 2021. “You’ll see on duty and off duty lifesaving measures and dangerous water rescues that are very perilous. You’re going to see a career’s worth of dedication arresting drunk drivers. You’ll hear about criminal investigations that went far beyond the original call.”

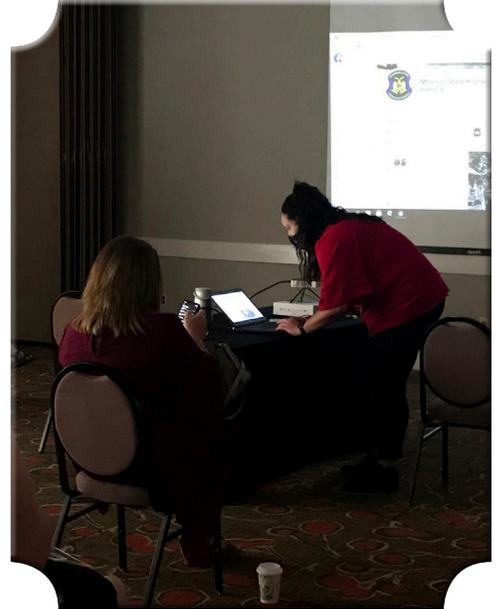
In some ways, the presenting of awards was much like in past years. The Heroes video recognizing our fallen officers remained part of the program. Honorees attended, The MAS-TERS’ Board of Directors was present, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and emcee Major Sarah L. Eberhard (Q/CIB) shared the stories of bravery, honor, kindness, and resourcefulness. However, instead of a large room full of well-wishers, the event was broadcast via Facebook live and attendees were socially distanced and used face masks in the large banquet room of

*Social Media Specialist Meghan Basinger (Q/PIED) connects the Facebook live feed in the room reserved for award recipient family members.*

Margaritaville Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. Family members watched from hotel rooms, a special room designated for them across the hall from the event, or at home. But, everyone cheered for the heroes of 2019 and 2020.

The room was quieter than in the past, making it easy to hear the emcee. You could also hear the quiet hum of the air conditioner in the background. The award recipients clapped for one another as each one accepted an award from Col. Olson. Each recipient accepted their award with grace and humility.

“Accepting the Superintendent’s Award for Excellence in Public Service at the 2021 awards ceremony was a highlight of my nearly 20-year career with the Patrol,” said MVI Analyst Brenda J. Davis (Q/DVSD). “It was in-



spiring to hear the stories behind each of the various awards. The ceremony served as a reminder of the dedication so many Patrol employees have for the organization, their communities, and other people. I am very proud to be a part of the Patrol family. When dealing with the public, I want those I serve to walk away with a positive impression of Missouri state employees. I greatly appreciate the recognition of my efforts.”

“I’ve never gone through anything like the awards ceremony before,” said Corporal Jason C. Kuessner (Q/DDCC), 2019 Valor Award recipient. “It was overwhelming the kind of thought and preparation the Patrol went through to honor its employees. It was very humbling.”

“I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Digital Forensic Investigative Unit throughout 2020,” said Sergeant Jeremy L. Weadon (Q/DDCC), 2020 Officer of the Year. “Our part-time investigators in each troop do a fantastic job juggling their



*Col. Eric Olson presented the 2020 Matilda “Tillie” Sonnen Civilian of the Year Award to Temporary Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Linda Benyo (G). “It was very rewarding,” said Mrs. Benyo. “I am 76 years old and have had several jobs since I was 13, but never as appreciated as I am here at the MSHP. The employees at Troop G are great, especially Captain [Bruce D.] Fiske. They are my second family. God has blessed me with good health, for which I am very thankful. I don’t have a high position, but my Daddy always said, ‘Whatever you do, do your best.’ My family was very proud and so am I.”*

*Continued on the next page.*

# Awards

Continued from page 10.

responsibilities to ensure each case is investigated thoroughly. As we work across the state, it's refreshing to see everyone involved come together as a team, building the best case possible to guarantee the safety of Missouri's most vulnerable population, its children."

"I was honored and humbled to receive such a prestigious award," said Comm. Oper. III Abigail L. Howard (H), 2019 Lifesaving Award recipient.

Each year, the awards presentation is an opportunity for the agency to honor its employees. In his comments, Col. Olson also told how he had recently been asked by a family member how he continued in law enforcement in the current climate of criticism. He responded that he could sleep at night because he knows the quality of people he works with. "I know what the team is capable of and what they do every day," said Col. Olson. "I rest assured that each day I'm going to get to work with all of you and we will persevere."

*MVI Analyst Brenda Davis (Q/DVSD) accepted the 2020 Superintendent's Award For Excellence in Public Service from Col. Eric Olson (I).*



*Col. Eric Olson (I) presented the 2020 Officer Of The Year award to Sgt. Jeremy Weadon (Q/DDCC).*



## Congratulations!

**The MASTERS Public Service Award**  
Sergeant Andrew J. Bell, Troop A

**Career Milestone**  
Sergeant Nicholas D. Berry, Troop B

**Superintendent's Award For Excellence In Public Service**  
MVI Analyst Brenda J. Davis, Q/DVSD

**Lifesaving Awards**  
Trooper Gavin C. Leach, Troop I  
Trooper Aaron A. Lindley, Troop F  
Trooper A. Dennis Pogue, Troop C  
Trooper Brock A. Teague, Troop C  
Trooper Dylon M. Wyatt, Troop E  
Corporal Jason A. Ashby, Q/DDCC  
Corporal Bryan S. Silverthorn, Troop I  
Corporal Paul V.J. Volkmer, Troop I  
Sergeant Jason L. Decker, Troop C  
Sergeant Douglas P. Little, Troop H  
Sergeant Joseph D. Oughton, Q/DDCC  
Sergeant Joseph A. Veasman, Troop F

**Matilda "Tillie" Sonnen Civilian Of The Year**  
Temporary Building & Grounds Maintenance I Linda S. Benyo, Troop G

**Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year**  
Sergeant Jeremy L. Weadon, Q/DDCC

**Valor Award**  
Trooper Matthew R. Cook, Troop D

## Congratulations to the recipients of 2019 and 2020 awards.



*The recipients observed social distancing while waiting to accept their awards.*

# How DID They Do That?

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

Our employees are truly the face of our agency. What is more recognizable than the emblem on our uniforms or polo shirts? Not much. What about that which is not easily seen? For every event hosted by the Patrol—a recruit graduation, an awards ceremony, a Leadership in Police Organizations course, a Youth Academy, the State Fair detail—there are employees quietly planning, organizing, and making sure there is a successful conclusion to said plan.

For the awards ceremony, staff designated principal assistants worked closely with Mrs. Sarah Weadon, executive director of the MASTERS, for a

year to plan the event. The various components sent in nominations, and the Patrol awards committee determined award recipients. Public Information and Education Division employees then handled the Facebook live preparations and created awards, certificates, a program, and speaker's notes. Employees arrived early for the event to make sure the room was set up, awards displayed, and the necessary technology in place. Chairs in the room were placed six feet apart with programs on the seats and name tags affixed to the back, so the recipients would sit and thus walk



Social Media Specialist Meghan Basinger (Q/PIED) managed the live feed during the awards ceremony.



Award recipients stood respectfully during the video honoring the Patrol's 31 heroes who died in the line of duty.

to the stage, in the correct order. During the event, our photographer was taking pictures and our multimedia unit operated video cameras while our social media specialist oversaw the FB live.

So, high fives to all the employees whose work isn't always seen. The Academy kitchen, clerical employees throughout the agency, building and grounds maintenance, automotive technicians, and a slew of others ... To all those who work hard behind the scenes: *Thank You!*

## Congratulations On Your Retirement!

**Jerry L. Goans**  
Chief Technician  
Q/CommD

*Retired April 1, 2021.  
29 years, six months  
of dedicated service.*



**J. Scott Graue**  
Corporal  
Troop C

*Retired April 1, 2021.  
22 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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**F. Keith Mathis**  
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II  
Troop I

*Retired April 1, 2021.  
13 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*



**Pat A. Boyer**  
DE III  
Troop C

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
18 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*

**Cathy F. Chandler**  
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II  
Troop I

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
11 years, five months  
of dedicated service.*



**Reid T. Fessler**  
Corporal  
Troop B

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
23 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*



**Chris J. Harris**  
Lieutenant  
Troop F

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
32 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*



**Kristi K. Newman**  
Special Asst.  
Q/FOB

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
20 years of dedicated service.*



**Jesie C. Phillips**  
Corporal  
Q/GD

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
27 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*



**Rhonda L.  
Zeilinger**  
Lab. Evid. Tech. II  
Q/CLD

*Retired May 1, 2021.  
15 years of dedicated service.*



# The MASTERS' Corner ...

By Exec. Dir. Sarah Weadon,  
the MASTERS

Please join me in congratulating the 2021-2022 Board of Directors and Officers of the MASTERS, voted into service at our annual meeting April 10, 2021.

Mr. Tom Drury (C) – President  
Mr. Jeff Bram (H) – Vice President  
Ms. Judy Braschler (E) – Secretary  
Ret. Sergeant Russ Kennison (B) – Treasurer  
Ret. Colonel James Keathley,  
Exec. Advisor  
Mr. Kevin Zoellner (Q)  
Mr. Doug Mitchell (A)  
Mr. Kurt Marquart (A)  
Ret. Lieutenant Sid Conklin (B)  
Mr. Doug Weible (C)  
Mr. Jamie Holstein (D)  
Ret. Colonel Ron Replogle (D)  
Mr. Doug Libla, (E)  
Dr. Wes Stricker (F)  
Mr. Rob Dallmeyer III (F)  
Brigadier General Mike Pace (G)  
Ret. Captain Mark Inman (G)  
Ret. Captain Johnnie Hoggatt (H)  
Ms. Lynn Wallis (I)  
Mr. Gary Klossner (I)

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to extend our appreciation to the following people who have acquired lifetime membership in the MASTERS.

## 2019 Lifetime Members

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Maurer  
Ret. Sergeant and Mrs. D. Scott Nace

## 2020 Lifetime Members

Mrs. Karen Hall  
Brigadier General & Mrs.  
Michael B. Pace  
Ret. Lieutenant and Mrs.  
Elbert L. Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rutledge  
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Black  
2021 Lifetime Members  
Mr. Ben Alcorn  
Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Workman Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Matlock

# Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

## 50 years ago

*May 1971* — Driver Examiner Fount Foushee (A) was preparing to give a driving test to a middle-aged lady at the Grandview Driver Examination Station when she made an unusual request. She asked him if he would remove his uniform while giving the test. DE Foushee explained to her that it would be impossible to do this as he did not have anything else to wear. She remarked that this would not frighten her nearly as much as the uniform did.

## 40 years ago

*June 1981* — Beginning June 1, training for computer terminal personnel moved to the troop level. The chief operator at each troop assigned a person or persons to train computer terminal personnel within their area. This change was necessary due to the increasing number of departments joining the MULES system. In addition to getting important training to new operators, this change promoted relationships between Patrol communications personnel and their counterparts from other agencies.

## 30 years ago

*May 1991* — The first Patrol awards banquet took place. One story told about a report of a “possible deceased subject lying along the shoulder of Interstate 55.” Corporal Tom E. Burger, Trooper George A. Hayden, and Trooper Kevin W. Steele responded. The man, thought to be in his 30s, was found face down and unable to speak. An ambulance was called and he was transported to the hospital. A hospital identification bracelet found in his pocket indicated the man had been released two days prior after being hospitalized for an alcohol-related illness. A hospital lab technician tested his blood alcohol level three times because he couldn’t believe the result: 0.49 percent alcohol.

## 20 years ago

*June 2001* — Trooper Gary L. Braden (D) and Chief CVO J. David Brooks (D) were working together on Interstate 44 and initiated a traffic stop on a motor home. After speaking with the passenger and driver, Tpr. Braden asked for and received consent to search the vehicle. He found and seized 213 pounds of cocaine. Eleven Crime Laboratory employees accepted a Missouri House of Representatives resolution for their work identifying the remains of Gov. Mel Carnahan, his son Roger Carnahan, and aide Christopher Sifford, who were killed in a plane crash. Thirty-eight Patrol employees accepted awards at the 11th annual banquet.

## 10 years ago

*May/June 2011* — The Patrol honored 29 employees at the annual awards ceremony. Then-Sergeant Steven V. Wilhoit (Q/DDCC), they current commanding officer of Troop A, sang the national anthem. Trooper Don L. Doza (F), Trooper Justin D. Piccinino (G), and Sergeant Tim D. Peters (I) accepted Valor Awards.

# Communications Vehicles Enhance Response

*By Asst. Chief Oper. Todd M. Cooper (D)*

For several years, the Troop D SWAT team did not have a dedicated vehicle equipped to manage radio communications during callouts or other events. In early 2018, Lt. Brad S. Bearden (D), Chief Tech. James S. Adkins (Q/CommD), Comm. Oper. III Gerald D. Leigh (D), and Asst. Chief Oper. Todd M. Cooper (D) began to discuss what operational capabilities a SWAT vehicle would need to better serve the needs of the team. Troop D's team eventually obtained a Ford Explorer from Fleet and Facilities. The Explorer offers several advantages. It is smaller than the cargo truck SWAT had used previously, has all-wheel drive, and is inconspicuous enough not to draw a lot of attention during a response.

The front seat operating position is configured like a Patrol car with a Motorola APX-7000 MOSWIN radio and a Kenwood NX-5700 radio for VHF low band and VHF high band communications. The Kenwood radios can be programmed to almost any public safety frequency or talk group, digital or analog, thus providing excellent radio interoperability. The MOSWIN radios provide radio communications within the Patrol and on local, regional, and statewide interoperability channels.

The rear seat operating position has the same radio configuration with the addition of a second Motorola MOSWIN radio. Interoperability is further enhanced by an onboard ACU-1000 system, which provides an interface between several disparate radio systems, making joint operations much easier. The position is equipped with a laptop docking station for network connectivity. This provides the SWAT communications team with the ability to run CAD, MULES/NCIC, and other critical programs and connect to other information sources while deployed. The vehicle carries two portable tactical repeaters and a 20-foot radio mast which can be mounted on the vehicle's trailer hitch. Both systems are de-

*The SWAT team's radio console is configured like those used in patrol cars.*



*Comm. Oper. III Gerald Leigh connects cabling on the back of the radio console.*



signed to increase the range of radio communications on site.

This project started as an idea to help the Troop D SWAT team and grew into something much bigger. After the Troop D vehicle was completed, Chief Adkins and Comm. Oper. III Leigh brought it to GHQ to demonstrate its capabilities to the other SWAT team leaders. It was a hit! As a result, they built duplicate vehicles for the Troop A and Troop F teams and trained their SWAT operators on the equipment. These communications vehicles provide the tools needed for reliable communications during SWAT callouts, training, and other emergency events. They could also be deployed to remote locations during emergency events, such as natural disasters or search and rescue operations. If more robust communications equipment is needed, the easily deployable SWAT communications vehicles can provide



*Chief Tech. James Adkins tests functions on the rear operator position.*



*Chief Tech. James Adkins attaches antennas to the roof top of the SWAT vehicle.*

support while other specialty vehicles are still traveling to the impacted area.

Through the dedicated efforts of the Troop D team and other key Patrol personnel, the three new SWAT communication vehicles will serve SWAT teams for many years to come.

# Deaths

## Gary L. De Arman



Gary L. De Arman, 75, died on March 5, 2021, at Winchester Nursing in Bernie, MO. Mr. De Arman joined the Patrol in 1964 as a civilian. On June 1, 1967, he entered the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy as a member of the 33rd Recruit Class. He served in the Troop E, Poplar Bluff, MO, area, and retired as a sergeant on September 1, 2003. He is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, and many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife. To learn more about Mr. De Arman, visit the Mathis Funeral Home website at <https://www.mathisfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Gary-De-Arman?obId=20178194>. The Patrol family expresses its sincerest condolences to the De Arman family.

## David M. Barnhart



David M. Barnhart, 74, of Carthage, MO, died March 11, 2021, at his home. After high school, he

served in the United States Air Force in England, Scotland, Ethiopia, Korea, and Vietnam. He married the love of his life, Elaine Gilliam, on August 10, 1970. David was employed as a commercial vehicle officer with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He retired as a chief commercial vehicle officer after 39 years of dedicated service. David is survived by his wife of 50 years, Elaine Barnhart, three sons, seven grandchildren, and many extended family and friends. To learn more about David, visit the Knell Mortuary website at <https://www.knellmortuary.com/obituaries/David-Murel-Barnhart?obId=20285956#/celebrationWall>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Barnhart family.

## Afton L. Ware



Afton L. Ware, 87, of Highlandville, MO, died Saturday, April 3, 2021. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 until 1956. He worked at Eagle Picher in Joplin, MO, where he developed new systems related to silver mining. He then worked in the laboratory at Frisco Railroad before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a forensic chemist in the Crime Laboratory at General Headquarters, Jefferson City, MO. This was in 1962, and he was the first civilian chemist hired by the Patrol. He retired as a criminalist supervisor after 35 years of dedicated service. While he worked for the Patrol, Afton became a "fel-

low" in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and was a member of Midwest Association of Forensic Sciences. He became a founding member of Clandestine Laboratory Associates. Afton is survived by his wife, Judy, two sons, a granddaughter, and extended family and friends. For more information about Afton, visit the Adams Funeral Home at <https://www.adamsfuneralhome.net/obituaries/Afton-Ware?obId=20621861#/celebrationWall>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Ware family.

## Stephen A. Muncy



Stephen A. Muncy, 68, of Florissant, MO, died Saturday, April 17, 2021. After graduating from Hazelwood Senior High School in 1971, Mr. Muncy served in the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged in June 1977. He joined the Patrol as a driver examiner assigned to Troop C, North St. Louis County and North St. Louis city areas on November 1, 1977. In January 1979, Mr. Muncy moved to motor vehicle inspection, continuing to serve in the same area. He was assigned to the school bus inspections and trained new inspectors. He also worked many hours setting up new emissions inspection stations in St. Louis area, which were operational January 1, 1984. In 1990, Mr. Muncy attended training

*Continued on the next page.*

# Deaths

## – Muncy

*Continued from page 16.*

regarding air pollution control systems and began supervising the new Quality Control Center for MVI safety and emission complaints. He also made time to assist the major crash investigation team with inspections for crash investigations. Mr. Muncy retired on August 1, 2004, as a motor vehicle inspector supervisor after almost 26 years of dedicated service. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Muncy family.

## E. Dean Green



E. Dean Green, 93, formerly of St. Joseph, died Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, MO. Dean served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Campaign. He was appointed to the Missouri State Highway Patrol on October 4, 1953, as a member of the 14th Recruit Class. After graduating, he was assigned to Troop H, St. Joseph, where he worked his entire career. Dean was promoted to sergeant in 1965. During his career, he served as a motorcycle officer, zone supervisor, and desk sergeant. According to his retirement article, Dean did not take a single day of sick leave his entire career. He retired as a sergeant after 34 years of service. Dean is survived by

his daughters, granddaughters, several great-grandchildren, and additional family members. His wishes were that memorial contributions be made to the Moila Shrine Temple Transportation Fund. Visit the Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel website for more information: <https://www.heatonbowmansmith.com/obituary/dean-green>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Green family.

## Jerrold D. Brooks



Jerrold D. Brooks, 63, of the Fair Grove, MO, area, died Thursday, April 22, 2021. David joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a commercial vehicle inspector in January 1979. He was assigned to the weigh station in Troop D, Strafford, MO. He later transferred to the portable scale unit where he worked as a commercial vehicle officer. During his career, David served as a firearms instructor and was involved in drug interdiction. He was instrumental in the seizure of over 100,000 pounds of marijuana, approximately 1,000 pounds of cocaine, and \$1.5 million in cash. His expertise in the interdiction field provided him an opportunity to serve as an instructor for El Paso Intelligence Center and the Drug Interdiction Assistance Program to train other law enforce-

ment officers from around the world. David retired as a chief commercial vehicle officer after 32 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Linda, two sons, one grandson, and a host of relatives and friends. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the 4-H Shooting Sports Foundation or Alzheimer's Association in care of Fraker Funeral Home Inc., P.O. Box 85, Marshfield, MO 65706. For a complete obituary, visit the Fraker Funeral Home Inc. website at <https://www.frakerfuneralhome.com/news/david-brooks>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Brooks family.

## Jerry K. Liley



Jerry K. Liley, 78, of Holts Summit, MO, died Friday, April 23, 2021. Jerry was appointed to the Missouri State Highway Patrol on June 1, 1967, as a member of the 33rd Recruit Class. After graduation, he was assigned to Troop F, Callaway County, where he spent most of his career as a road officer. The last two years of active duty, he supervised Troop F's Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit. Jerry retired as a sergeant on September 1, 1994, after 27 years of dedicated service. He is survived by his wife, Mary, additional family, and friends. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Liley family.

# Deaths

## Clarence E. "Mel" Fisher



Clarence E. "Mel" Fisher, 86, of Warrensburg, MO, died Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg. After graduating from Wentworth Military Acad-

emy, he served in the U.S. Army from 1954-56. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1958 with a degree in journalism. He earned his Master of Business Administration majoring in public administration in 1970 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1973 and the FBI Executive Institute in 1989. Mel joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on August 3, 1958 as part of the 18th Recruit Class. He was appointed colonel on April 26, 1989. Under his leadership, the Patrol became only the 10th state patrol/police to achieve accreditation through CALEA. Additional highlights include: The Crime Laboratory was expanded to include DNA testing; Automated Fingerprint Identification System became operational; drug interdiction and commercial vehicle enforcement program

received national recognition; and the Patrol developed an emergency vehicle operations course for pursuit driving training. As colonel, Mel instituted a physical standards program, peer counseling program, and created the Professional Standards Unit (now division). After 35 years of service, he retired on August 31, 1993.

Mel is survived by his wife, Carol "Jeanne" Fisher, two daughters, son, Sergeant Kevin M. Fisher (A), six grandchildren, and a great-grandson. Memorial contributions are suggested to the MASTERS, in care of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home. To learn more about Mel, visit the Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home website at <https://www.sweeneyphillipsholdren.com/obituary/clarence-mel-fisher>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Fisher family.

## Sympathy

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

Lt. Mike D. Lynch (E) - father  
Ret. CDL Exam. Aud. Linda J. Byrd - mother  
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Sprv. Don D. Linn (A) - brother  
Clerk Typist III Tena M. Von Thun (B) - father  
Sgt. Bill E. Oliver (Q/GD) - daughter  
Cpl. Rhonda M. Shanika-Croy (F) - father-in-law  
Ret. CVO Sprv. Jerry L. Frerking - brother  
Sgt. Jeff D. Fugett (D) - father  
Ret. Account Clerk III Esther L. Driskell (A) - husband  
Auto. Tech. III Daniel P. Smith (A) - mother  
DE Chief Nicole Stratman (I) - grandfather

CDL Exam. Mark R. Moore (C) - brother  
Ret. Capt. Bob J. Hagan - wife  
Sgt. Scott E. Rawson (Q/DDCC) - father-in-law  
Cpl. Levi E. Rawson (D) - grandfather  
Sgt. Travis D. Templemire (Q/DDCC) - grandfather-in-law  
Cpl. Kyle L. Knight (D) - grandfather  
Comm. Opera. II Michanne E. Mattson (F) - grandmother  
Lt. Michele L. Coon (E) - father  
Cpl. Coby G. Holzschuh (F) - father-in-law  
POST Program Coord. Dianna L. Neier (Q/TND) - mother  
Sgt. Brad D. Ussary (Q/DDCC) - sister

Tpr. Jason L. Sentman (G) - grandmother  
Comm. Oper. II Haley J. Sentman (I) - grandmother-in-law  
Cpl. Casey A. Jadwin (D) - father  
Chief DE Dennis W. Richardson (Q/DVSD) - mother  
Ret. Qual. Control Clerk Brenda S. Engelbrecht - mother  
Comm. Oper. II Traci M. Peetoom (H) - grandmother  
Comm. Oper. III April L. Warren (F) - father  
Chief Tech. Eric W. Presser (Q/CommD) - grandfather  
Ret. Cpl. Jim R. Barlow - mother  
Tpr. Chris E. Leach (E) - grandmother  
Sgt. Kevin M. Fisher (A) - father

“It appears to me that the vastness and complexity of today’s traffic accident [crash] problems apparently have not been borne home to enough people. All too often, a traffic death or injury occurs in a family before there is a full realization of the seriousness of the situation. I think that perhaps it boils down to a matter of attitude. The public has not yet reached the age of reason in driving. They have too much gambling instinct to put caution before personal convenience.”

— Colonel E.I. “Mike” Hockaday, in his “Traffic Safety--A Matter Of Public Attitude” speech to Missouri Peace Officer Association on February 20, 1967.

# ~ Thank You ~

*Thank you to all!*

April 18, 2021 marks one year since Mike (Sergeant Bracker) died unexpectedly. Words do not express the gratefulness and appreciation the entire Bracker family has for everyone, including the colonel and his staff, DDCC, Troop D personnel, Troop D Honor Guard, Members of the 74th Recruit Class, friends, colleagues, and all Patrol personnel/members. I cannot begin to list everything that has been done for the family in remembrance of Mike, but know every sentiment has been recognized and deeply appreciated. We attempted to thank everyone by a note, call, text or post. If we missed someone, my sincere apologies. We love you and thank you. Be safe!

*Ret. Lt. Dan S. Bracker and family.*



The entire Driskell family would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the kindness shown to us upon my husband Chuck’s passing. The presence of many Troop A officers and employees warmed our hearts beyond words!

*Ret. Account Clerk III Esther L. Driskell and family*

## Operation P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Scheduled During National Work Zone Safety Week, April 26-30, 2021

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

Operation P.R.O.T.E.C.T. (Patrol Response Operation To Enforcement of Construction zone Traffic) enforcement projects took place Monday, April 26, 2021, and Wednesday, April 28, 2021. The projects were part of a joint effort with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to raise awareness about work zone safety. Most of the enforcement projects lasted four hours. The results are in and show troopers made 217 vehicle stops, and issued 252 warnings and 159 citations for violations in work zones during this enforcement project. Operation P.R.O.T.E.C.T. also included one misdemeanor warrant arrest, 23 motorist assists, and one stolen vehicle recovery.

*Operation P.R.O.T.E.C.T took place in Troops A, C, D, E, and H on April 26 and April 28.*



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As part of the Safety & Education Center renovation, the Sgt. Benjamin O. Booth display has been updated recently. Visitors learn more about the events surrounding the Ultimate Sacrifice of the first trooper killed in the line of duty. The center is open and welcomes visitors 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday except state holidays. Come see what's happening!