January | February 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF



Lieutenant Colonel Wallace V. Ahrens
Assistant Superintendent

Every Patrol employee is a leader, be it directly or indirectly. Some have been placed into official leadership positions, while others guide and influence people through their actions, conversations, and attitude. Most do this in a positive way, and unfortunately, some do it in a negative way. We must remember, leadership is both a privilege and a responsibility.

There are many academic definitions of leadership, but my favorite comes from the United States Army which defines leadership as, "the process of influencing people by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to accomplish the mission and improve the organization." Some will say I am partial to this definition due to my background (valid), nevertheless, the definition is solid and has merit.

It is important for us to understand that management and supervision are different than leadership. Supervision and management focus on controlling tasks, processes, and performance, while leadership is about inspiring people, setting vision, and producing change. Both are important. Without supervision and management, details can fall through cracks and standards can be compromised. But leadership is what changes the dynamic of teams, groups, zones, divisions, and organizations. Transformational leadership inspires people to excel beyond minimum requirements. It empowers personnel to expand their horizons and push the agency in the direction that leads to success.

For the Patrol to meet the challenges of the future, transformational leadership at all levels is crucial. It must be foundational to everything we do and in every position. When I think back to the most influential leaders I have worked with and for, one thing stands out more than all others - they cared for and valued their people. The old saying, "No one cares what you know, until they know that you care," is worth repeating.

To some in our agency this is "just a job" and some are "just checking a box," but positive transformational leadership at all levels can, and does, change this mindset. When we empower personnel to take ownership of their work, give them autonomy to make things better within their sphere of influence, and value the ideas they present, we foster an environment that lends itself to positive change. Autonomy makes people feel trusted and valued, it strengthens relationships and teamwork. Personnel that feel trusted and empowered to make decisions are more likely to produce new and innovative ideas, in addition to having higher levels of motivation and productivity.

Leadership is not just titles or ranks — it is lived out in the daily choices we make, respect we show, and examples we set. When we care for our people, empower them to act, and trust them to make decisions, we build a culture where excellence becomes the norm. This is one way each of us can leave our agency better than we found it.

— Lt. Colonel Wallace V. Ahrens

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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

January | February 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 60 ▪ Number 4

ON THE COVER

Jena K. Nigus (D/CLD), a forensic scientist in the DNA discipline of the Crime Laboratory Division, demonstrates how even the smallest trace—like DNA left on a soda can—can become powerful forensic evidence.

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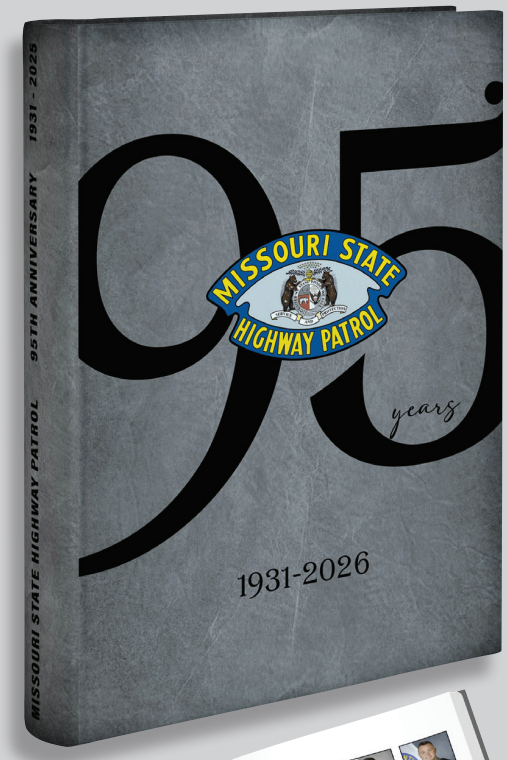
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Trooper Hunter Named November 2025 DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)



Trooper Jerry W. Hunter (A) was awarded the Missouri Department of Public Safety's Sworn Team Member of the Month for November 2025.

On June 17, a man suspected of killing his mother and stepfather in Arizona was spotted traveling on a motorcycle on a road southwest of Sweet Springs, MO. The road ended with a closed bridge, forcing the rider to turn around. Tpr. Hunter positioned his Patrol vehicle to block off the road, and the rider struck the vehicle, leading the man to be thrown off his bike. Tpr. Hunter exited the vehicle as the rider went back to his bike to retrieve a concealed pistol.

The man fired one shot at Tpr. Hunter, striking him in the upper left chest. Fire was returned by Tpr. Hunter, and the gunman was fatally wounded. Tpr. Hunter was treated for minor injuries and released from a hospital. Because of Tpr. Hunter's heroic efforts, a dangerous criminal was brought to justice.

Tpr. Hunter and his efforts were celebrated on November 18, 2025, at General Headquarters. Colonel Michael A. Turner reflected on visiting Tpr. Hunter at the hospital after the incident saying, "[Tpr. Hunter] was determined to make a difference. To protect the people that [he] serves, the public, and [his] commitment is what struck me ... "

Corporal Crawford Named December 2025 Sworn Team Member of the Month

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)



On August 10, Corporal Brian N. Crawford (I) received word that a Texas man was believed to be travelling through his troop with a missing juvenile in his vehicle. Cpl. Crawford initiated a stop, and after questioning the driver, Cpl. Crawford located the girl hidden behind a comforter in the trunk of the vehicle.

Cpl. Crawford's actions and thorough investigation resulted in the suspected sexual predator to be charged with kidnapping, grooming of a child, and interfering with custody. Cpl. Crawford's commitment and sense of responsibility earned him the December Sworn Team Member of the Month. He was awarded the Director's Challenge Coin and the Colonel's Challenge Coin on December 22.

A Trooper from Patrol History



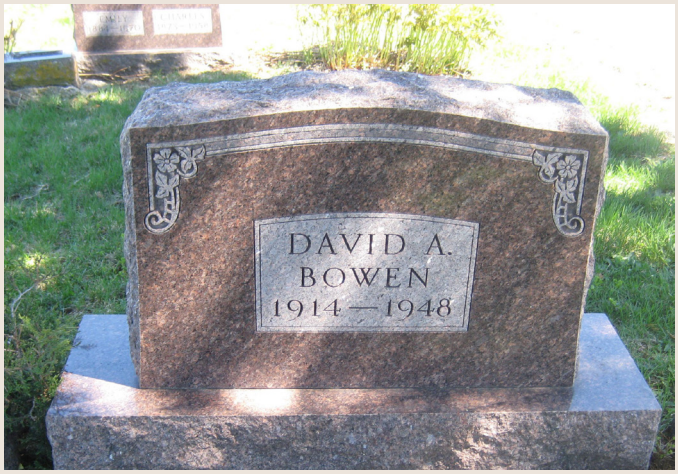
By Retired Captain Ernest M. Raub

David A. Bowen was born on February 11, 1914, in Marceline, MO, the son of Arthur and Mary Bowen. He was an above average student throughout his 12 years in the Marceline school system. His collar bone was badly broken while he played on the Marceline Tigers football team in his junior year of high school. Bowen graduated from high school in May 1932, then attended Kirksville State Teachers College for two years. He was also employed by the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company in Kirksville, and subsequently worked at Kroger stores in Marceline, Brookfield, Milan, Trenton and Cameron. Bowen was the manager of the Kroger store in Cameron when he married Adra Richards in June 1936. He was later transferred as manager back to the Kirksville store. The following year, his mother died of cancer.

By 1940, the Bowens had a nice home on East Jefferson Street in Kirksville, and they were expecting their first child. What was supposed to be one of the happiest days of their lives turned to tragedy when their daughter, Jan Elizabeth, was stillborn, and Adra died a couple of hours later. David Bowen became a 26-year-old widower as World War II grew ever closer.

On May 24, 1941, Trooper Leon H. Rumans, Badge 120, resigned from the Patrol to join the rapidly growing pre-war ranks of the FBI. Seven days later, David Bowen was hired to begin "preliminary training" with the Patrol. It was one of those cases in the 1940s when vacancies were extremely hard to fill, personnel were badly needed, and just the right candidate was identified - so one lone "recruit" was hired. The speed with which Bowen was employed indicates he was well known by Troopers Orin Kanan and Walt Snyder, the only Patrol officers assigned to Kirksville at that time. The reputable Bowen family was also known by acting Superintendent William J. Ramsey who was originally from Marceline. David Bowen was appointed as a member of the Patrol on June 5, 1941, and assigned Badge 120. He completed a preliminary two weeks of training on June 14 at General Headquarters and was transferred to Troop A the next day for on-the-job training.

While working on US 71 near the site of the shootout with the Barrow Gang, southeast of Platte City eight years earlier, a southbound car fled when Trooper Bowen tried to stop it. The vehicle was eventually forced to stop by some construction equipment. The driver said he ran, simply because he had no license. Blood spatters were on the clothing of both the driver and passenger and the interior of the car around the driver's seat. The two brothers offered no resistance, and after a short time, confessed to murdering the owner of the car who had stopped and given them a ride as they had been hitchhiking the previous evening near Norton, KS. The two had shot the good samaritan and later dumped his body 250 miles away, near Rulo, Nebraska. They were going to Kansas City when Trooper Bowen stopped them. They also confessed to taking $71 off the victim's body and running mail fraud schemes from New York to New Orleans. The arrests led to the recovery of the man's body, his vehicle, $71 and the murder weapon.



Grave in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Marceline

Bowen was transferred to Union, MO, in Troop C on September 22, 1944, on a lengthy personnel order that reassigned officers around the state as the Patrol adjusted to losing many members to the military. Trooper Bowen later moved to Kirkwood, MO. When another large personnel order assigned members of the Class of '46 to their first duty stations, Bowen transferred to Mexico, MO, in Troop F, where he worked under the supervision of Sergeant Roy "Pappy" Dix and with a newly commissioned trooper, Donald J. "Slick" Sleven.

In January 1948, Trooper Bowen sought medical help for increasingly severe chest pains. Diagnosed with a malignant tumor in his chest, he was told his condition was serious, and the cancer had spread. Despite the fact the illness weighed heavily on him, his buoyant spirit remained strong. He died at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis on June 29, 1948, at the age of 34. Trooper Bowen's body was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Marceline near his mother and next to the single grave of his wife and daughter. The forerunner of Patrol News said of him, "The Patrol lost a loyal officer. Patrol members lost a true friend and comrade."

Patrol yearbooks have typically listed the names of all members past and present. Some names are followed by "DWE," meaning "Died While Employed." The deaths of these members were primarily due to illnesses or accidents that did not occur in the line of duty. It has happened throughout the history of the Patrol at all ranks, in all areas of the state, and includes civilian employees as well. There have been a significant number of employees who served for a time but never had the opportunity to complete a full career or retire. Left behind as time marched on, each had a story, typically with only bits and pieces of their existence and their work having been documented in old Patrol files, random newspaper clippings, court records, and other widely scattered archives. But they were here - and they served honorably. They were a part of the Patrol family, and they remain a part of Patrol history. This was simply a brief history of one such person who was taken too early, and whose story allows us to reflect and recognize all of those who died while employed.

MSHP Named Recycling Changemakers



(I to r) Capt. Matt Broniec, Shawn Cooksey, Chris Terry, John Englemeyer, Marshall Nibert, Rebecca Hedrick, and Lt. Craig Kicker pause for a grouip photo at Gateway Industries in Eldon, MO.

By Captain Matthew J. Broniec (Q/BPD)

On December 2, those who take sustainability to the next level were celebrated by the State of Missouri. These are the folks who sort better than most people file taxes and who can spot a recyclable item from across the room like it's a superpower.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2025:

- The State of Missouri recycled 10.39 million pounds of material statewide
- Saved enough energy to power 3,000 Missouri homes for an entire year
- Achieved a net financial benefit of $769,335.50
- MOREuse turned six and avoided $249,532 in purchasing costs, and
- Diverted 34,696 pounds of materials from disposal

THREE AWARDS WERE PRESENTED DURING THE CEREMONY:

- Individual Recycling Champion
- Team Recycling Champion
- Recycling Changemaker Award

Each of these awards celebrates individuals and teams who went above and beyond to make recycling and resource stewardship part of their daily work.

The Recycling Changemaker Award is a new award created and chosen by the Surplus and Recycling Team from the Office of Administration. The Recycling Changemaker Award shines a light on creative efforts of those who work behind the scenes at state departments. This award celebrates someone who didn't just follow the recycling process—they changed it, improved it, and elevated what sustainability can look like in state government. This is a way of saying, "We see you. Your work matters. And everyone else should see it too."

This year's inaugural Changemaker Award went to Missouri State Highway Patrol's "To Shred and Protect." The Patrol shreds old or damaged uniforms, leaving massive amounts of textile material with nowhere to go. But instead of sending it to the landfill, the Patrol partnered with Gateway Industries, a sheltered workshop, in Eldon, MO, to repurpose shredded uniforms into archery target filler and to make door draft shields. This program keeps thousands of pounds of textiles out of Missouri landfills, supports meaningful jobs for differently abled workers, and models what a circular economy can look like in state government. This isn't just recycling—it's sustainability with heart. It's innovation, inclusion, and problem-solving all in one.

Congratulations to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Chris Terry, Shawn Cooksey, and Jeff Herigon for being the first-ever Recycling Changemaker Award recipients!

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you are interested in purchasing an archery target or a door draft shield, please contact Gateway Industries at 573-392-4405 or email gatind@att.net.



(l to r) OA Commissioner Ken Zellers, Chris Terry, and Cameron Gehlert at the awards ceremony.

CHIEF T.J. CURRY NAMED HONORARY TROOPER

By Corporal Justin D. Howard (A)

On October 7, 2025, Corporal Zach D. Thomas (A) sustained serious injuries after being involved in a motor vehicle crash with a tractor trailer. He was initially unconscious, pinned inside his patrol vehicle, and unreachable through the driver's door due to extensive damage. Several motorists stopped at the crash scene to render assistance. One of the motorists was T.J. Curry, the Chief of the Wood Heights Fire Department.

Amid the chaos, Chief Curry stepped forward with extraordinary courage and clarity. As multiple witnesses attempted unsuccessfully to reach 911, Chief Curry immediately assessed the scene and tried to use Cpl. Thomas' portable radio to call for help. When that failed, he entered the patrol car through the front passenger window, located the vehicle's radio microphone, and made successful contact with Troop A Radio. His transmission, "Badge 800, dispatch," alerted Troop A Radio Operators to the crash and that Cpl. Thomas was involved. Chief Curry provided an accurate location of the crash, the severity of Cpl. Thomas' injuries, and relayed vital information as other first responders were dispatched.

Chief Curry took command of the scene, directing bystanders to check on the tractor-trailer driver, who was found uninjured, and ensuring that accurate information continued to reach Troop A Radio. Recognizing the potential for spinal injuries, Chief Curry carefully stabilized Cpl. Thomas' head and neck while speaking with him to monitor his level of consciousness. He remained composed throughout, offering reassurance to Cpl. Thomas.

Even as fire crews arrived to begin the extrication process, Chief Curry remained on scene and did not leave Cpl. Thomas' side until he was loaded onto a stretcher. Chief Curry's actions exemplified courage, leadership, and compassion; all qualities expected of members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Chief Curry was nominated to receive an Honorary Trooper Certificate by Master Sergeant Chadwick S. Kutzner (A).

On November 20, Captain Steven V. Wilhoit, Commanding Officer of Troop A, presented Chief Curry with the Honorary Trooper Certificate. This marked the first time Chief Curry and Cpl. Thomas had the opportunity to meet and talk face to face since the crash. Their conversation underscored the profound impact of Chief Curry's actions that day and highlighted the gratitude felt by Cpl. Thomas, his family, the Patrol, and the community he serves.



Christmas Cheer: Troop B Adopt-A-Family

By Sergeant Justin S. Dunn (B)

On December 18, 2025, Troop B employees made a special Christmas delivery to a very deserving family, located in Marion County, MO. As Troop B employees were delivering presents to the family, they quickly saw the excitement on the children's faces and the impact made on this family. Troop B's wish to bless a family this Christmas season brightened this particular family's Christmas. Words can't describe the gratitude the family expressed as employees left the residence after their special delivery.





Assistant Chief Operator Jeffrey Stokes Earns Emergency Number Professional Designation

By Chief Operator Zachary M. Dykes (Q/CommD)

The Communications Division would like to congratulate Assistant Chief Operator Jeffrey L. Stokes (I) on successfully earning the designation of Emergency Number Professional (ENP), issued through the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). ACO Stokes is the first individual in the Patrol and one of only 15 individuals in MO who have earned this designation. At the time he achieved this designation, there were only 1,739 communications professionals worldwide who were recognized as ENPs.

To qualify for this designation, ACO Stokes had to meet a minimum experience criterion, and he was also required to take a proctored, 150-question exam on emergency communications-specific items dealing with telephone systems, radio technology, federal legislation regarding infrastructure and personnel management, as well as human resources and administrative items. ACO Stokes estimated in the months leading up to the exam, he studied a minimum of 50 hours and participated in an online study group.

The Communications Division is grateful to ACO Stokes for his initiative, utilization of PLDA funds, and his level of commitment to the profession. This accomplishment is something that he, the division, and the Patrol can be proud of. Congratulations ACO Stokes on earning this specialized designation!

Trooper Jerry W. Hunter Receives Commendation from Arizona Rangers

By Corporal Justin D. Howard (A)



On December 4, 2025, Trooper Jerry W. Hunter (A) was formally recognized by the Arizona Rangers for extraordinary bravery and service during an incident in Saline County, on June 17, 2025. Trooper Hunter became the first out-of-state recipient of the Arizona Rangers' Medal of Valor, in addition to a Distinguished Service Medal, and was named an Honorary Member of the Arizona Rangers.

On June 17, 2025, troopers along with other local law enforcement were searching for a motorcycle being driven by a suspect wanted in connection to an out-of-state homicide. The motorcycle had previously fled from law enforcement until visual contact was lost in the area of 120th Road in Sweet Springs, Saline County. Officers moved into the area to locate the suspect. He was located traveling westbound on 115th Road. Near the intersection of Belmont Avenue, the motorcycle crashed into Trooper Jerry Hunter's patrol vehicle and the suspect fled on foot. Trooper Hunter exited his patrol vehicle to give chase, at which time the suspect, armed with a handgun, fired at Trooper Hunter, striking him in his bullet resistant vest. Trooper Hunter returned fire, striking the suspect. The suspect, Francis Alcantar-Chavez, was pronounced deceased on scene. The victims of the homicide for which Alcantar-Chavez was wanted in connection with were his mother and stepfather, Cynthia and Troy Templeton, who were both members of the Arizona Rangers.

Trooper Hunter traveled to Show Low, AZ, where he met multiple members of the Arizona Rangers, including Colonel Barry Adams, the state commander. This award presentation marked a rare and significant moment in the Arizona Ranger's history. Colonel Adams presented a citation regarding the Medal of Valor:

"The Medal of Valor is awarded by the State Commander of the Arizona Rangers to an individual Ranger or Peace Officer of a partner law enforcement agency for an act committed in the face of great danger, wherein valor, courage and bravery are demonstrated over and above that normally demanded and expected. The act must be performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk and by its nature involve the saving of a human life, or attempted saving of a human life, the prevention of a serious crime, or the apprehension of a person who committed a serious crime."

Along with the Medal of Valor, Trooper Hunter was also presented with a Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his sustained excellence and extraordinary contributions to public safety. Finally, Trooper Hunter was named an Honorary Arizona Ranger, which further reflects the deep respect and commendation earned through his decisive action taken on June 17, 2025, to eliminate the threat and end the criminal rampage, which deeply affected members of the Arizona Rangers. From the words of Colonel Barry Adams, "In public safety, we use words like honor, valor, integrity; today, I met those words in human form in Trooper Jerry Hunter."

103 MPH IS ONE WAY TO GET A TROOPER'S ATTENTION

By Sergeant Shane M. Hux (H)

On Saturday, November 15, 2025, Corporal Verland R. E. McBride (H) put his interdiction training to good use, proving once again that the first step to any solid interdiction case is simply stopping a vehicle where the driver is violating the law. What followed served yet another reminder that good policing often begins with nothing more than sharp observation, a traffic violation, and a trooper ready to act.

At approximately 1635 hours, Cpl. McBride checked a black Cadillac Escalade traveling 103 miles per hour on Interstate 35 in Daviess County. He attempted to conduct a traffic stop, but the driver of the Escalade had other intentions. A pursuit ensued, continuing until the driver lost control and crashed into a nearby field.

Immediately following the crash, the driver exited the vehicle and fled on foot, carrying a red duffle bag over his shoulder. Sometimes the indicators are as obvious as a duffle bag full of trouble running down the road. Cpl. McBride ordered the driver to stop, but he apparently missed the memo.

Trooper Josh H. Thompson (H) arrived on scene and gave chase on foot. The driver, perhaps reconsidering his life choices, dropped the duffle bag like a hot potato prior to being tackled to the ground. The driver fought tooth and nail to escape, but Cpl. McBride and Tpr. Thompson ultimately took him into custody.

The red duffel bag was later recovered in the field where the driver dropped it. The bag contained nearly $206,000. A search of the Escalade uncovered additional contraband, including:

- 18 pounds of marijuana
- Four pounds of cocaine
- One ounce of fentanyl

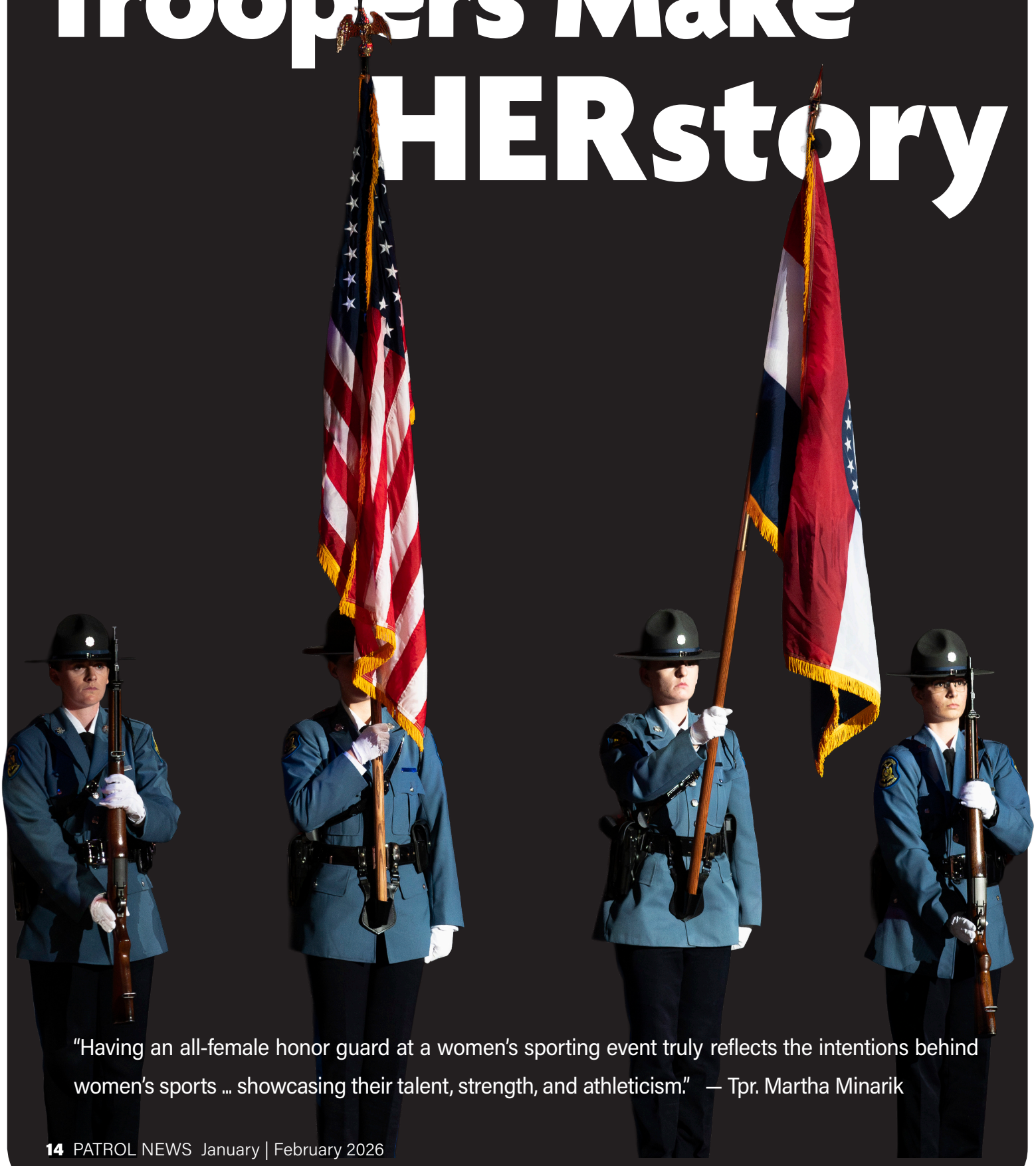
Even though Cpl. McBride did not have the luxury of observing the driver's carotid artery pulsing like a drum solo or collecting the traditional "web of lies" during casual conversation, he still managed to pull off a textbook seizure. Sometimes you don't need fancy indicators, just a driver out there making terrible decisions, and a trooper ready to act.

The driver was later indicted on charges of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.





Troopers Make HERstory



"Having an all-female honor guard at a women's sporting event truly reflects the intentions behind women's sports … showcasing their talent, strength, and athleticism." — Tpr. Martha Minarik



By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

History was made on November 11, 2025, at Mizzou Arena during the women's basketball game. For the first time, an all-female Honor Guard served at an event. The Honor Guard was made up of Trooper Brittney S. Romano (F), Trooper Bailey N. Hunsicker (F), Trooper Jaclyn P. Wilder (F), and Trooper Martha A. Minarik (F). This was also the first time the Patrol has presented the colors at a Mizzou basketball game.

Before stepping onto the court, many thoughts and emotions played out in each troopers' minds. Tpr. Minarik simply thought, "Nothing major was going through my head, just 'become one with the team,' and 'don't hit your hat.'" Each trooper on the detail has only been a member of the Honor Guard for a few months. Despite being new to the detail, each of them presented the colors with respect and dignity. "I was honored and excited for the opportunity to represent the women in our agency, as well as our agency as a whole," said Tpr. Hunsicker, "I have great respect for the women who stood beside me, and I am truly grateful to have been part of such a memorable experience."

For some in the detail, this was the first time attending an event in Mizzou Arena or presenting the colors at a public event. Tpr. Minarik described the environment as "grand" and "inspiring to watch the athletes — basketball players and cheerleaders—do what they do best." Tpr. Romano's family, including her daughter, attended the game with her. This was their first time watching her present the colors. Tpr. Romano said, " ... my daughter thought it was super cool that I got be on the basketball court." Having an up-close and personal view of how Mizzou basketball games are run behind the scenes is an unforgettable experience.

Among all four officers, an undeniable sense of pride was evident as they presented the colors - one that spread throughout the stadium and was felt by all in attendance. I, myself, couldn't help but stand taller and put my shoulders back in their presence. These four women represented everything great about the Patrol. Tpr. Hunsicker said, "I am grateful for the opportunity, as well as for the support of our Honor Guard leadership and staff. I am proud to stand alongside such a dedicated team to showcase our agency in a positive light. This opportunity was truly rewarding and allowed me to honor our agencies values, contribute to a historic moment, and work alongside troopers I deeply admire."

Since the game was for the Mizzou women's basketball team, many young girls were in attendance that night. It was kismet that this would be not only the first time the Patrol would present colors at Mizzou Arena, but to have the first all-female Honor Guard present. Tpr. Romano reflected, "Being part of the first all-female honor guard was a true honor. That evening, many young girls were in attendance, including a local elementary school girls' basketball team, and I hope our presence helped inspire them to achieve great things."

"I'm honored that I was able to be a part of such a momentous detail," said Tpr. Minarik. "I have pondered this a great while, and I have concluded that having an all-female honor guard at a women's sporting event truly reflects the intentions behind women's sports: to have a place where the best females in their field can compete, showcasing their talent, strength, and athleticism. Both teams brought the best of their best to the game, and in the same spirit, so did the Highway Patrol."

PODCAST CONNECTS PATROL



By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

When Colonel Michael A. Turner decided on his priorities for the Patrol, communication was at the forefront—not just communication with the public but with all Patrol employees. Captain Danielle E. Heil (Q/RCOD) and the Recruitment and Community Outreach Division (RCOD) had just the idea.

The idea of a podcast had been sitting in the back of Capt. Heil's mind for a while. After Colonel Turner was sworn in, the idea became a reality. "I listen to a lot of podcasts, and I thought it would be a good tool for the agency to tell stories and to learn about the different divisions," said Capt. Heil. The first episode of the Ride-Along Radio Podcast aired on September 10, 2025, with Colonel Turner as the special guest. Guests have ranged from the Superintendent's office, Public Information and Education Division, troopers, and Division of Drug and Crime Control.

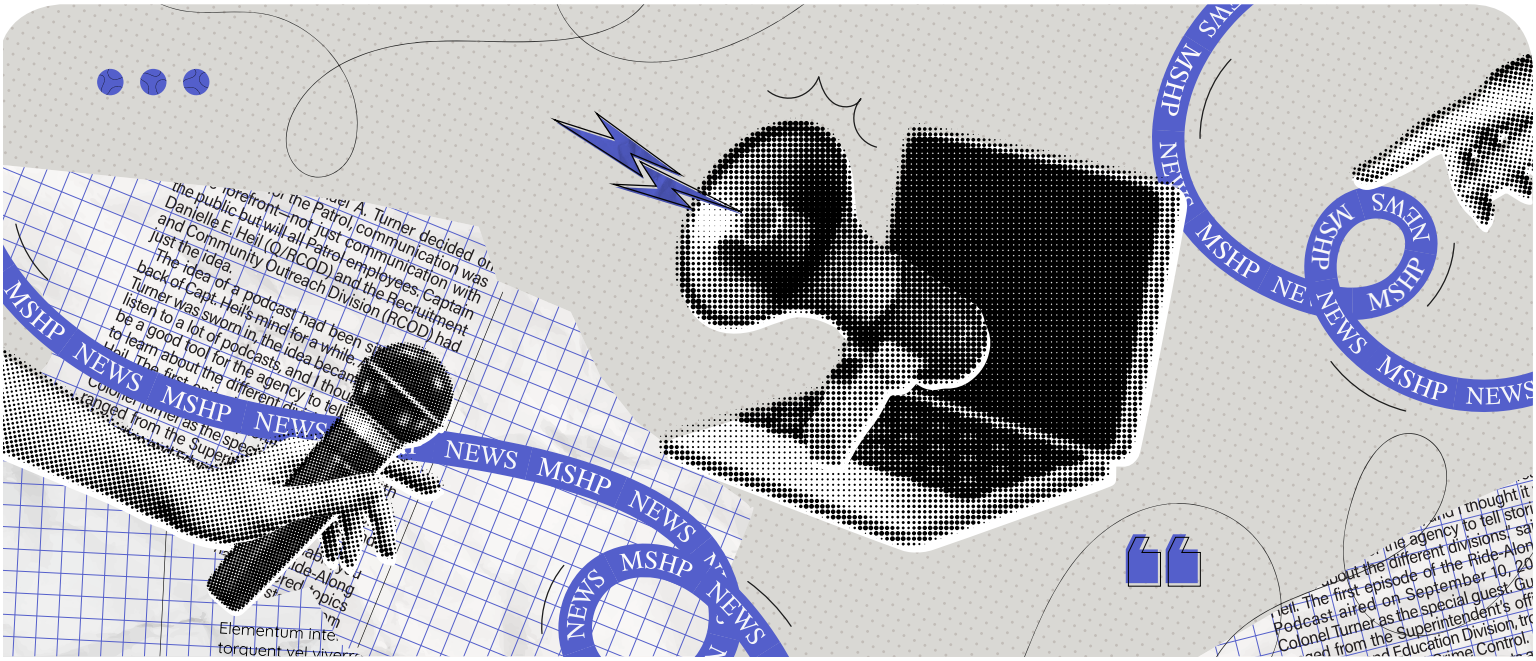
With such a wide range of guests available, you never know what you will hear on a Ride-Along Radio episode. Episodes have covered topics such as Patrol history and personal stories from troopers. Capt. Heil and her team wanted to make sure that all aspects of the Patrol were showcased. Capt. Heil said, "My goal is to get every division, every niche of the Patrol, spotlighted." The Patrol has over 20 divisions and the Ride-Along Radio has made steady progress toward showcasing all divisions.

Before Capt. Heil can interview a guest, both she and Scott A. Tremain (Q/TND) put in hard work to prepare for the recording. Capt. Heil prepares for podcast recordings by selecting and researching the guest, coming up with questions, and reviewing the material with the guest. Scott works with the guest on preparing them for the process of recording. He will send the guest the run of the show and share the idea behind the podcast. Some guests may come in with notes, while others will wing it. What's important is the flow of the conversation. Scott described the podcast as being "a conversation that makes listeners feel like they are eavesdropping."

Making and producing a podcast is not for the faint of heart. Scott is the brain that turns Capt. Heil's work into the finished product. Scott has over 30 years of experience in the radio industry and applies his knowledge of production to Ride-Along Radio. He is the key to making each episode flawless as possible. Scott explained when producing a podcast, audio from each person speaking is individually recorded through their personal microphone. Each individual audio track will then be edited by Scott. Occasionally, there is a background noise that is too distracting in the audios, so Scott will clip out that noise on each individual recording. Editing two people's audio for the podcast can take anywhere from an hour to over three hours each!

The technical side of the podcast is not the only one that can prove to be challenging. Both Capt. Heil and Scott agreed that the most challenging part of making a podcast is making the guest comfortable. "Most of the folks, for the most part, have never been on a podcast before. . . a lot of them, if you sit them down in front of a microphone with headphones to put on, it can be intimidating," said Scott. It may take a while for a guest to get comfortable, especially if they don't have much public speaking experience. But throughout the recording, Capt. Heil and Scott can watch the guest become more and more relaxed. Capt. Heil said, "My favorite thing about the podcast is watching someone come in who may be nervous and then watching them relax, realizing it's not hard, it's just a conversation."

Guests may hit a learning curve of being on a podcast, especially if they are new to public speaking, and Capt. Heil has also learned some valuable skills. "Being able to have a normal conversation, instead of a question and answer, and to figure out transitions from topic to topic can prove



to be difficult," said Capt. Heil. "It is definitely an art. I'm learning as I go."

Although there can be struggles and many hours put into production, both Capt. Heil and Scott make it obvious that they are enjoying what they are doing. You can see in both of them how they light up when speaking of the podcast. Their teamwork and separate abilities are what makes the podcast a success. "I must give my accolades to Scott Tremain. I could not do this without him. He is the brain behind this operation," said Capt. Heil. "I don't have to worry about technicalities and it makes my job so much easier. I really appreciate his help so much."

As the Patrol enters the new year, more episodes of the podcast will continue to be released on a bi-weekly schedule. "Everybody's got a story … If you are knowledgeable on a subject and passionate about it, you can talk forever," said Scott. If you know of a topic or guest that you would like to be featured on the Ride-Along Podcast, please email Capt. Heil or RCOD.



Scott A. Tremain (Q/TND) focuses diligently to create a professional podcast.



Scott A. Tremain (Q/TND) balances audio while Capt. Danielle Heil (Q/RCOD) chats with Capt. Brandon White (Q/FOB) for an upcoming podcast episode.

Obituaries



Don Bobbett

DONALD "DON" LYNN BOBBETT

Donald "Don" Bobbett passed away surrounded by loved ones at his home in House Springs, MO, on November 15, 2025. Don was born on April 25, 1942, in Nevada, MO. From 1962 to 1967, Don proudly served in the Missouri Army National Guard as an Armor Crewman and Medical Aidman, earning an honorable discharge at the rank of SP5. Don dedicated 32 years of service to the Patrol as a driver examiner. Remaining to cherish his memory are his wife, Barbara Bobbett, and many relatives. To learn more about Don, please visit the Adams Funeral Home and Crematory website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Bobbett family.



John Mooneyhan

JOHN R. MOONEYHAN

On December 2, 2025, John Mooneyhan passed away from cancer. John was born on February 10, 1943, in Kansas City, MO. He joined the Marine Corps in 1961 and spent his last two months with the Corps in Vietnam. After leaving the Corps, John joined the Patrol and served for 28 years. In 1982, he joined the Missouri National Guard and retired in 2003. John is survived by his wife, Kathy, two daughters, Tonya (John) Stout and Kim (JR) Balog; five grandchildren; one great granddaughter; brother, Charles Mooneyhan; and nieces and nephews. To learn more about John, please visit the Longview Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Mooneyhan family.



Maureen Olive

MAUREEN J. OLIVE

Maureen Olive was fortified with the sacraments of the Mother Church on November 26, 2025. She was born in 1944 in St. Louis, MO. She joined the Patrol in 1992 at Troop C and dedicated 12 years of service as a driver examiner clerk before retiring. Maureen is lovingly remembered by her four children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. To learn more about Maureen, please visit the Kutis Funeral Home Inc. website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Olive family.



Gary Lutes

GARY E. LUTES

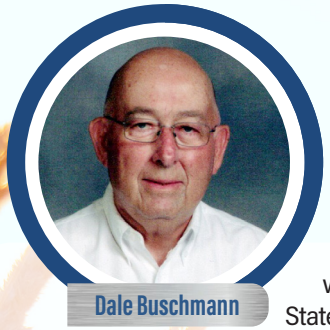
Gary Lutes passed away on December 2, 2025, at the age of 77. Gary graduated from high school in 1966 and went on to have an extensive military and law enforcement career. He served in the United States Army, Missouri National Guard, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. After serving 27 years, Gary retired as a sergeant from the Patrol in August 1999. He is survived by his wife, Deborah, four children, and six grandchildren. To learn more about Gary, please visit the Gorman-Scharpf Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Lutes family.



Bill Bell

WILLIAM "BILL" L. BELL

On December 29, 2025, Bill Bell passed away at the age of 85. Bill was born on August 7, 1940, in Kansas City, MO. He graduated from Newton-Harris High School in 1958. In 1963, Bill began his law enforcement career with the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department. He served KCPD for three years before joining the Patrol in 1966. He was assigned to Troop A, serving Platte and Clay Counties. Eight years later, he was then promoted to corporal and transferred to the Intelligence and Investigations Division, later known as the Division of Drug and Crime Control. Bill was promoted to sergeant and graduated from the FBI National Academy. He retired in 1999 after more than 33 years of dedicated service. Bill is survived by his sons, John (Elizabeth) Bell and Andy (Julie) Bell, and sisters, Joyce Greer and Karen (Bill) Otto. He is also survived by many grandchildren and great children. To learn more about Bill, please visit the Royer Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Bell family.



Dale Buschmann

DALE E. BUSCHMANN

Dale Buschmann passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2025, leaving behind a distinguished legacy of public service and a profound devotion to his family. Dale was enlisted in the United States Army Reserve from July 1966 to July 1971. On February 1, 1968, Dale joined the Patrol. He initially served Troop C for 26 years. He became captain and commanding officer of Troop C in 1988. In 1994, Dale was promoted to Major and served as commander of the Administrative Services Bureau until his retirement in 1999. He founded the first Special Emergency Response Team for Troop C and was a graduate of the U.S. Secret Service Dignitary Protection School and the FBI National Academy. Dale is survived by his wife, Beverly; his children, Nicole Bushmann and Erik (Amanda) Buschmann; two grandchildren; his sister, Karen (Ron) Ferkol; and a large extended family of in-laws, nieces, and nephews. To learn more about Dale, please visit the Trimble Funeral Homes website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Buschmann family.



Delbert McCormick

DELBERT H. McCORMICK

On January 2, 2026, Delbert McCormick passed away at the age of 80. He graduated from Willow Springs High School in 1963 and joined the United States Navy in the fall of 1963. He served for eight years and was discharged in 1971 with the rank of Radioman 1st Class. Delbert joined the Patrol in December of 1971, serving in Troop C for seven years before transferring to Troop D in 1978. He served Troop D until his retirement in 2004 at the rank of Chief Radio Operator. Delbert is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. To learn more about Delbert, please visit the Gorman-Scharpf Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the McCormick family.



CT Carlyle

CLINTON "CT" T. CARLYLE

Clinton Carlyle, 79, passed away on January 3, 2026. CT graduated from Odessa High School in 1964. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. After his service, he was employed with the Patrol. During his time with the Patrol, he served on Governor Kit Bond's security detail. CT retired on May 1, 1997, after 26 years of dedicated service. CT is survived by his wife, Margaret; three children, Anissa (Ken) Falconer, Nate (Christie) Carlyle, and Josh (Sherry) Carlyle; three sisters; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter, and his stepchildren, Travis Briscoe, Scott Briscoe, Larry D. Flaugher, Kelly Flaugher, and Kerry Vollmer. To learn more about CT, please visit the Windmill Ridge Funeral Service website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Carlyle family.



Ernie Schroeder

ERNEST "ERNIE" W. SCHROEDER

On January 3, 2026, Ernest Scroeder, age 81, passed away at his home in Quincy, IL. Ernie joined the Patrol on May 31, 1967. He retired at the rank of sergeant in 1997. Ernie is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter Pam (Chris) Schuering; daughter-in-law Christy Fisher; six grandchildren; two sisters, Doris (James) Stoehner and Judy (Robert) Teson and many wonderful nieces and nephews. To learn more about Ernie, please visit the Davis Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Schroeder family.



Mike Klindt

MICHAEL "MIKE" R. KLINDT

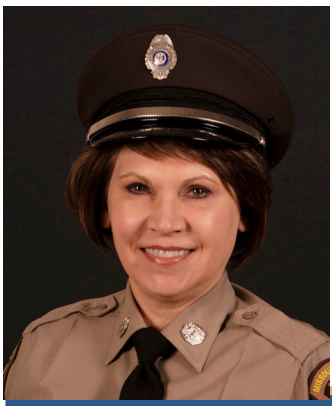
Michael Klindt, 83, left this world to join his savior, Jesus Christ, in heaven on Friday, January 2, 2026, with his wife and children by his side. Mike joined the Patrol as a Commercial Vehicle Inspector on July 1, 1984, and retired in 2005. He worked on his family farm in Bethany, MO, and was also a pilot and real estate broker. Mike is survived by his wife, Laura; son, John (Kate) Klindt and daughter, Traci (Greg) Manis; six grandchildren; brothers, Dough Klindt, David Klindt, Dan (Jean) Klindt, and sister, Ann (Michael) Murray; as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews. To learn more about Mike, please visit the Roberson Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Klindt family.

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT

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



JEREMIE L. KEATHLEY
Master Sergeant
Troop I
Retired December 1, 2025
30 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service



CHRISTY D. HILLHOUSE
Driver Examiner
Troop G
Retired December 1, 2025
22 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service



KERRY K. CREACH
Div. Asst. Director
Q/CJIS
Retired December 1, 2025
24 years, 8 mo. of dedicated service



KAY E. MONK
Forensic Lab Manager
Q/CLD
Retired December 1, 2025
32 years, 5 mo. of dedicated service



BRANDON D. HELMS
Sergeant
Troop D
Retired January 1, 2026
29 years of dedicated service



CAROLINE A. KEENEY
Admin. Supp. Prof.
Q/PRD
Retired January 1, 2026
4 years, 6 mo. of dedicated service



JOSEPH DRUM
Trooper
Troop D
Retired January 1, 2026
29 years of dedicated service



ELIZABETH A. RUETTGERS
Sr. Intelligence Analyst
Q/DDCC
Retired January 1, 2026
16 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service



SCOTT A. SHIPERS
Major
Q/ESB
Retired January 1, 2026
30 years of dedicated service



MICHAEL A. HALL
Chief Technician
Q/CommD
Retired January 1, 2026
31 years, 4 mo. of dedicated service



REGINA C. BROWN
MVI Supervisor
Troop C
Retired January 1, 2026
23 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service

124th Recruit Class

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Family, friends, and other guests filled the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy gymnasium on Friday, December 19, 2025, to watch their loved ones graduate from the 124th Recruit Class. Corporal Tyler W. O'Brien (Q/TND) received the order to present the class for graduation. The 124th Recruit Class then marched into the gymnasium while singing, "Hail, hail State Patrol!"

Pastor Ken Harland, Clover Road Chrisitan Church, MO, presented the invocation, Sergeant Timothy C. Fick, Corporal Brandon L. Harris, Trooper Colton R. Cavanaugh, and Trooper Justice C. Simpson, members of the Troop F Color Guard, presented the colors, and Sergeant Andrew A. Henry (H) sang the national anthem. The graduation ceremony officially began.

The Honorable David Wasinger, Missouri Lieutenant Governor, presented the keynote address. He reflected by sharing, "... this moment is rooted in service, faith, and duty. Today is not just another graduation. Today, 124th Recruit Class, you step into the most respected law enforcement institution in the United States."

After six months at the Academy, the recruits were now at the last step of becoming a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The recruits' hard work did not go unrecognized by any member or guest there. Lt. Governor Wasinger said, "... for months you have pushed yourselves harder than you thought possible. The long days in the classroom, the long nights studying, the early mornings ... test not just your skills, but your judgment and your character." He went on to tell the class how appreciative, he, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the state of Missouri are for their commitment to the Patrol. Lt. Governor Wasinger said, "Missouri understands the weight of what you carry."

Lt. Governor Wasinger then addressed the family, friends, and loved ones of the recruits. He said, "Your service begins today, too. There will be long nights, missed holidays, moments of worry—in a way only law enforcement



Begins A New Journey

families understand." He finished by telling the new troopers to "Wear the uniform with pride. Not only does the uniform represent authority, but trust."

The Honorable Robin Ransom, of the Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the recruits. With the Oaths sworn, 25 new members joined the ranks of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Captain Joseph L. Armistead (Q/TND) addressed the class before the presentation of diplomas. "This day is a day that you will always remember ... You rose to the challenge, and in doing so, you joined the ranks of one of the most respected law enforcement agencies in the country." He reminded the class that the role as a Missouri State Highway Patrol member demands full commitment and that both troopers and their families have made sacrifices for the recruits to be here.

Capt. Armistead thanked the families for their unwavering support that they gave to each recruit. He told the recruits, "Their strength is what helped carry you to this moment." Capt. Armistead gave the troopers one last piece of advice, to hold on to their reason. "Return to this moment and remember your "why", let it ground you and let it guide you." He quoted President Theodore Roosevelt, 'Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.' The 124th Recruit Class was now part of a legacy built on integrity, service, and sacrifice.

After the class received their diplomas, Colonel Michael A. Turner spoke to the 124th Recruit Class about the importance of their training. "It [training] is hard for a reason. Because the job is going to be hard." Colonel Turner encouraged the new troopers to embrace that being a trooper is difficult and will remain so. He explained that the Patrol's training is hard so that only the best get to walk across the stage. "During your career, you will experience challenges, obstacles ... stress, ... danger, ... and profound loss." Colonel Turner stated that the Patrol will never lower the standards set for being a trooper. The 25



new troopers must rely on their training, instincts, and their support network to navigate the upcoming challenges. "But for every challenge, there will be moments of profound reward."

Four class awards were presented during the graduation ceremony. The recruits accumulated points toward graduation in the categories of physical fitness, firearms, and academics throughout their 25 weeks at the Academy. The person with the highest number of points in each category earned the respective award. The recruit with the highest number of points overall earned the Superintendent's Award. Trooper Blake T. Cook (D) accepted the Physical Fitness Award; Trooper Miles A. Hayden (B) accepted the Firearms Trophy; and Trooper Tyler S. Lutjen (A) accepted the Academics Award. Colonel Turner presented the Colonel C. E. "Mel" Fisher Superintendent's Award to Trooper Jordan N. Schafer (B).

Tpr. Schafer, the 124th's class commander, addressed his fellow classmates. He stated that the class started with 51 recruits and now only 25 are graduating. The 25 weeks were filled with overcoming adversity and digging deep. Tpr. Schafer said to not ask why those left but to ask why those chose to stay, stayed. The 25 new troopers knew that the Academy was helping to build them up, turn weaknesses into strengths, develop a mind that is deliberate, reasonable and responsible, and prove to themselves and others that they were capable of being a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. "Even in those moments of uncertainty, when we were pushed to our limits and under duress, we stayed." These troopers' journeys are not over; they are just beginning. "While each of us begin our journey in different parts of the state, our goal will be the same—to uphold the mission of service and protection that began in 1931. . . strive to improve the safety upon the roads that span our state and better the lives of those that travel them."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATED 124TH RECRUIT CLASS!

The names, hometowns, and first assignments of members of the 124th Recruit Class are listed below:

Troop A
Trooper Tyler S. Lutjen (Clinton, MO) - Zone 11, Cass County
Trooper Caleb C. Venegoni (Miami, OK) - Zone 14, Bates County

Troop B
Trooper Miles A. Hayden (Zionsville, IN) - Zone 11, Randolph and Monroe Counties
Trooper Jordan N. Schafer (Hannibal, MO) - Zone 10, Randolph and Monroe Counties
Trooper Caden M. Wilson (Provo, UT) - Zone 6, Clark and Scotland Counties

Troop C
Trooper Timonthy G. Busse (Potosi, MO) - Zone 14, St. Francois and Washington Counties
Trooper Brady R. Cook (Farmington, MO) - Zone 1, North St. Louis County
Trooper Nicholas A. Konopelski (St. Peters, MO) - Zone 8, St. Charles County
Trooper Brenna C. Langenberg (New Haven, MO) - Zone 10, Franklin County

Troop D
Trooper Kyle J. Atkisson (Grovespring, MO)- Zone 16, Hickory and Dallas Counties
Trooper Blake T. Cook (Farmington, MO) - Zone 10, Webster County
Trooper Nels C. Fry (Waynesville, MO) - Zone 3, Polk County
Trooper Eric S. Leek (Carthage, MO) - Zone 14, Barry County

Troop E
Trooper Grant D. Miller (Piedmont, MO) - Zone 11, Stoddard County
Trooper Matthew J. Schroeder (Doniphan, MO) - Zone 7, Mississippi, New Madrid, and Pemiscot Counties
Trooper Nikolas S. Smith (Senath, MO) - Zone 8, New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties
Trooper Zachary G. Thren (Tell City, IN) - Zone 7, Mississippi, New Madrid, and Pemiscot Counties

Troop F
Trooper Jace H. Adams (Hannibal, MO) - Zone 7, Cooper and Howard Counties

Troop G
Trooper Adam C. White (Battlefield, MO) - Zone 5, Douglas and Ozark Counties

Troop H
Trooper Matthew J. Dorrell (Marceline, MO) - Zone 4, Grundy, Mercer, and Livingston Counties
Trooper Delaney K. Dunkin (Norborne, MO) - Zone 7, Clinton and Caldwell Counties
Trooper Noah M. Newland (Queen City, MO) - Zone 2, Nodaway and Worth Counties
Trooper Lucas N. Reynolds (Chillicothe, MO) - Zone 4, Grundy, Mercer, and Livingston Counties
Trooper Raul Hernandez (Marshall, MO) - Zone 10, Daviess and DeKalb Counties

Troop I
Trooper Thomas A. Kneuper (Rolla, MO) - Zone 2, Pulaski County


Jace H. Adams


Kyle J. Atkisson


Timothy G. Busse


Blake T. Cook


Brady R. Cook


Matthew J. Dorrell


Delaney K. Dunkin


Nels C. Fry


Caden M. Wilson


Miles A. Hayden


Raul Hernandez


Thomas A. Kneuper


Nicholas A. Konopelski


Brenna C. Langenberg


Eric S. Leek

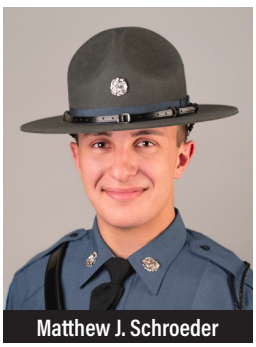

Tyler S. Lutjen


Grant D. Miller


Noah M. Newland


Lucas N. Reynolds


Jordan N. Schafer


Matthew J. Schroeder


Nikolas S. Smith


Zachary G. Thren


Caleb C. Venegoni


Adam C. White

PATROL HISTORY

By Sgt. E. M. Raub (GHQ)

Throughout its history, the Highway Patrol has regularly been assigned additional duties that in one form or another, related to highway safety. One of those duties was assigned by the legislature effective January 1, 1952, when the Patrol became the state's driver license examiner. As often happens, implementation of the program was delayed because of lack of appropriations.

Funds were later available, and to prepare for its task, the Patrol trained thirty-five of its uniformed officers at the State Fair grounds in Sedalia for their new jobs. On August 1, 1952 the program got underway. Trooper T.D. "Tillie" Cameron, Badge 217, gave the first successful driver's examination to Gerald Ralph Pendleton of Prairie Home, Missouri, at the examining station at the Cooper County Courthouse in Boonville. Governor Forrest Smith and Colonel David E. Harrison were in attendance, and formally congratulated the sixteen year old applicant. The event was recognized as an important step in highway safety, having been advocated by the Auto Club, the Patrol, safety experts, and many of the state's newspaper editorials for at least twenty years.

Pendleton kept his Missouri license until he moved to Kansas in 1966. He later returned to Missouri, took another test (without the fanfare), and obtained another Missouri driver's license. He now lives in Jefferson City. Trooper Cameron went on to other duties in the Patrol, but was eventually assigned again to driver license examinations. He retired as a sergeant in 1975, as supervisor of Troop F's driver license examination program, and now lives in the state of Florida.

Like many of the extra duties the Patrol has been assigned, civilian employees have been invaluable in assuring that adequate manpower is available for the Patrol to be effective in its growing mission. On July 26, 1955, thirty-six civilian driver examiners started work. As of November, 1984, thirty-two and a half years after the program started, there were 13 uniformed officers, 146 uniformed driver examiners, 25 full-time civilian clerks, and 19 part-time clerks engaged in the ongoing process of driver license examinations.

(This article was printed originally in the January 1985 issue of the Patrol News. Captain Raub is now retired.)



Gerald Ralph Pendleton takes the first successful driver's examination, conducted by Trooper T.D. "Tillie" Cameron at the examining station in the Cooper County Courthouse in Boonville, MO.

WITH sympathy

Ret. Sgt. Mark A. Winder - mother

Assistant Chief Operator Jeffrey L. Stokes Jr. (I/CommD) - grandfather-in-law

Cpl. Jeff W. Huff (A/DDCC) - mother

CVO Jennifer D. Suchman (A) - stepmother-in-law

Cyber Security Tech Shelby R. Veit (Q/CTD)- brother

Tpr. Gregory "Tyler" T. Hackett (D) - grandfather

DE Amanda L. Scharnhorst (A) - brother

Sgt. Brooks A. Pratt (E) - father

MVI Timothy A. Shawhan (D) - mother

Admin. Supp. Asst. Meagan R. Shawhan (D) - grandmother-in-law

Sr. Auto/Marine Tech Daniel P. Smith (A) - sister

Sgt. Andrew "Andy" A. Henry (H) - father

Ret. Chief DE Patricia R. Zvolanek - mother

Ret. Chief Radio Operator Stephen J. Zvolanek - mother-in-law

Sr. Program Specialist Michael S. Zvolanek (Q/CJIS) - grandmother

Tpr. Kenneth H. Hall (G) - father

Ret. Lt. Thomas J. Halford - wife

Capt. Michael A. Halford (Q/MIAC) - mother

Sgt. Matthew T. Halford (F) - mother

Master Sgt. Alex J. Shibley (C) - grandmother

Sr. Forensics Scientist Alyxandria L. Shibley (Q/CLD) - grandmother

Cpl. Mindy M. Lambeth (A) - father-in-law

Lt. Andrew J. Bell (A) - father

Building and Ground Tech. Steven S. Spencer (A) - mother

Capt. Shawn P. Skoglund (H) - father-in-law



Looking Back

IN THE PATROL NEWS

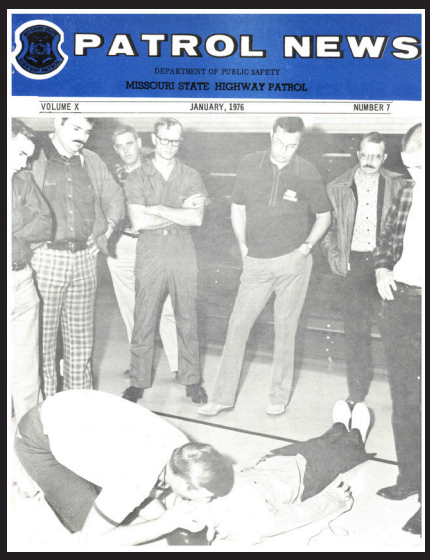


Volunteers Needed to Help With Recruit DWI Training

4 Patrol NewsJanuary 1986

30 YEARS AGO

The January 1996 edition of the *Patrol News* featured an article on the importance of Patrol employees participating as volunteers for the recruits' DWI practicals. Criminal Records and Identification Division employee Valerie J. Watkins was pictured demonstrating her balance for recruits and Corporal Thomas M. Scott (Q/TND) was shown at the Patrol's official bartender during the exercise.



PATROL NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

VOLUME X JANUARY, 1976 NUMBER 7

50 YEARS AGO

In the January 1976 edition of the *Patrol News*, an article submitted by Troop A recounted a feverish rescue performed by Trooper Larry Williams. The rescue of the victim took over 30 minutes. A boat was borrowed, a four-man rescue team established, finding a rope, an axe, and chopping a path through ice in a pond. When the victim was recovered, they were then dragged 50 yards by the neck, through the path cut into the ice-covered pond. The victim in question was a horse.



Katrina Devastates Gulf

Members of the Patrol staff, Motor Equipment Division, and Communications Division met with those deploying to Mississippi prior to their departure.

Jefferson City. Colonel Roger D. Stottlemyre and his staff met with members of the detail and wished them safety and luck for the duration of their assignment. Exactly what those duties would be was still unclear; however, a contact with the Mississippi Highway Patrol would provide more

commodate 56 people. As we went further south, it became apparent that was going to be an issue.

Dinner went well, and we were treated to very local, southern hospitality and some really good catfish. The local residents were very appreciative of our coming to their area, and we

20 YEARS AGO

After Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf of Mexico, the Patrol answered the call to assist with relief efforts in Mississippi. Troopers from across the state volunteered provide service to those affected. Duties included securing highways, clearing debris, and maintaining order at Red Cross relief distribution centers. Troopers left Missouri on Sept. 9, 2005, and started returning home Sept. 17, 2005. An article detailing their efforts was featured in the January/February 2006 edition of the *Patrol News*.



(Submitted by Sgt. R. L. Rehmeier, Troop C)

NEW AIRCRAFT - In September, Troop C received its new aircraft, a 1985 Cessna 182 Skylane single engine airplane. The aircraft replaced the 1977 Cessna Skylane that had been used in Troop C for the past eight years.

The new plane is equipped with better, more modern radio equipment and state of the art navigation radios. It also has the new Wolfsburg 33,000 Channel Police Radio which will enable direct radio communication with any Missouri police department. An autopilot was added at no charge by the dealer.

The new plane will continue with its mission of promoting safety on the highways as well as relays of personnel, equipment and medical items. It also will continue to serve the D/DCC Program for marijuana eradication, surveillance and other criminal investigation activities.

(Pictured with the new plane are Sergeant Rich Rehmeier and Corporal John Rhodus, Troop C Pilots.)

40 YEARS AGO

Troop C received a new aircraft in September 1985. The 1985 Cessna 182 Skylane single engine airplane replaced the 1977 Cessna Skylane that had been used for the previous eight years. The new plane was equipped with more modern radio equipment, state-of-the-art navigation radios, and autopilot. Sergeant Rich L. Rehmeier (C) and Corporal John W. Rhodus (C) were pictured with the new plane in the January 1986 edition of the *Patrol News*.



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State Highway

I know my living will not be in vain."

Colonel J. Bret Johnson expressed his appreciation to Mr. McPherson for speaking at the diversity celebration

10 YEARS AGO

Mr. David McPherson II, son of the first black trooper in Missouri, David McPherson, wrote an article for the January/February 2016 edition of the *Patrol News*, reflecting on his father's time in the Patrol and the impact of his father's accomplishments. This article went along with Public Information Specialist Cheryl D. Cobb's (Q/PIED) story on the Patrol's diversity celebration.

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The "high" point of the day: Sgt. Jon Cluver and Tpr. Jake Hirner posing with their favorite piece of equipment during the Career Expo.