

PATROL NEWS

September/October 2019

“Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”



“I learned a lot about the various careers. This camp gets you prepared for the Highway Patrol. It puts you in real-life situations you might have to face.”

— Cadet Zoey Dueser (Hometown, MO)

“It’s a life-changing experience.”

— Cadet Brittin Western
(Sikeston, MO)

Cover story on pages 10-11.

From the Staff ...

Major Vince S. Rice
Administrative Services Bureau



As a staff we know that affecting change is a process, especially in an organization steeped in tradition, such as the Patrol. Being willing to change something that we have “always done” is difficult and certainly does not go unnoticed. Shortly after I joined the Patrol, we transitioned to a new sidearm. Not only did we change platforms from a revolver to a semi-automatic, but we also changed to a .40-caliber, a round which just debuted a little over a year earlier. I can still remember the many discussions and colorful comments made at the time. Despite being able to carry many more rounds and reload more easily without the aid of the so-called “speed loader,” we were changing to a “plastic” gun unlike anything we had ever carried.

Though not a plastic gun decision, the recent modifications to our uniform policies allowing for the wearing of the Class A uniform year-round was momentous and not taken lightly. Effectively balancing our need to adapt with the times, and maintaining a consistent image while protecting our traditions was the task at hand. Over the past several years, we have discussed uniform modifications, appearance standards, and tattoos to an exhaustive end. Researching other state agencies’ policies, exploring military and societal trends in recruiting, as well as formal and informal surveys have been part of the decision-making process.

As with previous discussions on these topics, most reluctance revolved around maintaining our “uniform consistency” and our “traditions.” I can only imagine the discussions in 1986, when Colonel Howard Hoffman introduced what we now know as the Class B uniform, announcing that troopers would be wearing short-sleeve, open-collared shirts three months out of the year!

Clearly, no changes would be implemented that would detract from our uniform or our professional appearance ... our tradition. However, defending the rationale from the viewpoint of consistency proved more difficult. Members of staff recently participated in a ceremony attended by several Patrol employees. Most of us were wearing the Class B uniform, but there were also troopers wearing three versions of the class C uniform, driver examiners, communications operators, and commercial vehicle officers. All appropriate for their respective assignments? Yes. Professional in appearance? Yes. Consistent? No.

Ultimately, the public’s expectations helped drive the decision. The citizens we serve expect and deserve professional law enforcement services from competent employees. As the uniform variations listed above are common on any given day across the state, we believed the public cares much more about the professionalism of the person wearing our uniform, than what uniform that person happens to be wearing. With no changes to our uniforms or our appearance standards, maintaining a professional appearance, regardless of the uniform worn is how we maintain our “uniform consistency.” Coupled with the tremendous work our employees do every day supporting our mission serving the citizens of this state, I am confident our traditions remain secure.

Thank you for your service to the Patrol,

Vincent S. Rice

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Missouri State Highway Patrol

Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News

PATROL NEWS

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Social Media Snapshot



Then & Now

Followers enjoyed seeing this photo recreation post. A visitor to the page identified the officer in the top picture as A.F. (Slim) Closson, who retired as a major in 1979. The officer in the recent photo is Cpl. Jason Cornett, Troop D.

Cover

Instructors and cadets gathered for this photo at the 2019 Youth Academy held at Sunnyhill Adventures in Dittmer, MO.

Council Honors Troopers Gaines & Haley

By Sgt. Eric F. Brown, Troop B

On March 22, 2019, the Northeast Missouri Crisis Intervention Team Council hosted their first awards banquet at the Kirksville Moose Lodge to celebrate the start and progress of their team. The NEMO CIT Council works with local law enforcement agencies to better prepare them for responding to mental health crises. They have hosted four, 40-hour training classes in the Troop B area for members of multiple law enforcement agencies and other mental health partners in the area.

At the banquet, Trooper Trent J. Haley, Troop H, accepted the "Rising Star" award. On March 25, 2018, Tpr. Haley assisted the Macon County Sheriff's Office and other members of the Patrol with an armed, intoxicated person who was threatening suicide after crashing his vehicle. Tpr. Haley established communication with the subject, and convinced him to walk out of the woods and put his firearm down. The individual was placed into custody,

thus ending a potentially violent encounter.

Trooper Graydon L. Gaines was given the "In The Trenches" award for utilizing his CIT Council training during an incident on May 31, 2019, while assisting the Adair County Sheriff's Office with a distraught veteran who was threatening suicide. Tpr. Gaines began communicating with the distraught veteran while another officer was able to contact a counselor for additional help. Tpr. Gaines eased some of the veteran's concerns, thus ending the incident peacefully and getting the veteran assistance he needed. Tpr. Gaines was unable to attend the banquet, because he was attending out-of-state training. However, his wife, Ashley, and their daughter, Mackinlee, accepted the award on his behalf.



Tpr. Trent Haley, Troop H, accepted the "Rising Star" award (l) at the NEMO CIT Council event, while Mrs. Ashley Gaines (and Mackinlee) accepted the "In The Trenches" award on behalf of her husband, Tpr. Graydon Gaines, Troop H.

Moberly Optimists Honor Tpr. Kindle

By Sgt. Eric F. Brown, Troop B

On May 15, 2019, the Moberly Optimist Club hosted their annual Respect for Law Enforcement Banquet. Trooper Keegan E. Kindle, Troop B, was honored as the Officer of the Year for the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Members from the Moberly Police Department, Randolph County Sheriff's Office, and the Missouri Department of Corrections also accepted Officer of the Year awards. Moberly Mayor Jerry Jeffrey declared May 15 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Sergeant Nick D. Berry accepted a framed copy of the proclamation and it is proudly displayed in the zone office for Monroe and Randolph counties. Colonel Eric T. Olson served as the keynote speaker for the banquet. Thank you to the Moberly Optimist Club and the city of Moberly for their support of the law enforcement community. Congratulations, Tpr. Kindle!



Tpr. Keegan Kindle, Troop B, Col. Eric Olson, and Sgt. Nick Berry, Troop B, pause for a photo after the award presentation.

Presentation Takes 1st At USEOW

By Capt. John J. Hotz, Q/PIED

Sergeant Shawn M. Griggs, Q/DDCC, and I represented the Patrol at the 52nd Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop in June 2019. The Texas Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol Division served as hosts for the conference. This conference is designed specifically for networking and sharing presenting materials among state patrol and state police safety education officers.

This year, Sgt. Griggs presented a crime scene investigation class for children and earned first place in the public safety category. The program was created by Sgt. Griggs and Sgt. Darrin R. Haslag, Q/DDCC. The Patrol also took third place in the radio PSA competition for their PSA about what to do if you encounter dynamite or other explosives on your property. Congratulations to Sgt. Griggs for an excellent presentation and to the MultiMedia Unit for their top-notch work on the PSA!

(center) Sgt. Shawn Griggs, Q/DDCC, holds his first place trophy, with Lt. Jason I Reyes standing on the left and Lt. Johnny Hernandez on the right.



Troopers Enjoy Visit To Chiefs Training

By Troop H

Members of the Patrol accompanied Governor Michael and First Lady Teresa Parson to St. Joseph, MO, for a visit to the Kansas City Chiefs training camp. Three officers from the local zone, Sergeant Travis Williams, Trooper Kaleb Jeffers, and Trooper Logan McDaniel, assisted with providing security prior to his arrival. Lt. Shane Sims, Lt. Mark Ott, and Lt. D.J. Hedrick provided transportation from the airport for the governor, his wife, and their team. The Governor's Security Division's team was also present.

"I watched as Chiefs Coach Andy Reid welcomed a young boy, Hayden, and his parents, who the governor had brought with him to visit," said Lt. Hedrick. "Hayden lost his right leg to cancer and his wish was to meet Chiefs Quarterback and NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes. Gov. Parson, Coach Andy Reid, and the players (including Patrick Mahomes) made Hayden's wish come true. Everyone was so



L to r: Troop H members Tpr. Logan McDaniel, Lt. D.J. Hedrick, Lt. Mark Ott, Sgt. Travis Williams, Lt. Shane Sims, and Tpr. Kaleb Jeffers snapped this photo with KC Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes while the team was in St. Joseph for training camp.

sincere and treated Hayden like their own MVP. It was nice to witness the huge smile on Hayden's face as he was taking pictures with Governor Parson, Big Red, and other players."

Troop H Lieutenants Shane Sims, Mark Ott, and D.J. Hedrick also enjoyed visiting with Coach Andy Reid.

Students Experience Government In Action

By Sgt. Eric F. Brown, Troop B

The American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State welcomed 757 young women who were between their junior year and senior year in high school to the program from June 21-28, 2019. The program takes place each year at the university of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO. During their week at Girls State, the delegates participated in a week of "government in action." They were assigned to live in one of 21 "cities," with two cities making a county. These young women formed a complete government, modeled after the state of Missouri, from the municipal to the state level. The delegates learned about all aspects of government, including respect for our flag, patriotism, and the history of our country.

During their week at Girls State, the delegates chose to attend one of seven schools of instruction. The law enforcement school of instruction was taught by myself and Trooper Mayella Barron, Troop G. This year's law enforcement school included 159 participants, with 42 of them being ap-

pointed as Missouri Girls State troopers by the cities they "lived in." During their week of class, they learned about numerous topics such as women in law enforcement, drug and alcohol abuse, and use of force. In addition to the classroom training, they saw a canine presentation and the Aircraft Division flew a helicopter to the campus of the University of Central Missouri.

Each year, the newly elected Missouri Girls State governor appoints one of the 42 troopers to be the superintendent of the Missouri Girls State Highway Patrol for the following year. This year's superintendent was Courtney Wille, of Warrensburg. Courtney attended Girls State as a delegate in 2018, and was selected to be one of her city's two troopers. Courtney said when she came to Girls State as a delegate, she was nervous she would not "fit in" and be surrounded by other girls who were "smarter than me." She said that during her week as a trooper she learned a lot about herself and about her natural leadership tendencies. In addition to learning about

her strengths, she said the classes and seminars taught her useful information she can apply to everyday scenarios.

Courtney said returning as the superintendent helped her see the lessons learned from the previous year from the point of view of a leader and supervisor. She stated one of the biggest things she learned was the importance of hard work and dedication.

"For example, I learned someone is always looking to take your spot," said Courtney. "Whether that be when you get a leadership position at work, or simply a starting spot on a basketball team. There will always be somebody right on your heels who is just as qualified as you. Taking full advantage of the opportunities you are given is essential."

Missouri Girls State provides the Missouri State Highway Patrol a unique opportunity to have direct contact with many young women who are the future leaders in their communities and our state.



Sgt. Eric Brown (left), Troop B, and Tpr. Mayella Barron, Troop G, are pictured with the 2019 Missouri Girls State Patrol.



Missouri Girls State
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI, WARRENSBURG, MO JUNE 23-29, 2019



Patrol News Publication Policy

The *Patrol News* is the employee publication of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. It is published bi-monthly by the Highway Patrol's Public Information and Education Division for distribution at no cost to all Patrol employees and retirees, members of The MASTERS, and those approved by the managing editor. Issues are placed on the Patrol's website, also. All submissions of articles or photographs should be directed to the editor.

The *Patrol News*'s managing editor has final responsibility for all articles and photographs published in the *Patrol News*. The managing editor shall make the determination whether an article submitted meets the criteria for publication. The *Patrol News*'s editor reserves the right to edit any submission.

Articles submitted for publication should relate directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, its mission of public safety, or its employees. Articles should be of general interest and understanding to all Patrol employees. Articles should be limited to no more than 2,000 words. Longer articles must be approved by the *Patrol News* editor. Related photographs are encouraged with all submissions.

The author of an article must be identified. Requests for an author's name to be withheld will be taken under consideration by the managing editor. Request should be made to the editor if the author desires photographs to be returned; otherwise, all photographs and artwork become the property of the Public Information and Education Division.

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Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

45 years ago

September 1974 — The cover heralded the arrival of Patricia R. Wright and Bridget A. Cronin to the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy, the first women to enter (and graduate from) training and become troopers. In the photo, Captain James Dickson is welcoming them.

35 years ago

October 1984— Sergeant James B. Kelems and Cpl. James L. Carter, Troop C, were working radar on Interstate 70 between O'Fallon, MO, and Wentzville, MO. Sgt. Kelems clocked a brown Plymouth westbound traveling 87 mph, but heavy traffic prevented him from crossing the median to stop the subject. Twenty minutes later, he checked the same car eastbound traveling 92 mph and again was unable to cross the median to stop the vehicle. He informed Cpl. Carter, who stopped the car at the O'Fallon interchange. The driver was told about both instances and he replied, "I only went to Wentzville to get a cup of coffee." Cpl. Carter issued two summonses for exceeding the speed limit. This might have been the most expensive cup of coffee this driver ever purchased.

25 years ago

September 1994— This issue contained a feature on the 1994 Missouri State Fair, where Otto celebrated his 25th year anniversary. The Quarter Century Club announced its fall meeting. The Civilian Council Meeting notes were shared with readers. The issue included a surprising number of retirement articles—25.

15 years ago

September/October 2004 — The 82nd Recruit Class graduated. The Patrol commissioned 13 commercial vehicle officers. Stories also covered Boys State, Girls State, and Special Olympics. One article proclaimed Troop B the champions of the 18th Annual Patrol Softball Tournament. Retired Sergeant Hubert Looney was one of a few Americans to carry the Olympic Torch while it moved through the country on its way to Athens, Greece, for the 2004 Summer Games. Ret. Sgt. Looney ran for a little over a quarter of a mile on Grand Avenue in St. Louis, MO, before passing the torch to the next runner.

Sgt. Oliver Named MPOA Officer of the Year

By Lt. Ed A. Aylward, Q/GD

On June 21, 2019, Sergeant Bill E. Oliver, Q/GD, accepted the Missouri Peace Officers Association's 2019 Hank Johnson Officer of the Year award in Jefferson City.

Sgt. Oliver has been a member of the Patrol since July 1, 1997. His dedication to both law enforcement and his community have been ever-present throughout his career. This directly attributed to his selection as the recipient of the MPOA's Officer of the Year award. For the previous three years, Sgt. Oliver has provided Intruder Training for Work Place Violence to civilian employees of Troops A, H, and the Missouri Gaming Commission. In addition to providing training to civilian employees, Sgt. Oliver has coordinated Active Threat/Shooter training within the Gaming Division, in both Eastern and Western districts, for the last four years. He also assists other departments with Active Threat/Shooter training, and stays proficient in all current "best practices."

Sgt. Oliver's off-duty work with his church makes him a positive influence within his community and an outstanding representative of law enforcement. He has been a dedicated youth leader in his church for the last 18 years. Each year, he assists with a week-long vacation Bible school. Additionally, he spends one week a year instructing and mentoring police officers in Costa Rica through his church outreach program. Sgt. Oliver spends much of his time mentoring and ministering to the youth of his community through children's ministries. Sgt. Oliver's faith drives him both on and off duty.

It is officers like Sgt. Oliver who bring life to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's core values and continue the tradition of "ladies and gentlemen who enforce the law" which has become the foundation of the agency's reputation. The MPOA Officer of the Year award recognizes his well-balanced professional and personal traits inspiring him to put service to community above self.



Pictured are (front row, l to r) Sgt. Bill Oliver, Q/GD, Ty Oliver, Reyna Oliver, Maizee Oliver, Mrs. Kaila Oliver, Major Sarah Eberhard, Q/CIB; (back row, l to r) Capt. Larry Plunkett and Col. Eric Olson.

The Henry "Hank" Johnson Officer of the Year award is named for Officer Henry "Hank" Johnson, a Kansas City, MO, police officer who was the department's first mounted traffic control officer in 1924, riding a horse as part of his daily duties. With no formal law enforcement training, Johnson rose through the ranks and became the head of the department's Traffic Control Unit. After seeing combat action in WWII, he returned to Kansas City

and rose to the rank of chief of police. Johnson retired as chief in 1956, and continued to serve the Missouri Police Officers Association for over 30 years as the organization's secretary/treasurer. The Hank Johnson Officer of the Year award is given annually to a full-time or part-time law enforcement officer for exceptional performance. It may involve extraordinary valor, outstanding investigative work, or community relations.



By Director Catherine F. Brown, Q/FFD

A major project began at General Headquarters in early August: Parking/driving lanes not already replaced are in that process. We anticipate the project to be completed in mid-January 2020. The Fleet and Facilities Division will be working closely with this contractor and the contractor that is awarded the DNA building extension project at the Annex. These two large projects require extensive coordination in an effort to ensure both contractors are able to work and stay on schedule. Most importantly, we are diligently working to ensure we take the least disruptive approach possible for employees and visitors. (The Annex project—DNA building extension—was out for bid at press time. It is hoped OA awards the project soon, allowing construction to begin in late September/early October. Its completion date is early October 2020.)

Tpr. Ebersold Accepts DPS Employee Of The Month

By Sgt. Jake P. Angle, Troop H

"I just took advantage of the opportunity and was able to remove the gun safely." These were the words of Trooper Keaton L. Ebersold, Troop H, who was selected as the June 2019 DPS Sworn Employee of the Month.

The award stems from an incident on January 22, 2019. At 12:45 p.m. that day, Troop H communications advised Tpr. Ebersold of a possible rolling domestic in a tractor trailer on Interstate 29 in Atchison County, MO. While Tpr. Ebersold was attempting to locate the tractor trailer, Troop H advised that a female was holding the male truck driver hostage at gunpoint.

Tpr. Ebersold observed Rock Port Police Chief S. Sherwood stopping the tractor trailer on Interstate 29. He then activated his emergency equipment and overtook the tractor trailer. Tpr. Ebersold exited his patrol vehicle and observed the truck driver exit the driver's door and run toward him and Chief Sherwood while holding his hands up. The driver stated a female was still in the cab and she had a gun. He then went on to say the female had been involved in a vehicle crash in Holt County, MO. When truck driver stopped to assist, he was forced at gunpoint to drive north on Interstate 29.

Tpr. Ebersold observed the suspect in the sleeper berth of the tractor trailer. He observed the suspect's left arm wrapped around a small child, who was later identified as the suspect's three-year-old daughter. Tpr. Ebersold and Chief Sherwood attempted to communicate with the suspect and requested she roll down the windows. Tpr. Ebersold observed the suspect holding an orange flare gun in her right hand. The hammer of the flare gun was cocked to the rear and her finger was on the trigger. The suspect was pointing the muzzle of the flare gun at her daughter's head.

Tpr. Ebersold utilized a rescue tool to break the passenger side window of the tractor trailer. Chief Sherwood broke out the driver's side window. Tpr.



DPS Deputy Director Kenny Jones presents the June 2019 DPS Sworn Employee of the Month award to Tpr. Keaton Ebersold, Troop H.

Ebersold attempted to speak with the suspect, but she was unresponsive. He then opened the passenger door and climbed onto the steps of the tractor trailer. While he attempted to speak with her, the suspect pointed the flare gun at Tpr. Ebersold. At that time, he stepped down one step and took cover, but continued speaking with the suspect. When the suspect pointed the muzzle of the flare gun back to her daughter's head, the trooper climbed into the cab of the tractor trailer.

Tpr. Ebersold handed the suspect a cellular phone, so she could call her mother. She dropped the phone and pointed the flare gun at Tpr. Ebersold's face. He attempted to calm the suspect and she pointed the flare gun back at her daughter's head.

While Chief Sherwood spoke to the suspect, she lowered the muzzle of the flare gun from her daughter's head, to the child's right shoulder. Without regard for his safety, Tpr. Ebersold lunged toward the suspect, wrapping his left hand around the hammer of the flare gun and locking the hammer in place. Tpr. Ebersold grabbed around the barrel of the gun with his right hand and twisted the muzzle, so the muzzle was pointing away from the child and toward the rear of the

sleeper berth. He then twisted the flare gun away from the suspect's palm and gained control of the flare gun. The suspect attempted to regain control of the flare gun by grabbing Tpr. Ebersold's right arm. He ripped his arm away from the suspect's grasp and threw the flare gun out the passenger side door.

After a lengthy struggle, the child was safely removed from the vehicle and the female was taken into custody. The child was taken into protective custody and later released to the Department of Family and Children Services. The flare gun was loaded with a 12-gauge flare.

Colonel Eric T. Olson, superintendent of the Patrol, congratulated Tpr. Ebersold and presented him with a superintendent's challenge coin. DPS Deputy Director Kenny Jones presented Tpr. Ebersold with his June 2019 DPS Sworn Employee of the Month award.

"Tpr. Ebersold is a resourceful, committed officer who took decisive action to resolve a situation that could have had a much different outcome," said Lt. Mark A. Ott, Troop H. "Tpr. Ebersold unselfishly put himself in harms way and his actions are a testament to his character."

MSTHP Youth Academy: A

By Sgt. D. Brad Haggett, Q/RCOD

During June and July this summer, the Recruiting and Community Outreach Division hosted two Youth Academy programs. The first was June 3-7, at Eagle Sky of the Ozarks, in Patterson, MO, which is in Troop E's area. The second academy took place July 8-12, at Sunnyhill Adventures, in Dittmer, MO, which falls in Troop C's area. Between the two locations, 66 youth ages 16-18 from all over the state participated in the academies. In addition to the youth, 29 Patrol employees assisted with the programs. During each week, the youth were exposed to the various duties and careers available within the Patrol, both member and civilian.

The Youth Academy Program provides a unique hands-on experience for the students to learn the role of law enforcement officers in their communities. During both weeks, instructors created an environment that instilled

teamwork, discipline, and character building, and included activities that fostered leadership, the Patrol core values, and team building. One of the goals of the program was aimed at creating a better bond between youth, law enforcement, and the entire community.

"You learned to do more than you thought you were capable of. Never give up! This program confirmed my desire to become a law enforcement officer."

— Cadet Rachel Schlager (Cascade, MO)

Crash Investigative Unit, and various civilian careers provided presentations on their duties and responsibilities to show the varied career opportunities within the agency. Cadets participated in physical fitness training, and drill and marching exercises. They learned about the Patrol's history, ethics, integrity, firearms safety, and use of force. The cadets also earned their CPR certification.

Team building and leadership activities included a 50-foot climbing tower, a 40-foot multilevel ropes course, a zip line, and a mud run obstacle course complete with a fire truck spraying cold water on the group. Ca-

Representatives from the marine operations, Gaming Division, Aircraft Division, commercial vehicle enforcement, the Major



Col. Eric Olson speaks with the cadets at Sunnyhill.

dets also enjoyed swimming, fishing, and team sports. The week's activities and training culminated on the final day with a mock traffic stop exercise where youth learned what officers face and experience when making enforcement contacts.

Another goal of the program was for the youth to meet and see law enforcement officers in a different setting, in an other-than-typical enforcement role. This program allowed the leaders to participate in the activities with, connect with, and learn about each participant.

"This Youth Academy solidified me to be a state trooper and to see what police officers deal with daily."

— Cadet Michael Tinsley Jr. (West Plains, MO)

"The most challenging part of the camp was PT; it motivated me to do more than I thought I could."

— Cadet Dannie Snethern (Poplar Bluff, MO)

The mud run course was a popular activity, albeit one requiring a bit of cleanup afterward.



"This camp helped me to branch out and be more open to talking to people. You learned teamwork to get the goal accomplished."

— Cadet Shanirah Murray (St. Louis, MO)

Life-Changing Experience

"It definitely shaped me in ways I didn't know it would. The camp staff were scary at first, but they are just normal people like us. We all go through the same things; they all have feelings and emotions the same as we do."

— Cadet Jakeil Hays (Columbia, MO)

The weeks ended with a graduation ceremony for each Youth Academy. At the Eagle Sky location, Major Vince S. Rice, Q/ASB, and Captain Ben C. Jones, Q/RCOD, were the guest speakers, and Class Commander David Fuller addressed the cadets. At Sunnyhill, Colonel Eric T. Olson and



The multi-level ropes course challenged some and delighted others. This experience encouraged participants to grow in self-confidence.

"If you succeed, you succeed as a team. If you fail, you fail as a team."

— Sunnyhill Youth Academy Class Commander/
Cadet Keeley Peters
(Hometown, MO)

mer camp, where Patrol employees served as the camp staff. Some of the youth may

funded by private donations and there is no cost for the youth to attend.

Major Rice were guest speakers, and Class Commander Keely Peters addressed to the cadets. Approximately 350 persons attended the two graduation events.

The best description of the Youth Academy Program is a Patrol boot camp combined with a typical sum-

not pursue a career in law enforcement, but they each learned something during the program they can apply in any aspect of life. The program is

"This was my second year—This program is definitely a life-changing experience. I was able to conquer my fears with the help and support of the team and the troopers. When you first see them in their uniforms, they are scary. But, when you get to know them, talk and interact with them, they are not that bad. They are fun people to talk to, just normal people."

— Cadet Alexander Anderson (Hometown, MO)



The cadets of the 2019 Youth Academy held at Eagle Sky of the Ozarks in Patterson, MO, are pictured with their instructors.

Truck Driver Saves Man From Burning Van

By Tpr. Sam D. Carpenter, Troop D

On July 8, 2019, Captain John M. Enderle, Troop D, presented an Honorary Trooper certificate to Mr. Jacky Bratton, of Springfield, MO, for saving the life of a man involved in a serious vehicle crash. The award was presented at Troop D Headquarters in Springfield.

On March 28, 2019, Troop D communications notified Trooper Mike L. Cary, Troop D, of an injury crash involving four vehicles on Interstate 44

near the 96-mile marker. A cow had wandered onto the westbound lanes and had been struck by four vehicles. Upon arriving at the crash scene, Tpr. Cary observed a white GMC Safari van had overturned onto the shoulder of the roadway and was engulfed in flames. Tpr. Cary learned Mr. Jacky Bratton, driving a 2007 Freightliner, had also struck the cow. While coming to a stop, Mr. Bratton observed the rear of the GMC van was burning and that someone inside the van was frantically trying to get out, but was unable to. The person was later identified as Timothy D. Cantrell, 60, of Springfield. Mr. Bratton immediately exited his Freightliner to assist Mr. Cantrell. He grabbed a hammer from his vehicle and ran over to the burning van. Mr. Bratton stated he could not observe Mr. Cantrell any longer due to the amount of smoke that had built up inside the van. Mr. Bratton used his hammer to break out the GMC's passenger side window. This allowed Mr. Cantrell to exit the burning GMC



Capt. John Enderle (r) congratulates Mr. Jacky Bratton, with (l to r) Lt. Scott Sater, Lt. Terry Potter, and Sgt. Jeff Fugett.

through the opening Mr. Bratton created. Mr. Cantrell crawled to safety and was rushed by ambulance to a hospital in Springfield. He was treated for severe burns to his hands and several parts of his body.

On April 17, 2019, KY3 News, in Springfield, MO, televised a news story on the events that occurred the evening of March 28. The news story showed Mr. Cantrell had been released, after nearly a month in Cox South Hospital recovering from his burns. Mr. Cantrell was tearing up while being interviewed, saying, "He (Mr. Bratton) risked his life to save me!" He further stated, "The heat and pressure had built up so intensely inside the van. I was literally breathing blue fire. So, I crawled the rest of the way (out of the van), and as soon as I got to safety, the van exploded."

"I am truly impressed, as well as gratified, by the actions Mr. Bratton took on scene of the motor vehicle crash," said Sergeant Jeff Fugett,

Troop D, who nominated Mr. Bratton for the award. "This level of involvement is all too uncommon these days, and significantly stood out to me, as well as the other first responders. I applaud Mr. Bratton for his quick response to save Mr. Cantrell from the burning van. His actions and involvement epitomize the high standards we expect of our employees, and he accordingly deserves the recognition he earned."

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

— Mark Twain

Citizen's Actions Helps LE Solve The Case!

By Sgt. Eric F. Brown, Troop B

On August 15, 2019, Lieutenant Steven V. Wilhoit, Q/DDCC, presented an Honorary Trooper certificate to Mr. Ryan Johnson, of Macon, MO. The certificate was presented to Mr. Johnson at the Chariton Valley Communications Corporate Headquarters in Macon, with his co-workers present. The Honorary Trooper certificate is presented to citizens who are nominated by a trooper for performing in an exemplary manner and under dangerous conditions to aid another person, or when they unselfishly give of themselves to assist troopers in the performance of their duties.

During the early morning hours of March 5, 2019, the Chariton Valley Wireless retail store in Salisbury, MO, was burglarized. Mr. Johnson, the Chariton Valley Wireless chief operating officer, was notified of the burglary. Shortly thereafter, he was contacted by an alarm company and notified of an alarm sounding at the Macon Chariton Valley Wireless Store. Mr. Johnson resides near the Macon store. He looked out the window of his residence and observed a silver F-150 pickup turning around in his driveway. Mr. Johnson was aware of numerous cellular telephone store burglaries involving a silver Ford F-150. Mr. Johnson quickly grabbed the keys to his vehicle and left his residence to follow the truck. He contacted local law enforcement by telephone and advised them about the incident and the location of the truck. The occupants of the truck were aware they were be-

ing followed and attempted to evade Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson followed the truck to the New Cambria area as local law enforcement officers began to converge there. As the law enforcement presence was increasing, the two occupants abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. They were not immediately apprehended.

A search of the vehicle revealed over 150 cellular telephones and tablets stolen from the Chariton Valley Wireless stores in Macon and Salisbury, MO. The phones and tablets have a retail value of approximately \$148,000. Due to this recovery, and the subsequent investigation, two suspects were identified and linked to over 50 burglaries of retail phone stores in a six-state region. In total, the two suspects were responsible for the

theft of over \$1 million worth of cellular phones and tablets. Both suspects were recently arrested in Kansas City, MO, and indicted for their crimes in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri.

Mr. Johnson's attentiveness and quick action on the morning of March 5, 2019, was paramount to the identification and subsequent indictment of the two suspects. Mr. Johnson acted selflessly and placed himself in a difficult situation. His actions quickly placed \$148,000 of merchandise back on the shelves of his employer and ended a crime spree. The Honorary Trooper certificate is a way for the Patrol to express appreciation to Mr. Johnson for his dedication to his employer and the safety of his community.



(1 to r) Lt. Nelson Elfrink, Troop B, Sgt. Eric Brown, Troop B, Lt. Steve Wilhoit, Q/DDCC, Mr. Ryan Johnson, and Sgt. Brad Ream, Q/DDCC, snapped a photo after the Honorary Trooper certificate presentation.

DPS Honors Cpl. Wunderlich

By Sgt. Clark P. Parrott, Troop E

On August 27, 2019, Corporal Blake D. Wunderlich was recognized as the August DPS Sworn Employee of the Month.

The award was the result of Cpl. Wunderlich's actions in October 2018. Cpl. Wunderlich was working with the Criminal Patrol Team, a group whose task is to investigate and interdict violent criminals, including gang members, who are often involved in dangerous confrontations with rival gang factions. These confrontations also endanger innocent bystanders. Cpl. Wunderlich was selected to be part of this team because of his success at looking beyond a traffic stop to make arrests and remove criminals from our streets.

His attention to detail, investigative abilities, and willingness to insert himself into dangerous situations to reduce violent crime resulted in his being recognized by DPS.

On Oct. 20, 2018, while patrolling in an area of Charleston, MO, Cpl. Wunderlich stopped a vehicle with four men inside. His suspicion of criminal activity led him to a search of the vehicle and the discovery of a stolen handgun, narcotics, and drug paraphernalia. All four vehicle occupants are suspected gang members; they were arrested for various offenses. One of them was indicted federally for a weapons offense.

Cpl. Wunderlich worked with the Charleston Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Violent Offender Task Force to further the investigation. The investigation is ongoing, but has already resulted in a second federal indictment against another man in the vehicle. Some of the individuals in the

vehicle had been involved in a recent homicide in East Cape Girardeau, IL, and were likely preparing for a retaliatory shooting. Cpl. Wunderlich's thoroughness in this case took a gun out of the hands of a convict and made our state a safer place.

Cpl. Wunderlich is one of many dedicated officers and employees we

have in Troop E. He is the second Troop E DPS Sworn Employee of the Month recipient we've had over the last couple of months. His award is yet another testament to the many hard-working, dedicated, and courageous employees we have here in Troop E.

Great job and congratulations, Blake, on a well-deserved award!



DPS Deputy Director Kenny Jones presents the August 2019 DPS Sworn Employee of the Month award to Cpl. Blake Wunderlich.



Col. Eric Olson congratulates Cpl. Blake Wunderlich, Troop E, and hands him a challenge coin.

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Terri K. Cole

Admin. Office
Support Asst.
Troop C

*Retired August 1, 2019.
19 years, 10 months
of dedicated service.*



Kevin L. Fender

Sergeant
Q/DDCC

*Retired August 1, 2019.
29 years, one month
of dedicated service.*



W. Wayne Friend

MVI III
Troop E

*Retired August 1, 2019.
16 years, seven months
of dedicated service.*



Gary E. Gundy

Trooper
Troop F

*Retired August 1, 2019.
28 years, 11 months
of dedicated service.*



Linda L. Keever

CJIS Tech. III
Q/CJISD

*Retired August 1, 2019.
19 years, four months
of dedicated service.*



Jeff A. Meyer

CVE Insp. Sprv. I
Troop A

*Retired August 1, 2019.
18 years, 11 months
of dedicated service.*



Roger A. Myers

Corporal
Troop D

*Retired August 1, 2019.
27 years, seven months
of dedicated service.*



Jay D. Applebury

Auto. Tech. III
Troop B

*Retired September 1, 2019.
24 years, six months
of dedicated service.*



Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Jeff L. Heath
Sergeant
Q/DDCC

*Retired September 1, 2019.
30 years, two months
of dedicated service.*



Bruce W. Houston
Sergeant
Q/DDCC

*Retired September 1, 2019.
32 years, two months
of dedicated service.*



Sherri D. Miller
Lab. Evid. Tech. II
Q/CLD

*Retired September 1, 2019.
30 years, five months
of dedicated service.*



Debbie G. Morton
Telecommunicator
Troop G

*Retired September 1, 2019.
22 years, nine months
of dedicated service.*



Kathy A. Shelledy
Clerk Typist III
Troop D

*Retired September 1, 2019.
15 years, seven months
of dedicated service.*



STATE FAIR: A MISSOURI TRADITION



Troopers keep watch over every aspect of the state fair.



Tpr. Sam Carpenter, Troop D, helps Otto-The Talking Car answer questions. This was Otto's 50th year at the fair.



The Patrol's various components help answer questions about the agency during the Missouri State Fair. Pictured are (l to r) CVO Sprv. I Rob Fichtner, Troop A, CVO II James Rector, Troop H, and Chief CVO Vonda Smith, Troop A.



Lt. Jason Pace, Q/RCOD, talks with a youngster at the 2019 Missouri State Fair.



Congratulations to the 2019 Missouri State Fair detail on a job well done!

Deaths

Gary E. Whitener



Gary Eugene Whitener, of Blue Springs, MO, died on July 20, 2019, at the age of 83. After high school, he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1954–1956. On October 19, 1957, Gary married the love of his life, Nancy Ann Nichols.

Gary applied for and was accepted to the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1960. After graduating from the Patrol Academy in 1961, Gary started his career at Troop D in Springfield, MO. During his career, he served as a sergeant in Troop D, lieutenant in Troop E, and captain at Troop I. Gary retired as a major assigned to General Headquarters in 1993, after 32 years of dedicated service. Gary is survived by his wife, two daughters, one son, six grandchildren, and many other family members. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Whitener Cemetery, c/o Susan Settle, P.O. Box 238, Marquand, MO, 63655; or The MASTERS, 5287 Hwy 67 North, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Whitener family. To learn more about Gary, visit the Follis and Sons Funeral Home website at <https://www.follisandsons-fh.com/obituary/gary-whitener>.

V. June Sullins



Vida June Sullins, 89, of Springfield, MO, died Wednesday, August 14, 2019. June graduated from high school and attended Teacher's College, both located in Springfield. She worked as a clerk typist at the Missouri State High-

way Patrol's Troop D, from November 1, 1961 until she retired.

She is survived by her son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous other relatives. June was preceded in death by the love of her life and husband of 70 years, Robert, her daughter, son-in-law, a great-granddaughter, and daughter-in-law.

Memorials may be made to King's Way United Methodist Church, 2401 South Lone Pine, Springfield, MO 65804, or the Alzheimer's Association, 3645 South Avenue, Springfield, MO 65807. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Sullins family. For more information about June, visit the Gorman-Scharpf Funeral Home Inc. website at <https://www.gormanscharpf.com/obituary/vida-june-sullins>.

Sympathy

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ret. Chief DE Ray F. Brown - wife | Sgt. Neil K. Johnson (A) - son |
| Ret. Special Asst. Cindy G. Evans - husband | Cpl. Andy L. Bryan (B) - mother |
| DE II Kelly A. Bench (A) - grandfather | Tpr. Marcus L. Schlieff (E) - grandfather |
| Tpr. Ashley E. Klempke (F) - grandmother | DE Sprv. Marilyn J. Thompson (E) - mother-in-law |
| Cpl. Mike F. Wyss (Q/GD) - stepson | DE III Melba C. Warren (C) - mother-in-law |
| Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II Dan A. Jansen (F) - grandfather | Tpr. Josey J. Long (D) - mother |
| Sgt. Kurt C. Merseal (Q/WPD) - father | Comm. Oper. III Jodi E. Brandt (A) - husband |
| Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II David M. Sturtz (Q/TWD) - father | Sgt. J. Todd Vermillion (D) - grandfather |
| Fiscal & Budgetary Analyst III Carla J. Siebeneck (Q/FFD) - mother-in-law | Asst. Dir. Tim R. Schlueter (Q/CJISD) - mother |
| | CJIS Program Mgr. Scott A. Schlueter (Q/CJISD) - mother |
| | Tpr. Jo A. Hilliard (Q/GD) - grandfather |

Death

Terry R. Kirtley



Terry Roy Kirtley, 41, of Union Star, MO, died Monday, August 12, 2019, at his home. He was born on May 15, 1978, in St. Joseph, MO, the son of Samuel and Marjorie (Parsons) Kirtley. On August 2, 2014, he married Lisa (Grishow) in King City, MO. She survives of the home.

Terry graduated from Union Star High School in 1997. He went on to work for Herzog in the railroad division, and later in building and grounds maintenance for the Missouri State Highway Patrol in Troop H, St. Joseph, MO. He was an avid John Deere collector, a known handyman, and enjoyed lending a hand to his community. He was a member of the Green

Valley Baptist Church in St. Joseph.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

In addition to his wife, Lisa, Terry is survived by his parents, Sam and Marge Kirtley, Union Star, MO; four stepchildren, whom he considered his own, Melissa (and her husband, Logan) Trickel, and Lane, Chad, and Bryton Potter; siblings, Rana (and her husband, Mark) Thygerson, Cindy (and her husband, Dale) Beasterfeld, Susann (and her husband, Paul) Buie, Dennis (and his wife, Nancy) Kirtley, and Michele (and her husband, Corey) Pendleton; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and four great nieces/nephews.

Terry was cremated under the direction of Roberson Funeral Home, King City, MO. The family held celebration of life service on Saturday, August 17, 2019, at Green Valley Baptist Church, St. Joseph. Memorials may be made in Terry's memory and directed toward his children's education fund in care of Roberson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 153, King City, MO 64463. Online condolences may be left at www.robersonfuneralhome.com.

The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Kirtley family.

Thank You

My family and I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy following the death of my mother-in-law, Donna Siebeneck. We would also like to thank all those who attended the visitation and funeral service. The thoughtfulness and support our family received is greatly appreciated and will be forever remembered.

*Sincerely,
Fis. & Budg. Analyst Carla
Siebeneck, Q/FFD*



We would like to say a big thank you for the generosity and support from our MSHP family. We are so humbled by the love and support we continue to receive for Kale and our family as he battles leukemia. He continues to respond well to the treatment and is pushing through like a champ. The encouragement we continue to receive from our army of supporters and the prayers being said for him make a huge difference in winning this battle. Thank you so much for being a part of our journey. We appreciate all the support more than we can express.

Cpl. Gerry L. West, Troop F, & family

“Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.”

— *Epicurus, philosopher*

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Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568

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On The Shelf ...

Ret. Sgt. James B. King Jr. recently published “Frozen Tears — The Fort Leonard Wood MP Murders” based on a 1977 case involving four teenagers who were kidnapped and attacked near and on Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Only one survived. JB was a trooper at that time and the first responder to the

call. He goes back in time to tell the story from the moment of the crime until the conviction of Military Police Game Warden Johnny Lee Thornton. From the first minutes after this attack was reported, the United States Army, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Army’s Criminal Investigation Command, and the United States At-

torney’s office worked together to bring the killer to justice. This book is a first-hand, comprehensive view of the investigation and makes for a riveting story!

This is JB’s fourth book, all of which are available through the Pularski County USA Tourism Bureau and Visitor Center. Order via their website visitpulaskicounty.org, call them at 1-877-858-8687, or contact JB via email: sheriff330ret@gmail.com.

