March | April 2025

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



from the STAFF



Major Ben Jones
Support Services Bureau

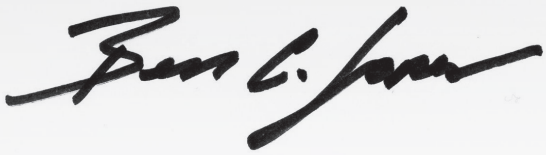
As the commander of the Support Services Bureau, I have the profound honor and privilege of leading a team of exceptional professionals who are instrumental in promoting public safety and fostering trust within our community. Our Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division exemplifies dedication and diligence, working tirelessly to uphold compliance and ensure safety within the realm of commercial transport. Their unwavering efforts not only protect the public from potential hazards but also strengthen the safety and efficiency of commercial transportation, which is vital to the well-being of our community and the success of our economy.

In the Driver & Vehicle Safety Division, our team is committed to maintaining high standards of road safety. They actively implement robust safety measures, carry out meticulous inspections, promote safe driving practices, and educate drivers on compliance and safety standards. These efforts collectively aim to reduce crashes and elevate the overall safety of our roadways. Their unwavering dedication to this vital mission is nothing short of exemplary.

Our Recruiting & Community Outreach Division (RCOD) remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen community ties while employing forward-thinking recruitment strategies. Through collaboration and innovation, they work tirelessly to attract top-tier talent, ensuring our team continues to deliver exceptional service and unwavering support to the public. Additionally, RCOD has elevated its recruitment initiatives by partnering with All-Star Talent's digital marketing services, leveraging highly targeted and impactful advertisements to draw in future troopers. The collective dedication and collaboration of our team across these divisions fuel their success and ensure efficient, seamless operations. These combined efforts pave the way for a safer, stronger, and more unified community built on trust and resilience.

On behalf of Colonel Turner and the entire staff, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Support Services team for your unwavering dedication and remarkable contributions. Your hard work and commitment to excellence not only reflect the strength and integrity of our agency but also make a lasting impact on the community we serve. Your efforts inspire all those around you and serve as a shining example of service and professionalism.

Thank you for embodying the values and mission of our agency with such grace and excellence.



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OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 60 ▪ Number 5

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ON THE COVER

Corporal Kyle Seabaugh (Q/DDCC) was the recipient of the Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year award and is photographed with Colonel Michael A. Turner. See story, page 8.

CELEBRATING OVER 59 YEARS OF NEWS

PATROL NEWS

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Troop I: Cpl. Ralicia Tyler

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The Patrol News is published by the Public Information & Education Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the interest of all active and retired personnel.

(573) 526-6115

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL



Chief Technician Eric Presser, Troop G, has been presented the 2025 Radio Technologist of the Year Award by the Missouri Association of Public Safety Communications Officials for his swift response during a tornado which affected a vital tower site last May.

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT



The affected Troop G tower site.



A tornado runs through a rural area in Troop G in May 2024.

WITH sympathy

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

CVO Supvr. Michael Howe (D) - Father

Cpl. Cary Porter (B) - Father

Sgt. Zack Bryan (Q/DDCC) - Grandmother

Comm. Op. Amber Richardson (H) - Grandmother

Sgt. Mark Richardson (H) - Grandmother-in-Law

Admin. Support Prof. Amanda Gove (Q/CJIS) - Husband

Tpr. Sean Goostree (D) - Grandfather

Cpl. Brian Peters (A) - Father

MVI Josh Ward (Q/DVSD) - Grandfather

Program Assist. Dorothy Holtmeyer (Q/PRD) - Mother-in-Law

Ret. Capt. David Perkins - Mother

Ret. DE Supvr. Andy Streeter - Mother

Ret. Sgt. Mike Bryan - Mother

Ret. CVO Chief Martha McCartney - Father

Ret. DE Demetrice Weeden - Father

Ret. Cpl. Barry Graskewicz - Father

Ret. Assist. Chief Op. Teresa Taylor - Mother

Fallen Sgt. Carl "Dewayne" Graham Jr. - Father

Ret. Sgt. Larry Long - Daughter

Ret. CVO Douglas Storie - Brother

Colonel C. E. "Mel" Fisher Superintendent's Award

By Major Christopher Jolly
Technical Services Bureau

During each graduation class ceremony of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, a recruit is recognized as the Superintendent's Award recipient. This overall achievement award is presented by the superintendent to the recruit who has accumulated the highest number of points in the categories of physical fitness, firearms, and academics during the rigorous academy training programs. The award was recently renamed for future recruit classes as the Colonel C. E. "Mel" Fisher Superintendent's Award to preserve the legacy of a true agency leader whose commitment, vision, and service profoundly shaped the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the broader law enforcement community.

Colonel Fisher joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on August 3, 1958, as a member of the 18th Recruit Class. He was appointed as the Patrol's superintendent on April 26, 1989. Under his leadership, the Patrol became only the tenth state patrol/police to achieve accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA); the Crime Laboratory was expanded to include DNA testing; the Automated Fingerprint Identification System became operational; the drug interdiction and commercial vehicle enforcement program received national recognition; and the Patrol developed an emergency vehicle operations course for pursuit driving training. Additionally, Colonel Fisher 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.



Past Superintendent's Award given to Captain Brandon M. White (Q/FOB).

On May 21, 2021, Colonel Fisher died at 86 years old. Colonel Fisher was best described as a "trooper's colonel," and his exceptional leadership style was recounted in a tribute essay written upon his death by a former member of his executive staff, Retired Captain Stephen R. Johnson, which has been edited for this article:

"To many, he was the most consequential superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, dating back to the early days of the organization when the likes of men named Ginn, Ellis, Casteel, and Waggoner were in command. Ultimately, we tend to measure success by the wake a person leaves, and Colonel Fisher left a great wake. His tenure was marked by incorruptibility and a keen understanding of the police function, from the streets to high command. He was, in fact, a gentleman who enforced the law.

After assuming command, Colonel Fisher immediately set to work with an eye to bringing the Patrol into the technological age while preserving the tradition that is the cornerstone of its success. He assembled a personal staff and began a whirlwind of innovation, correctly anticipating the needs of a progressive state police agency and keeping the Patrol ahead of the curve. The Colonel regarded every human asset as critical to the success of the Patrol and respected every employee irrespective of their role. His style can be best described as that of Gen. Omar Bradley, another Missouri alumni. He was a master of his craft, but attributed his success to his field commanders, division directors and employees, never seeking personal recognition or credit.

The Colonel never lost his zeal for the job. He could be found flagging traffic and setting flares at an accident scene. When the Patrol was involved in a manhunt, he was on the frontline, not directing by phone miles away. He and his underboss formed a two-man entry team in a search for a police killer in small town America, making entries with guns drawn. He was the darling of the Jefferson City newspaper after personally and aggressively removing a heckler from a legislative gallery during a hearing. He never forgot that he was a police officer under the eagles of command. His car-to-car call at 1AM has sent more than one officer scrambling to straighten up his car before meeting the boss. He could be found in the field, at odd hours, contacting a road officer for coffee and conversation. No idle chat here, he would ask hard questions about needs and equipment at the service level. On many occasions, he would call a road officer, meet him and climb in the officer's car for an hour or two, patrolling the zone. He worked incessantly to memorize the family data of officers in the field, often stunning them with his knowledge about their children and events. He also expected his field commanders to be active in the troop area. He was a strong advocate for training, in particular training centering around the use of force and current case law. He championed excellence. Colonel Fisher made the Patrol a better police organization, and by extension, the state of Missouri a better place to live."

Colonel Fisher ushered in transformative changes that continue to guide the agency today. We must always remain mindful of the foundation laid by those who came before us. Even as we are focused on the future and the issues affecting our organization, it is important to take the time to reflect on the past and recognize those, such as Colonel Fisher, who made an enduring impact. The Colonel C. E. "Mel" Fisher Superintendent's Award will be presented for the first time to a graduating member of the 123rd Recruit Class on Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT

For your years of dedicated service, loyalty, and selfless giving, we thank you.



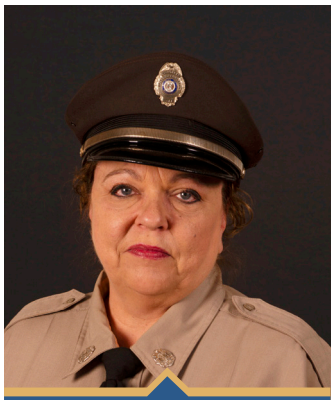
FREDERICK D. BIERER
Sergeant
Q/GD
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
24 years, 4 months of dedicated service



CRAIG M. GARBULSKI
Trooper
Q/GD
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
29 years, 1 month of dedicated service



ERIC T. OLSON
Superintendent
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
34 years, 7 months of dedicated service



MICHELLE D. APPLEGATE
DE Supervisor
Troop E
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
22 years, 6 months of dedicated service



MARK A. PATE
Corporal
Troop A
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
30 years, 7 months of dedicated service



MICHAEL D. ADAMS
Sergeant
Troop D
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
26 years, 1 month of dedicated service



JULIE A. SCERINE
Lieutenant
Troop C
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
28 years, 1 month of dedicated service



DAVID B. HAGGETT
Sergeant
Q/RCOD
Retired on Feb. 1, 2025
31 years, 6 months of dedicated service



TIMOTHY G. PULLEY
Sergeant
Q/FOB
Retired on March 1, 2025
29 years, 2 months of dedicated service



JOHN D. HAMILTON
Chief Operator
Troop D
Retired on March 1, 2025
30 years of dedicated service



GEOFFREY N. WENSEL
Corporal
Troop I
Retired on March 1, 2025
10 years, 8 months of dedicated service



BRENDA L. STARKE
Program Assistant
Q/PRD
Retired on March 1, 2025
40 years, months of dedicated service



ROGER A. SHERMAN
Sergeant
Troop H
Retired on March 1, 2025
29 years, 8 months of dedicated service



ELIZABETH B. HOERMAN
Assistant Chief Operator
Troop A
Retired on March 1, 2025
22 years, 9 months of dedicated service



JEFFERY K. BASSINSON
Multimedia Specialist
Q/TND
Retired on March 1, 2025
30 years, 9 months of dedicated service

MASTERS AWARDS BANQUET HONORS PATROL EMPLOYEES WITH 56 AWARDS

By Emilee Kuschel (Q/PIED)
Public Relations Specialist

On April 5, 2025, Patrol employees were recognized for their actions at the Missouri State Highway Patrol Awards ceremony and MASTERS banquet at the Wyndham Executive Center in Columbia, MO.

The presentation of the colors was performed by Troop F Color Guard: Sergeant Timothy C. Fick, Corporal Eric C. Penrod, Corporal Jacob C. McKinney, and Trooper Jonathan R. Atherton. Trooper Cole P. Justice, Troop H, performed the National Anthem. Troop F Pastor Philip Dooley, Troop F Chaplain, gave the invocation.

MSHP employees and their guests enjoyed a delicious dinner before the awards ceremony began. Major Corey J. Schoeneberg, (Q/ASB), performed as the Master of Ceremonies, and presented the keynote speaker, Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins

In his speech, Denny Hoskins said, "It's an honor to stand before this distinguished crowd, especially in this room, filled with so many who understand the true meaning of service, sacrifice, and strength. In every corner of Missouri, I've seen the same spirit — integrity, honor, and a fierce commitment to community. These are not just words on a department model, they are lived values, and they are passed down from veteran officers to rookies, from one generation to the next. That's the power of legacy."

"You show them that the badge is more than a symbol; it's a promise, a promise that we will honor the fallen by caring for those they left behind, that we will carry their legacy forward by lifting each other up. That is true leadership. Leadership isn't only about titles or ranks; it's about character. It's about the choices made when no one is watching, and law enforcement officers across Missouri model



that leadership every single day. They lead in small towns and big cities. They lead in the heat of July and the cold of January. They lead when it's popular, and they lead when it's not. They lead because they believe in something much bigger than themselves, and Missouri is much better because of them."

"Legacy is more than what we leave behind. It's what we build today. It's every act of service, every life protected, and every child who grows up believing that heroes still walk among us.

> "May the legacy of our law enforcement heroes guide us forward with courage, unity, and hope."
>
> — Denny Hoskins

And they do. They wear uniforms, yes, but they also wear wedding bands. They keep pictures of their loved ones on the dash and a cross in their pocket. They carry birthday cards in their cruisers. They miss Thanksgiving dinners. They go home with heavy hearts after hard calls. And they still show up day after day with courage, compassion, and commitment that is truly heroic. May the legacy of our law enforcement heroes guide us forward with courage, unity, and hope."

THE 2024 AWARDS ARE:

FRED M. MILLS MASTERS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
Cpl. Joseph T. Peart (I)

CAREER MILESTONE
Lt. Darron F. Blankenship (Q/DDCC)

SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE
Comm. Op. Stephanie M. King (H)

LIFESAVING AWARD
CVO Spvr. Mark D. Counts (E)
CVO Patrick W. Patterson (E)
CVO Steve A. Young (E)
Tpr. Lucas J. Combs (G)
Tpr. Reese E. Douthett (D) 06/09/24
Tpr. Reese E. Douthett (D) 07/04/24
Tpr. Nathan W. Downs (C)
Tpr. Chase A. Fox (F)
Tpr. Bailey N. Hunsicker (F)
Tpr. Christopher R. Kottwitz (B)
Tpr. Nicholas I. Kucsik (I)
Tpr. Evan C. Macomber (GSD)
Tpr. Roan Oosthuizen (C)
Tpr. Colby B. Townsend (I)
Cpl. Robert W. Garrett (D) 07/02/24
Cpl. Robert W. Garrett (D) 07/04/24
Cpl. Jonathan M. Heimsoth (G)
Cpl. Caleb M. Morgan (E)
Cpl. Bruce E. Thoman (A)
Cpl. Travis N. Ziegler (C)
Sgt. Michael D. Adams (D)(Ret.)
Sgt. Todd M. Barthelmass (Q/GD)
Sgt. Frederick D. Bierer (Q/GD)(Ret.)
Sgt. Brian D. Foster (G)
Sgt. Taremba Karizamimba (E)
Sgt. Christopher A. Kimes (G)
Sgt. Keegan E. Kindle (B)
Sgt. Gary S. Sloan (I)
Sgt. Shayne K. Talburt (E)
Sgt. James A. Wilson (E)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
Tpr. Trey A. Gaedke (C)
Tpr. Kristopher B. Geren (B)
Tpr. Eric A. Goans (I)
Tpr. Justin D. Hedrick (C)
Tpr. Peter D. Hummel (B)
Tpr. Joshua J. Schuenemeyer (E)
Tpr. Joseph C. Southwood (I)
Cpl. Brandon L. Harris (F)
Cpl. Gavin C. Leach (C)
Cpl. Nicholas W. March (F)
Cpl. Roberto A. Rizo (F)
Cpl. Jayson R. Spain (E)
Cpl. Brett D. Tappendorf (B)
Cpl. Michael A. White (C)
Cpl. Dylon M. Wyatt (E)
Sgt. Nolan A. Bax (F)
Sgt. Brent J. Fowler (C)
Sgt. John R. Henry (B)
Sgt. Andrew J. Mayer (C)

MATILDA "TILLIE" SONNEN CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR
Chief Opr. John D. Hamilton (D)(Ret.)

BENJAMIN OLIVER BOOTH OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Cpl. Kyle A. Seabaugh (Q/DDCC)

VALOR AWARD
Cpl. Joseph A. Pithan (Q/GD)
Cpl. Gregory K. Tesch (Q/GD)(Ret.)
Sgt. Louis B. Lairmore (Q/GD)

Congratulations, award recipients!



Tpr. Trey A. Gaedke (C) and Tpr. Justin D. Hedrick (C)



Sgt. Todd M. Barthelmass (GD)



Sgt. Louis B. Lairmore (GD), Cpl. Joseph A. Pithan (GD), Cpl. Gregory K. Tesch (GD)



Chief Op. John D. Hamilton (D), Cpl. Robert W. Garrett (D), Tpr. Evan C. Macomber (GSD), Sgt. Michael D. Adams (D), Tpr. Reese E. Douthett (D)



Tpr. Eric A. Goans (I)



Cpl. Joseph T. Peart (I) and Sandy Mills



Cpl. Roberto A. Rizo (F)



Tpr. Kristopher B. Geren (B) and Tpr. Peter D. Hummel (B)



Tpr. Lucas J. Combs (G) and Sgt. Christopher A. Kimes (G)



Sgt. Nolan A. Bax (F)



Tpr. Evan C. Macomber (D)



Comm. Op. Stephanie M. King (H)



Lt. Darron F. Blankenship (Q/DDCC)



Col. Michael A. Turner
and Sgt. Frederick D. Bierer (GD)



Sgt. Taremba Karizamimba (E)



Cpl. Brett D. Tappendorf (B)
and Sgt. John R. Henry (B)



Tpr. Chase A. Fox (F)



Tpr. Roan Oosthuizen (C)



Tpr. Christopher R. Kottwitz (B)



Cpl. Brandon L. Harris (F), Cpl. Brent J. Fowler (C), Cpl. Gavin C. Leach (C), Col. Michael A. Turner,
Sgt. Andrew J. Mayer (C)

Students Participate in Troop B Student Alliance Program

By Sergeant Justin S. Dunn (B)



Putnam County students stopped for a quick picture with Lt. Bradley Ream (B) who is also from Putnam County and a current school board member of the Putnam County School District.

> ***"The Troop B Student Alliance Program is continually impacting our youth for years to come, teaching what it means to truly serve and love your community."***
>
> ***— Sgt. Justin S. Dunn***

This March, 13 area high school students representing four high schools, completed the 2025 Troop B Missouri State Highway Patrol Student Alliance Program.

The program was held at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon, MO, on Saturday, March 1, 2025, and Saturday, March 8, 2025. During the two-day program, students learned about the many duties performed by a Missouri State Trooper and participated in hands-on activities, such as Patrol MILO simulations, stop and approach, and crime scene investigations.

The students observed a canine demonstration and listened to presentations from several members and civilian employees of the Patrol. The purpose of the Student Alliance Program is to provide high school juniors and seniors interested in law enforcement careers with a chance to learn about the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Each participant received a certificate of completion.

Students who attended the program were: Kaydin Batson, Emily Smith, Chance Snyder, Ayden Conley, Wyatt Pinksa, and Lyndyn Stewart, of Novinger, MO; Mark Stutsman, of Edina, MO; Skyler Anderson and Logan Kitchen, of Macon, MO; and Avery Campbell, Rusty Willey, Kooper Hornaday, and Albany Wood, of Unionville, MO.



Students who participated in the 2025 Troop B Student Alliance Program gather for a group photo.

officer of the year

Gaming Division Names Officer of the Year

By Lieutenant Shawn M. Griggs (Q/GD)

Sergeant Todd M. Barthelmass, (Q/GD), has been named the Gaming Division's Ace (Officer of the Year) for 2024. At the Missouri Gaming Commission meeting held on February 26, 2025, Gaming Division Director Captain Andrew O. Tourney, presented Sgt. Barthelmass with the award.

Sgt. Barthelmass is assigned to the Ameristar St. Charles and Hollywood Casino in St. Louis. In 2024, he uncovered a scheme to cheat at the card game Baccarat which cost the state of Missouri over $400,000 in just nine days.

Sgt. Barthelmass investigated the scheme and discovered the same operation was being conducted in five other states, costing 2.1 million dollars nationwide. The suspects were arrested within two months following the investigation.

Another example of Sgt. Barthelmass' dedication to duty came when a casino patron suffered a medical emergency on the gaming floor. The patron had no pulse and was not breathing. When Sgt. Barthelmass arrived, he began performing CPR on the man and saved his life.

Sgt. Barthelmass displays extraordinary initiative and leadership in his investigations and professional conduct. According to his colleagues, he is one of the most productive officers in both his zone and in the Gaming Division.

Congratulations, Sgt. Barthelmass!



Sgt. Barthelmass receives his award from Capt. Andrew Tourney.

MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

In The Lives Of The Next Generation Of Women



Ret. Sgt. Newton poses with her award along with Cpl. Jordan R. Brown (C) and Tpr. Olivia G. Imhoff (F).

By Sergeant Kyle A. Green (F)

The American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State (ALA MGS) has awarded retired Sergeant Cindy D. Newton with the 2024 Joanne Snodgrass Award For Excellence In Service.

Retired Sgt. Newton was appointed to the Patrol on January 5, 1981, as a member of the 54th Recruit Class. During her 15-year career on the road in Troop B, she was promoted to corporal. In 1996, she transferred to the Gaming Division, where she was promoted to sergeant in 1999. After 25 years of dedicated service, retired Sgt. Newton became the first female in the history of the organization to retire as a member of the Patrol in 2006.

One of the highlights of her career began in 1982 with her involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State program. The program's purpose is to promote pride in America and to create a mythical state that the citizens will govern at the city, county and state level. Approximately 700-800 high school girls gather for one week each summer to form their own government and try to resolve various issues.

Despite retiring from the Patrol in 2006, Sgt. Newton continues volunteering her time each year to the program. Over 42 years, Ret. Sgt. Newton has had a profound impact on thousands of young women throughout Missouri. This dedication to the program and the impact she has had on so many lives has led to her being awarded the 2024 Joanne Snodgrass Award For Excellence In Service to ALA MGS. The award states, "Presented in grateful appreciation to Cindy Newton, who for decades has brilliantly served the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State as a dedicated volunteer, a trusted advisor, a generous mentor, and a loyal supporter of the mission of ALA Missouri Girls State. By her wise counsel, devotion to duty, and tireless service, she continues to make an everlasting contribution to the youth of Missouri."

Congratulations retired Sgt. Newton and thank you for the positive impact you have had on so many young women over the last four decades!

DPS Sworn Team Members of the Month

By Emilee Kuschel (Q/PIED)
Public Relations Specialist

The Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS) recognized three members of the Patrol's Gaming Division as their Sworn Team Members of the Month for January 2025. On March 10, Corporal Louis B. "Bart" Lairmore (now Sergeant), Corporal Joseph A. Pithan, and now retired Corporal Gregory K. Tesch were celebrated for their work to stop an armed man who was pointing a loaded gun at casino patrons last year. As hundreds of casino patrons ran away, Sgt. Lairmore, Cpl. Pithan, and Cpl. Tesch ran toward the armed man and subdued him, resolving the crisis peacefully.

Colonel Michael A. Turner said, "The definition of valor is courage in the face of extreme danger and what you three did that day was extremely valorous. I'm proud of each of you."

He presented each of them with the Colonel's challenge coin.

DPS Director Mark James said, "I want to give you the Director's challenge coin as a token of my esteem and respect for the deed that you performed on behalf of the state. Thank you. What you guys did was a heroic action, no doubt. It's just a testament to the Highway Patrol, the core values that the Patrol instills, the training that the Academy puts in, that you just didn't hesitate. You saw a need; you saw people in danger. You reacted. You neutralized the threat, and here we are today, able to celebrate that!"

He also presented them with certificates commemorating their service.

Corporal Kyle A. Seabaugh (Q/DDCC) earned the DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month recognition for February 2025.

Cpl. Seabaugh has been working as the lead investigator on a child pornography case in Henry County since 2021. In March 2021, he organized a team of experienced investigators and conducted two coordinating searches. He found hidden evidence of child sexual abuse on a suspect's cell phone during his search. The suspect and a second individual were arrested and charged with sex trafficking, statutory sodomy, and rape.

Over three years, Cpl. Seabaugh and his team worked tirelessly to build their case, collaborating with a forensic pediatrician and an FBI expert to correctly identify the child victims. In June 2024, the initial defendant was found guilty on 23 counts of sex trafficking of a child, statutory sodomy, and rape. The defendant received 23 consecutive life sentences. The second defendant is still awaiting trial.

Captain Donald L. Crump (Q/DDCC) accepted the award on Cpl. Seabaugh's behalf. Kylie Dickneite, Director of Homeland Security, presented the award on behalf of DPS Director Mark James. Director Dickneite said, "On behalf of the director and the director's office, and all of the team at DPS, we want to congratulate Kyle. We're very honored that he serves in the Highway Patrol and does the work that he does every day."

DPS celebrated two members from Troop C, naming them the March 2025 Sworn Team Members of the Month.

Troopers Trey A. Gaedke and Justin D. Hedrick, Troop C, were awarded the recognition after they stopped a dangerous suspect fleeing Texas during a traffic stop last fall. The suspect had murdered a woman and set her house on fire in Texas. When Troopers Gaedke and Hedrick approached him, he began firing his weapon at them. They took cover and returned fire, ending the threat. Their courage and resolve undoubtedly saved lives.

Major Justin L. McCullough (Q/FOB), with the Field Operations Bureau, read their nomination and said, "Having seen the video, I can corroborate just how heroic this was. This guy had already killed one person, and he didn't sweat to kill anybody else, and you guys eliminated that threat, so my hat's off to both of you."

Col. Turner said, "Justin and Trey, I'm so proud of you guys. I see what you do every day, and you inspire me. You make me want to go out and work the road again. You inspire a whole agency to get out there and do what we all signed up for. I think about our core values, and it makes me want to create a couple more."

Troopers Gaedke and Hedrick each received a challenge coin from DPS and from Col. Turner, as well as certificates commemorating their service.



Captain Kevin Malugen (C), Trooper Justin Hedrick (C), Colonel Mike Turner, Director of Homeland Security Kylie Dickneite, Trooper Trey Gaedke (C).



Corporal Greg Tesch (now retired), DPS Director Mark James, Sergeant Louis "Bart" Lairmore (Q/GD), Colonel Mike Turner, Corporal Joe Pithan (Q/GD).

Obituaries


Charleen T. Bossman

CHARLEEN T. BOSSMAN

Charleen "Char" T. Bossman (Bruens), who resided at Stonebridge Senior Living in Hermann, MO, originally of St. Charles, MO, passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at the age of 95. Char dedicated many years to the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a Driver Examiner. Her love for her country was evident in her deep honor of participating in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She also had the incredible experience of carrying the Olympic torch through St. Louis. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gerald, her parents, and her sisters. She is survived by several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews who love her dearly.


Doris Ann McAllister

DORIS ANN McALLISTER

Doris "Ann" McAllister, 73, of Poplar Bluff, MO, passed away Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at her residence. She was born May 28, 1951, in Wayne County, MO, to parents Thurman and Dorothy (Flippin) Cox.

Ann was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, known for her deep love and unwavering faith. Ann worked as a Driver's Examiner for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, where she earned the respect of many during her years of service.

Ann is survived by her daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and friends who love her greatly. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sister, Nora "Grace" Shell.


Marylyn E. Wolfe

MARYLYN E. WOLFE

Marylyn Elizabeth Wolfe, 94, of Jefferson City, MO, passed away Monday, March 10, 2025, at Heisinger Bluffs Senior Living Community. She was born on September 17, 1930, in Prairie Home, MO, the daughter of Henry and Adelia (Zey) Baker.

Marylyn worked for the Division of Welfare for four years and later went to work for the Missouri State Highway Patrol for thirty-four years, retiring September 1, 1988.

She is survived by her son, Steven Wolfe, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren, as well as her sister, brother, and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Hubert G. Wolfe, two sisters, and one brother.


Steven B. Niederkorn

STEVEN B. NIEDERKORN

Steven Bradley Niederkorn, 71, of Poplar Bluff passed away in his home on March 11, 2025.

Steve was born on January 10, 1954, in Chicago, Il. He was one of five children of Charles and Irene Niederkorn. He graduated from Kelly High School in 1972.

Steve attended Southeast Missouri State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 1976. He later applied and was accepted as a recruit for the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy in Jefferson City, where he graduated in June 1981. Prior to joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Steve worked in various law enforcement jobs with his dates of service spanning from July 5, 1978, to February 1, 2014, when he retired as a lieutenant with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop E, in Poplar Bluff.

He was preceded in death by his brother and one sister. He is survived by his wife, Terry, his daughter, and his grandchildren.

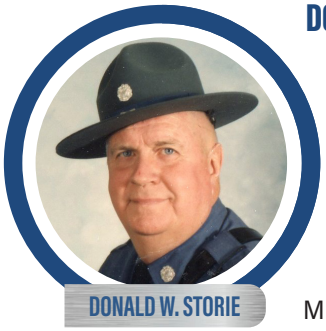

Michael Darrin Tackett

MICHAEL DARRIN TACKETT

Michael Darrin Tacket passed away at his home on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 59 years old. He was born in Mount Sterling, KY, to Norene (Thomas) Tackett and the late Alvin D. Tackett. He graduated from Doniphan High School in 1984.

He joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1990 as a member of the 63rd recruit class. After graduation, he was assigned to Troop I, Zone 3, Crawford County. He then transferred to Troop E, Zone 2, where he was promoted to sergeant in 2003. Sergeant Tackett faithfully served the citizens of our community and state of Missouri for nearly 33 years with his recent retirement on January 1, 2023.

He married his wife of nearly 35 years, Marcia Lynn Bridges, in 1990 in Doniphan, MO. She survives along with his mother, Norene Tackett, two daughters, and two grandchildren. He was an only child, but we all know he had many brothers and sisters in blue that will ensure his legacy lives on. He was preceded in death by his father, Alvin, his father-in-law, Tom Bridges, and many close friends and family.


DONALD W. STORIE

DONALD WAYNE STORIE

Donald "Don" Wayne Storie of St. Clair, MO, died at 82 years old in St. Louis, MO, on April 6, 2025. He was born in St. Louis, MO, on April 24, 1942, the son of Elmo S. Storie and Opal M. (Bailey) Storie.

Don was appointed to the Missouri State Highway Patrol on May 31, 1967. He later became a sergeant and served the Patrol for 32 years before retiring in Troop C in 1998. Sergeant Storie was well-respected by his colleagues at the Patrol.

On Aug. 21, 1970, he was united in marriage to Sylvia Kathleen Jolly, his beloved wife.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and survived by his wife, Sylvia, his three children, six grandchildren, great-grandson, brother, Douglas, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends and family who love him dearly.

What meant most to Don was time spent with family. The love they shared and many precious memories they created will be cherished forever.


Cheryl Denise Cobb

CHERYL DENISE COBB

Cheryl Denise Cobb, 59, of Holts Summit, MO, passed away on April 6, 2025, in her home. She was born on February 4, 1966, in Lebanon, MO, to Lawrence D. Long and Ruth K. Roberts.

Cheryl was united in marriage to Herbert C. Cobb on December 27, 1987. Together, they shared a loving partnership for nearly 38 years. She was a devoted mother to her two sons.

Cheryl graduated from Jefferson City High School as a member of the Class of 1984 and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. She was an active member of Living Hope Church. Her passion for writing was evident throughout her life, and she was deeply involved in both her church and community. She cherished the time spent with her family.

One of her greatest sources of pride was her 26-year tenure as the staff writer for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, a position she began in 1997. Throughout these years, she contributed her writing talents to the organization with dedication and commitment.

She is survived by her loving husband, Herbert C. Cobb, her parents, all of Holts Summit, her sons, her brother and sister, and many friends.



The family thanks you for your kind words, visits, calls, texts, and wishes of kindness on the passing of our daughter, Cheryl Cobb.

Ret. Sgt. Larry and Ruth Long



MSHP Welcomes

A Word from Colonel Michael A. Turner

"I am honored and humbled to take the Oath of Office as the 25th superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol," said Colonel Turner. "It is especially meaningful to take the Oath surrounded by family and friends who have supported me since my law enforcement career began almost 30 years ago."

New Colonel

MICHAEL A. TURNER



By Emilee Kuschel (Q/PIED)
Public Relations Specialist

On February 3, 2025, Colonel Michael A. Turner was sworn in as the 25th superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

The Honorable Kelly C. Broniec, Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office during a ceremony at the Missouri State Highway Patrol General Headquarters in Jefferson City, MO. Following Colonel Eric T. Olson's retirement announcement, Governor Mike Kehoe appointed Colonel Turner superintendent of the Patrol on December 26, 2024. Colonel Turner's appointment was confirmed on January 30 by the Missouri Senate.

"I am honored and humbled to take the Oath of Office as the 25th superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol," said Colonel Turner. "It is especially meaningful to take the Oath surrounded by family and friends who have supported me since my law enforcement career began almost 30 years ago."

Turner was appointed to the Patrol on January 1, 1996, as a member of the 71st Recruit Class. Upon graduating, he was assigned to Troop F, Zone 5, Camden County. He was promoted to corporal and designated assistant supervisor of Zone 8, Callaway County, on April 1, 2001. He transferred to Zone 5, Camden/Miller counties on February 28, 2004. On April 29, 2007, he was promoted to sergeant and designated as supervisor of Zone 6, Moniteau/Morgan counties. Turner served as Troop F SWAT team leader from 2004 to 2011 and founded the Central Missouri Tactical Officers Association. He was promoted to lieutenant on November 1, 2011, and assigned to Troop F Headquarters. On March 1, 2015, Turner was promoted to captain and designated commanding officer of Troop F, Jefferson City. On April 1, 2019, Turner was promoted to major and named commander of the Support Services Bureau. On March 1, 2022, Turner was named commander of the Field Operations Bureau.

Colonel Turner was born in Texas and grew up in Kansas City, MO. He earned an Associate of Arts from Metropolitan Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from Columbia College, and a Master of Arts in sociology and criminal justice from Lincoln University. He is a graduate of the St. Louis University Law Enforcement Leadership and Organizational Change program and the Missouri Police Chief's Association Command College. He completed Police Leadership: The West Point Model Executive Level Course and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Leadership Missouri program. Turner is also a recipient of the David Steward Academic and Leadership Award and the Patrol's Valor Award.

Colonel Turner and his wife, Stacy (Hodges), have two children, Evan and Elizabeth, and a grandson, Rowan.

Troopers Compete in First MSHP

TOP Trooper Competition

By Lieutenant Cody Frame (Q/TND)

In January 2025, the Patrol was notified by the Texas Department of Public Safety of the First Annual National Top Trooper Competition. The event, scheduled to occur May 5th - 9th, 2025, will be hosted by the Texas Department of Public Safety at their Tactical Training Facility near Florence, TX. Texas advised that competitors would participate in physical fitness, firearms, driving, and an interview. Texas provided little other information about the competition and advised that competitors must be considered "road troopers" to be eligible to compete.

To determine the representatives of the Patrol, the Training Division hosted an in-house competition. Nine members chose to take the challenge.

The competitors were:

- **Sergeant Cody G. Dunfee, Troop A**
- **Sergeant Graydon L. Gaines, Troop B**
- **Corporal Brandon A. Hall, Troop D**
- **Corporal Brant W. Masek, Troop F**
- **Corporal Emilio J. Villanueva, Troop F**
- **Trooper Bailey N. Hunsicker, Troop F**
- **Trooper Hunter W. Hampton, Troop F**
- **Trooper Olivia G. Imhoff, Troop F**
- **Trooper Eleanore A. Ferrel, Troop I**

The competition began immediately on March 3rd, with the physical fitness portion. Competitors participated in a 500-meter row followed by a 1.5-mile run. Upon completion of the run, competitors returned to the Academy and performed the Combat Fitness Test.



"EACH COMPETITOR IS INDEED A TRUE **ambassador** *FOR THE AGENCY AND THEIR DEDICATION*



"COMPETITORS WERE TESTED ON THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS, FIREARMS SKILLS, DRIVING AND INTERVIEW SKILLS."
- MAJOR COREY SCHOENEBERG

strength is the key - INSIDE and out

AND REPRESENTATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED."
- Major Corey J. Schoeneberg



Sgt. Graydon Gaines (B)



Trooper Olivia Imhoff (F)

After the completion of the physical fitness portion, the original idea was to provide competitors with the opportunity to practice at both the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) and the range, however, the Missouri weather had other ideas. Due to expected rain on March 4th, the EVOC portion was moved to the afternoon of March 3rd. Each competitor would participate in the "Green Course" which is the course every Patrol recruit must pass. It involves control of the patrol vehicle under heavy braking, sharp turns and changes in road surface. Each competitor was provided four laps of instruction to help prepare. Once the four laps were completed, each competitor executed three laps with their best lap being their official time.

On the early morning of March 4th, the competitors traveled to the outdoor range and were provided the opportunity to practice with their handgun, rifle and shotgun. After lunch, due to weather conditions, each member was provided one run through the course, which integrated all three platforms. The run was timed, which began with members carrying tires approximately 50-yards to elevate their heart rate prior to a 100-yard prone position shot. Competitors moved through the stages utilizing different shooting positions and weapons. Their overall time was combined with penalties for misses.

On the final day, March 5th, each competitor participated in an interview. The three-person panel asked questions related to general Patrol knowledge, including the Core Values, Mission and Vision, and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

Sergeant Graydon Gaines and Trooper Olivia Imhoff were later announced as the two winners. Two alternates were also named in the event the winners were unable to attend. Trooper Hunter Hampton and Trooper Eleanore Ferrel were announced as the alternates. The winners or alternates will travel to Florence, TX to represent the Patrol.

A big thank you to the instructors and interviewers who assisted in making this possible. Major Corey J. Schoeneberg (Q/ASB), Major Justin L. McCullough (Q/FOB), Captain Danielle E. Heil (Q/RCOD), Lieutenant Morgan B. Patterson (F), Lieutenant Paul M. Behrens (B), Sergeant Bryan H. Salmons (F), Sergeant Anthony M. Richerson (F), Corporal Matthew E. Morice (Q/TND), Corporal Chad A. Heil (Q/TND), Corporal Catlynn E. McKinney (Q/TND), Corporal Chad W. Walton (B), Trooper Thomas O. Mitchell (Q/TND), and Trooper Aaron A. Lindley (F).

These troopers proved they have what it takes.

PATROL HISTORY

By Sergeant Shane Hux (H)

A PATROL'S VEHICLE LEGACY: THE JOURNEY OF MSHP UNIT #367

WHAT A TRIP

#1: Interior of Unit #367

#2: Unit #367 won 1st place at the 2024 Illinois State Police car show.

#3: Current replica license plate

#4: Original SHP-375 Record of Service and Repair of Motor Equipment, found in the glove box.

On January 4, 2024, retired Missouri State Highway Patrol Sergeant Dan Crain's phone buzzed with a text message that unexpectedly transported him decades into the past. The sender was Matt Hallberg, a young man from North Aurora, IL, who had recently inherited a 1990 Chevrolet Caprice from his father, Doug Hallberg. But this wasn't just any old car. Matt believed it had once been a Missouri State Highway Patrol vehicle, more specifically, one assigned to Sgt. Crain himself.

At first, Sgt. Crain was skeptical. Over his 34-year career, he had been assigned countless patrol vehicles, swapping them out every 49,000 miles. How could this young man be so certain that this particular vehicle was once his?

Then, Matt sent a photograph of a worn but legible document of the original Missouri State Highway Patrol SHP-375, Record of Service & Repair of Motor Equipment, found tucked away in the glove compartment. Sgt. Crain's doubts vanished the moment he saw it; the handwriting on the form was his own.

Unit #367 officially entered service on June 18, 1990. The records show that its last documented service with the Missouri State Highway Patrol was performed on June 15, 1992. After that, Matt learned Unit #367 was reassigned to another state agency, Child Services Division, likely in the summer of 1992.

The next chapter of the vehicle's life began a decade later. In 2002, a family friend of the Hallberg's purchased Unit #367 from a Kansas City eBay auction, paying either $4,000 or $7,500- Matt is not certain which. Six years later, Doug Hallberg bought the vehicle for just $2,000, using it as a daily driver.

Then, in 2023, Matt officially became the third titled owner since the vehicle's retirement from state service. But to him, it's not just a car. It is a tangible piece of law enforcement history; one he is determined to restore.

Matt poured his time and effort into bringing Unit #367 back to its former glory. He carefully tracked down and installed period-correct law enforcement equipment, ensuring every detail was as close as possible to its original Missouri State Highway Patrol configuration. One of the awesome touches is a replica Missouri State Highway Patrol 367-HP license plate, honoring the vehicle's service and the trooper who once drove it.





Pictured is the finished product before vehicle graphics were added.

As Matt continued to restore Unit #367, he reached out to Trooper Cole P. Justice, the current 367 in Troop H. Tpr. Justice and Matt have shared photographs and stories, developing a camaraderie over the vehicle's rich history. Tpr. Justice was fascinated by Matt's efforts and admired his dedication to preserving a part of MSHP history.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Crain reflected on his time with the car. Though the specifics of every vehicle he has driven over the years has faded, seeing the SHP-375 form and hearing Matt's story reignited a deep sense of connection. This is more than just an old patrol car, this is a piece of his career, a part of Missouri State Highway Patrol history that survived long after its official retirement.

Today, Unit #367 is not just sitting in a garage. Matt takes it to car shows, proudly sharing its story with the public. What began as an inheritance has evolved into a rolling tribute to the men and women of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Every patrol vehicle carries more than just miles; it carries memories. Thanks to Matt Hallberg, Unit #367's legacy lives on.

Looking Back IN THE PATROL NEWS

40 YEARS AGO

On March 2, 1985, 35-year-old Trooper James M. Froemsdorf pulled over a driver for speeding on Interstate 55 near Brewer, MO. The driver, Jerome Mallett, fatally shot Trooper Froemsdorf, inciting a massive manhunt by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies. Jerome Mallett was executed by lethal injection on July 11, 2001.

30 YEARS AGO

In April 1995, Robbie the Robot retired to the Safety Education Center after years of dedicated service teaching safety information to kids and adults alike. Robbie the Robot first joined the Patrol in 1985.

20 YEARS AGO

On March 20, 2005, Sergeant Carl D. "Dewayne" Graham Jr. of Troop G was fatally shot in the line of duty outside his home near his patrol vehicle. Lance Shockley, the suspect in a fatal crash Sergeant Graham was investigating, was arrested and charged with Sergeant Graham's murder. He was convicted and sentenced to death, but, as of March 2025, he is attempting to appeal the decision in the Supreme Court.

10 YEARS AGO

In March 2015, members of Troop A participated in "Tip a Cop" at the Outback Steakhouse in Lee's Summit, raising nearly $670 to support the Special Olympics.

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