May | June 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF



Major Steven V. Wilhoit
Executive Services Bureau

Over the course of my career, I have had the privilege of attending many Patrol graduation ceremonies. As I write this, I have just returned from the ceremony for the 125th Recruit Class. And yet, no matter how many I attend, I find that each one leaves me with the same quiet sense of reflection.

There is something enduring in the words spoken on those occasions—the keynote speakers, the training director, the colonel. Their messages change slightly with time, but their meaning does not. They serve as a reminder of something easy to lose sight of in the day-to-day rhythm of the job: the reason we chose this path in the first place.

Because it was never about gaining wealth. It was never about recognition or status. It was never about anything fleeting.

It was about becoming that person.

The one who arrives in the moments others hope they never have to face. The one who steps into uncertainty when the outcome is unclear and the stakes are high. The one who helps a young driver recognize the consequences of a careless decision before it becomes a life-altering mistake. The one called when a situation has already gone from bad to worse.

It is also something quieter, and perhaps just as important.

It is the familiar presence in a community; the one an elderly woman from church feels comfortable teasing, joking that she hopes not to see you in her rearview mirror. The one who helps when cattle wander where they shouldn't, or when a family waits anxiously for a teenager who has not come home through a snowstorm. It is showing up not just in moments of crisis, but in moments of connection: as a coach, a volunteer, a neighbor, a steady and recognizable part of everyday life.

Taken together, these moments begin to define something larger.

Being a trooper is not simply a job, and it resists easy definition as a career. It is, over time, a way of seeing the world—a mindset shaped by responsibility, presence, and quiet resolve. It is the understanding that when you arrive, people are looking for more than action; they are looking for steadiness. For reassurance. For the sense that, somehow, things will begin to settle.

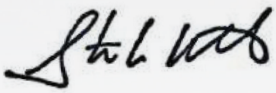
And so, you learn, gradually, and sometimes without realizing it, that "I don't know what to do" is no longer a place you can remain. Not because you always have the answers, but because others depend on you to find a way forward.

There is weight in that. But there is also meaning.

That is what is carried forward in each graduating class. In one moment, we walk across the stage and shake the colonel's hand. In the next, we step into a tradition much larger than ourselves, one defined not only by what we will do, but by who we will become.

And in that, there is both an honor and a responsibility that never fully fades.

God Bless,



Major Steven V. Wilhoit (Q/ESB)

May | June 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 60 • Number 6

CELEBRATING OVER 59 YEARS OF NEWS

PATROL NEWS

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

ON THE COVER

Recruit Seth J. Davidson pushes to complete the last exercise of the OC Spray test.

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LOOKING *beyond* THE STOP

The following officers are to be commended for looking beyond the initial traffic/boating stop. Each of these officers made at least one arrest during the period of March 2026 through April 2026.

*Editor's note: This excludes DWI/BWI arrests, warrant arrests, and "plain sight" situations. Keep in mind that there must be information in the "miscellaneous" section of the radio report to be considered for this column. Rank and assignment reflect those at printing.

TROOP A

Tpr. L.T. Baggerly, 3 arrests
Sgt. W.P. Bremer, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.L. Colwell, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.T. Craig, 1 arrest
Cpl. Z.D. Davidson, 1 arrest
Tpr. C.J. Drum, 2 arrests
Tpr. M.A. Harris, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.C. Hunolt, 1 arrest
Tpr. K.R. Kennedy, 2 arrests
Tpr. I.L. Kimball, 1 arrest
Tpr. B.S. Lautenschlager, 1 arrest
Cpl. C.M. McDonald, 4 arrests
Tpr. M. Gallo-Mejia, 1 arrest
Cpl. N.T. Ott, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.R. Peoples, 2 arrests
Cpl. D.R. Peters, 3 arrests
Cpl. B.A. Shows, 2 arrests
Tpr. R.K. Stearns, 1 arrest
Tpr. K.M. Stewart, 2 arrests
Tpr. M.T. Tucker, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.W. Winesburg, 1 arrest

TROOP B

Tpr. J.R. Billings, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.W. Harrison, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. Hilliard, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.O. Johnson, 1 arrest
Sgt. W.R. Koch, 1 arrest
Tpr. E.G. Schieferdecker, 1 arrest

TROOP C

Cpl. R.A. Allee, 4 arrests
Sgt. B.M. Beard, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.L. Benner, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.J. Bittick, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.M. Bochucinski, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z.T. Chastain, 3 arrests
Tpr. S.C. Clair, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.S. Collier, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z.C. Crumley, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.A. Gaedke, 2 arrests

Tpr. C.L. Kurtzman, 1 arrest
Sgt. T.R. Jenkins, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.E. Lacy, 1 arrest
Tpr. P.B. Martin, 2 arrests
Tpr. M.S. Ogborn, 2 arrests
Tpr. T.J. O'Sullivan, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.D. Pogue, 2 arrests
Tpr. E.R. Pritchard, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.D. Procknow, 1 arrest
Tpr. M. Smith, 6 arrests
Cpl. N.W. Stevens, 2 arrests
Tpr. E.G. Talleur, 2 arrests

TROOP D

Tpr. J.P. Blinkinsop, 3 arrests
Tpr. C.J. Blue, 3 arrests
Cpl. J.R. Chronister, 2 arrests
Tpr. M.W. Coleman, 1 arrest
Cpl. Z.C. Dudley, 1 arrest
Cpl. K.L. Elledge, 3 arrests
Tpr. N.C. Fry, 1 arrest
Tpr. K.R. Goddard, 1 arrest
Tpr. B.S. Gunby, 2 arrests
Cpl. T.L. Harmon, 1 arrest
Tpr. M.J. Hickman, 2 arrests
Tpr. K.A. Ishman, 1 arrest
Tpr. F.R. Jones, 2 arrests
Tpr. J.T. Martin, 2 arrests
Tpr. K.A. McCallister, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z. Moore, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.W. Nuttall, 2 arrests
Cpl. C.D. O'Hara, 2 arrests
Tpr. J.O. Prater, 1 arrest
Tpr. C.T. Schmidt, 4 arrests
Tpr. K.A. Wagner, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.L. Wallace, 2 arrests
Tpr. T.R. Williams, 4 arrests

TROOP E

Cpl. B.A. Alcorn, 3 arrests
Sgt. J.C. Cooksey, 1 arrest
Tpr. L.M. Jones, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.A. Krech, 2 arrests
Tpr. A.J. LeRoux, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.L. Meloy, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.D. Miller, 1 arrest
Tpr. L.C. Pruiett, 1 arrest
Tpr. E.M. Reynolds, 3 arrests
Tpr. N.S. Smith, 2 arrests
Tpr. E.N. Stinson, 3 arrests
Tpr. T.C. Sutton, 3 arrests
Tpr. Z.G. Thren, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.J. Wiebe, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.E. Williams, 2 arrests

TROOP F

Tpr. L.T. Carson, 3 arrests
Tpr. C.R. Cavanaugh, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.W. Cox, 1 arrest
Tpr. M.D. Easton, 1 arrest
Sgt. T.C. Fick, 2 arrests
Tpr. C.A. Fox, 4 arrests
Cpl. A.M. Gordon, 3 arrests
Tpr. D.G. Green, 1 arrest
Tpr. M.M. Guinnip, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.W. Mahaney, 1 arrest
Cpl. O.G. Imhoff, 3 arrests
Tpr. T.M. Johnson, 1 arrest
Tpr. B.R. Kamp, 1 arrest
Cpl. E.C. Penrod, 1 arrest
Cpl. M.L. Rice, 1 arrest
Tpr. B.S. Romano, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.A. Tarwater, 1 arrest
Cpl. E.J. Villanueva, 1 arrest

TROOP G

Cpl. T.M. Broyles, 3 arrests
Tpr. C.M. Dougherty, 2 arrests
Tpr. C.A. Edens, 3 arrests
Tpr. J.D. Healy, 4 arrests
Tpr. J.Q. Hummel, 3 arrests
Tpr. N.B. Poynter, 2 arrests
Tpr. J.L. Sentman, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z.B. Tate, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.C. White, 1 arrest

TROOP H

Cpl. K.L. Ebersold, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.P. Gomez, 1 arrest
Tpr. B.D. Hahn, 9 arrests
Cpl. J.M. Harrison, 1 arrest
Tpr. R. Hernandez, 1 arrest
Tpr. N.M. Newland, 1 arrest
Sgt. L.M. Newman, 3 arrests

TROOP I

Cpl. C.M. Barclay, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.M. Cunningham, 1 arrest
Tpr. K.J. Estes, 3 arrests
Tpr. K.L. Francom, 2 arrests
Tpr. M.L. Grapes, 8 arrests
Tpr. T.A. Kneuper, 2 arrests
Tpr. C.C. Marlow, 1 arrest
Sgt. J.R. McCurdy, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.W. Picard, 3 arrests
Tpr. J.C. Southwood, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.R. Summers, 1 arrest

Q

Tpr. M.L. Bradley, 1 arrest
Sgt. S.V. Buchheit, 1 arrest
Tpr. R.B. McGinnis, 1 arrest
Cpl. M.W. Neely, 1 arrest
Cpl. N.A. Regan, 2 arrests
Cpl. B.M. Ryun, 3 arrests



Tpr. James M. Bava

Trooper James M. Bava Character and Commitment Award

By Lieutenant Brandon M. Parker (Q/TND)

On April 10, 2026, the 125th Accelerated Recruit Class took their Oath of Office and graduated from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Academy, marking the transition from recruit to trooper. On April 9, 2026, the evening before their graduation, the 19 members of the 125th Accelerated Recruit Class attended their recruit banquet.

The recruit banquet has been a long-standing tradition where the recruits celebrate their hard work and dedication over the course of their training. An academy lieutenant emcees the event, the recruit class chaplain provides the invocation and benediction, and the recruit class vice commander gives a speech, which is often humorous, to celebrate and inspire the class. There are also several presentations and awards given over the course of the evening. However, this was a special banquet because an inaugural award was presented—the Trooper James M. Bava Character and Commitment Award.

The Trooper James M. Bava Character and Commitment Award was created to recognize a recruit who exemplifies outstanding character and commitment during their time at the Academy. The award was named after Trooper James M. Bava, a member of the 97th Recruit Class, who gave the ultimate sacrifice when, while on duty, he was killed in a one-vehicle crash on August 28, 2015.

During his time at the Academy, Trooper Bava stood out as a model recruit and exhibited exemplary character. He was always respectful, consistently professional in both demeanor and appearance, and always gave maximum effort. Although he didn't hold a formal leadership position in his class, he led by quiet example. His character, work ethic, and humility made him a source of strength and inspiration within his class.

The recipient of the Trooper James M. Bava Character and Commitment Award was voted on by the instructional staff, who selected the recruit who best exemplified outstanding character and commitment during their time at the Academy. The first recipient of this award is Trooper Terrence R. Conness. Tpr. Conness is assigned to Troop A, Zone 13, Pettis County. Congratulations, Tpr. Conness!



Tpr. Conness accepts the Trooper James M. Bava Character and Commitment Award from Cpt. Joe L. Armistead (Q/TND)



Tpr. Terrence R. Conness (A)

Land Donation For New Lab in Troop E

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

On Friday, March 20, 2026, Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Missouri lawmakers, announced the future location and build site of the new Patrol crime laboratory in southeast Missouri. A long history of partnership between SEMO and the Patrol led to a two-acre donation of land for a new lab.

In 1970, the Southeast Missouri Regional Crime Lab in Cape Girardeau was founded through funding received from a federal grant program and operated through financial support of SEMO. The lab was funded for over 30 years through federal and state grants and local agency service fees. This unreliable funding proved difficult for the lab to maintain services. In 2006, through the efforts of Senator Rob Mayer, Senator Jason Crowell, and Representative Scott Lipke, funding was provided to merge the SEMO Crime Laboratory into the Patrol's Crime Lab Division (CLD). Seven employees officially joined the Patrol. Now the lab employs 16 civilians.

The 2026 land donation represents an investment in the safety and security of the southeast Missouri region. In recent years, the Troop E lab has contributed 14 percent of the total CLD output. The lab offers DNA, drug chemistry, latent prints, and toxicology analysis. The scientific analyses that are found in the lab give investigators the evidence needed to solve crimes, identify suspects, and deliver justice for victims and their families. During the March press conference Colonel Michael A. Turner said, "This new facility will enhance our ability to process evidence efficiently and strengthen the support we provide to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors throughout southeast Missouri."

Besides improvements to public safety, the donation will also create educational opportunities for the area. Because the crime lab will be located on SEMO's campus, students studying forensic science have an accessible resource to see the work that goes into a forensic investigation. It also serves as a public information tool not just for forensic science students, but for the whole community. The location of the lab in a community that is focused on education, service, and opportunity will be beneficial to the success of the new lab. Colonel Turner said, "We are grateful to SEMO for making this location possible, and we appreciate the support of the Governor and the Missouri General Assembly in helping bring this project to life. Together, we are investing in the safety of southeast Missouri and strengthening the tools needed to deliver justice for years to come."

The land donation is the first step toward building a new lab in Troop E. The Patrol looks forward to what the coming year will bring for CLD in the bootheel!

DWI Tracking System (DWITS) Receives Nationwide Recognition in Best Practices

By Division Assistant Director Mandy A. Kliethermes (Q/PRD)

Few people fully appreciate the groundbreaking advancements initiated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol nearly 25 years ago. Most certainly do not realize these innovations were so significant that other states now look to Missouri as a model for developing or enhancing their own DWI tracking systems.

Rewind back to 2002. That year, Missouri began a comprehensive system study to determine functional requirements and identify intended users. With funding secured, initial rollout concluded in December 2004 to all Patrol Troop locations, followed by deployment to local law enforcement agencies beginning in January 2005. At that point, Missouri had created an online, DWI tracking system which provided law enforcement agencies with the ability to quickly research one database for an individual who is suspected of driving impaired. Unlike MULES, the DWI Tracking System (DWITS) focuses exclusively on impaired driving related offenses.

While the initial launch created a centralized database, much of the information still required manual entry by arresting officers and prosecutors. Information was available, but in many instances the impaired driving information was not obtained until the court disposition was completed and the paper copy of the citation had routed from the courts to the Patrol Records Division. However, as technology expanded statewide, the system evolved dramatically. Arrests, prosecutorial actions, and court dispositions are now submitted electronically, making the information for all stakeholders' real time and improving the accuracy of impaired driving data reporting.

In January of 2026, research was released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with best practices of key states that have developed and implemented an Impaired Driving Tracking System, with Missouri being highlighted as one of the accomplished states. This research, shared with all 50 states, provides multiple avenues that states can take to accomplish the same goal as Missouri—to establish and maintain a DWI Tracking System.

Because of the forward-thinking vision of past leadership, Missouri remains one of a handful of states researched by others seeking to develop or implement their own DWI Tracking Systems.

COMPLACENCY KILLS

By Lieutenant Mark D. DeGraffenreid (A)

So, there I was, just minding my own business, without a care in the world. It was June 1, 2011, another peaceful day in beautiful Saline County. I had recently been promoted to sergeant and had a zone full of rock stars. Life was good. I was nearing the end of another uneventful shift and preparing to head in for the day. Then, in an instant, everything changed. Troop A Radio advised that a homicide suspect, armed with an assault rifle, was traveling east on I-70 through Lafayette County in a dark blue Ford F-150, and a deputy was following at a distance. I headed south from Marshall to intercept.

This was my ninth year on the Patrol, and I had thousands of traffic stops, arrests, and other calls for service under my belt. I had experienced my share of excitement and danger, and I'd made more than my share of mistakes along the way. I had survived everything pretty much unscathed. In fact, the closest I'd come to physical injury was when I was sucker-punched in the mouth by an angry 15-year-old juvenile delinquent on roller skates . . . but that's a story for another day. Over the years, there'd been so many calls that turned out to be completely unfounded or at least very different than what was originally reported. I won't lie—there was a part of me that thought this call had the potential to be another one of those. But if it was legit, I was confident I could quickly take care of business and still make it home for dinner. This was my first mistake: overconfidence and a false sense of security.

My first mistake: a false sense of security.



Lt. Mark D. DeGraffenreid (A) with his wife, Kristin, and children, Lexi, Ashlyn, and John



"I WAS SUCKER-PUNCHED IN THE MOUTH BY AN ANGRY 15-YEAR-OLD ON ROLLER SKATES. . . BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY."

I made it down to I-70 in record time and positioned myself just west of the junction, next to a long guardrail—the perfect spot to deploy spikes. But those plans changed when I was told to attempt a traffic stop instead. So, I prepared my shotgun and placed it beside me. The shotgun was my preferred weapon for felony stops. I could just point and shoot with almost no chance of collateral damage. And it was reliable. Another trooper was enroute from Sedalia, so I figured I'd try to wait until he arrived to initiate the stop. And just in case you're wondering, I did have a Patrol-issued rifle. In those days, it was a U.S. Government surplus M-16, which probably last saw action somewhere along the Ho Chi Minh Trail or the U.S.–Mexico border. It had failed and been repaired multiple times, so I considered it unreliable and kept it neatly tucked away in the trunk of my Crown Vic under more useful items like my hazmat suit, emergency blanket, and 3-cell plastic flashlight. If



The suspect's rifle, seized after the incident.

My second mistake: no backup plan.

I'm being completely honest, it probably would've been good for at least a few shots had I decided to use it, but it wasn't necessary for the felony stop I had planned. This was my second mistake: no backup plan, no "What if," and no preparation for the unexpected. What if the suspect stopped beyond the range of my shotgun? What if he began firing at me from a distance? What if he didn't stop? Had all the surrounding agencies been notified? What if the other trooper didn't make it there in time to help?

My third mistake: assuming, not confirming.

After a few minutes, the suspect's vehicle passed by. It appeared to be a close but not perfect match to the description I'd been given, so there was still a small bit of doubt in the back of my mind. As I pulled out and began to follow, the suspect exited south onto U.S. 65 and headed toward Sedalia. I was confident my fellow trooper would soon be joining me for a felony stop. This was my third mistake: assuming instead of confirming. I failed to communicate my intentions to Radio or the other trooper, and he had already made plans of his own. He was stopped somewhere south of I-70, preparing to deploy spikes. After the suspect and I exited the interstate, everything seemed to happen at lightning speed. I wasn't expecting to see the other trooper as soon as I did, but when I saw his lights ahead, I figured it was go time, so I activated my own lights to make everything official. It was then that things began to unravel, and it was at that point I committed my fourth mistake: a lack of awareness of my surroundings. I had traveled that stretch of highway a hundred times before and should've known there was still one more median crossover between me and the trooper ahead. But I activated my lights about a second too soon and inadvertently provided the suspect with a route of escape. He took it.

My fourth mistake: a lack of awareness of my surroundings.

The suspect immediately braked, turned into the crossover, and stopped. I stopped before entering the crossover. Our driver doors were about 80 feet apart. He was positioned at my 10 o'clock and was elevated above me due to the incline of the crossover. He then turned and looked back at me, but I couldn't see his hands. As I was updating Radio, I began to hear what sounded like loud clapping, followed by my windshield exploding. I'm no rocket scientist, but it didn't take me long to realize it wasn't clapping that I was hearing. It was gunfire, and I was smack-dab in the middle of the kill zone. If you've never been on the receiving end of an AR-15 with a 100-round magazine at close range, it's a unique experience—but not one I'd recommend. I would give it one out of five stars, and that's being generous. Needless to say, I was finally, absolutely, 100% convinced that everything about this call was legit and that I had the correct vehicle.

It was then that I committed my fifth mistake: failing to think clearly under pressure. Instead of punching the accelerator and getting the heck out of there, I informed Radio I was being shot at and then threw open my door to bail out. As I exited my patrol car, a bullet went through my driver's window, inches from my face. As I ran to the other side of my car, the deputy—who had pulled up behind me—began to return fire from his driver's seat, likely saving my life. Together, we engaged the suspect as he fled north, back toward the interstate. During our exchange of gunfire, the suspect's truck was struck multiple times, with one round hitting his right rear tire. We pursued him as he

continuously fired across the median at southbound traffic, striking two more patrol cars, three civilian vehicles, and two drivers.

The suspect's tire finally gave out about a mile north of I-70, and he came to a stop near the bottom of a large hill. I stopped near the middle of the hill as he resumed firing at me and other arriving units, striking my patrol car and four others. At that distance, my shotgun was useless for anything other than scaring birds away. And this brings me to my sixth and final mistake: I brought a shotgun to a rifle fight. The suspect had me pinned down. I couldn't have accessed "Ol' Unreliable" even if I had wanted to. My situation felt hopeless. And then, by some miracle, the suspect's rifle ran empty. When that happened, he pulled out his Glock and took his own life, putting an abrupt end to what had quickly become a terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad day.

I should have died that day. Four bullets passed within two feet of my head. A bullet fragment embedded in my cheek (no cheek jokes, please). Lead and glass peppered my arm. Looking back, there were many things I wish I'd done differently, but all I can do now is learn from my mistakes. I don't share this story to entertain or be hypercritical of myself. I share it to remind you that complacency can be deadly. It doesn't care how long you've been on, how skilled you are, or what you've been through. It sneaks in quietly through routine, boredom, and past successes.

I encourage you to take every call seriously, to have a plan, and then have a backup plan. Remain vigilant, keep your head in the game, and expect the unexpected. Whether it's a simple debris call, a routine traffic stop, an emergency response, a murder suspect, or an angry 15-year-old girl on roller skates, don't ever let your guard down. Don't let your past successes lead to overconfidence or a feeling of invincibility. Don't let the boredom of the job or the monotony of a thousand traffic stops lull you into a false sense of security. Train like your life depends on it. Don't take shortcuts. Learn from your mistakes. Learn from the mistakes of others. Self-reflect. And approach every call like it could be your last.

Many good officers have paid the ultimate sacrifice, but many of those men and women didn't have to die. Don't become a statistic. Don't become complacent. Complacency kills!

Have an interesting story to share?
Please submit to:
Megan.Edwards@mshp.dps.mo.gov



TROOP ROUNDUP

A



"After 31 years and 10 months of service, Master Sergeant Bill Bremer, Zone Supervisor of Henry County is retiring. Thank you, MSgt. Bremer, for the years of dedication and selfless service to the citizens of Missouri. Enjoy your well deserved retirement!"

B



"Troop B employees finish 2026 School Bus inspections for the Troop B region. Until next year, be safe and watch for school children and school buses."

C



"Troop C hosted the annual retirees breakfast this morning. Such a wonderful opportunity to catch up and show our appreciation for paving the path of our organziation."

D



"Mr. William W. Eagan is presented with an honorary trooper certificate from Capt. Dale Jinkens. Mr. Eagan ran from his residence to assist a Trooper fighting a combative subject. With Eagan's help, the trooper was able to get the subject in custody."

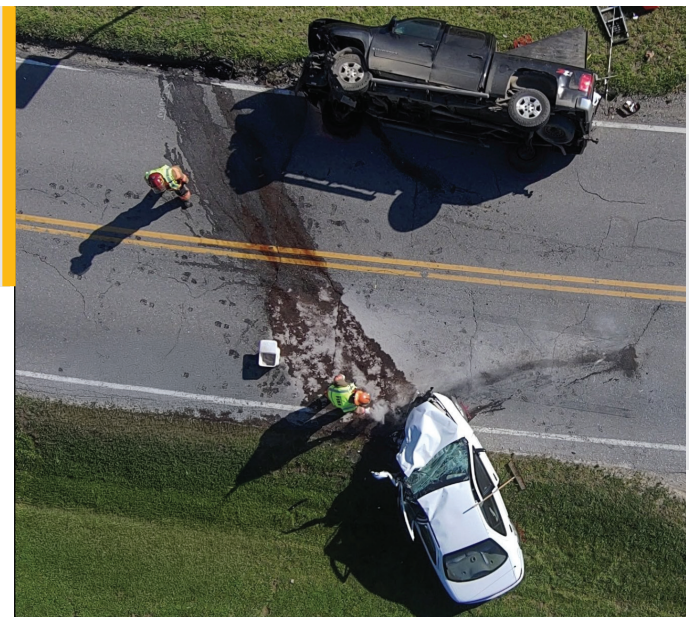
E



"4 new troopers are headed to Troop E!"

(Trooper Tanner L. Boening, Trooper Zachary K. Bridges, Trooper Matthew W. Cagle, and Trooper Kenneth R. Carpenter)

F



"Head-on Crash in Boone County - troopers investigated a two vehicle injury crash this morning on MO 124, west of Route E, near Harrisburg. Thankfully, there were no fatalities or serious injuries."

G



"Captain Fiske proudly presented certificates of recognition to Troopers Johnny Healy & Corbin Doughtery for their outstanding performances. Both officers ranked among the top 10 in the state for controlled substance arrests, exemplifying dedication and commitment to public safety."

H



"Our communications division had a great time connecting with students at Savannah High School to talk about the MSHP Telecommunications Apprenticeship Program. Excited to share career opportunities and answer questions from the next generation!"

I



"Trooper Adelman had the honor of starting the runners for Special Olympics Track & Field Games in Waynesville today."



Musche Named DPS Sworn Team Member Of The Month

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Sergeant James L. Musche (Q/DDCC) was named the March DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month. Sgt. Musche led a five-year investigation into an illegal international gambling operation that resulted in plea agreements with four defendants who forfeited over $12 million.

In 2019, at the request of the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Sgt. Musche went undercover and began playing at a poker club in Springfield where he determined activity there violated Missouri law. He worked with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri. Sgt. Musche's investigation led to a federal asset forfeiture of about $12.5 million, half of which will go the Patrol. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace V. Ahrens said, "It's not every day that we have an investigation that lasts this long . . . Over $12 million in assets and forfeitures, of which the Patrol will receive $6.25 million—that is a big deal. That doesn't happen every day. It's people like you [Sgt. Musche] doing outstanding work that makes days like today happen."

Area Students Participate In Troop B Student Alliance

By Sergeant Justin S. Dunn (B)

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, 11 Troop B area high school students, representing eight high schools, completed the 2026 Troop B Missouri State Highway Patrol Student Alliance Program. The program was conducted at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon, on Saturday, March 7 and Saturday, March 14. During the two-day program, students were familiarized with many duties performed by a Missouri State Trooper and participated in hands-on activities such as patrol MILO simulations, stop and approach, and crime scene investigations. The students observed a canine demonstration and heard presentations from several members and civilian employees of the Patrol. The program, which targeted juniors and seniors in high school, was conducted to provide an opportunity for interested individuals to learn more about law enforcement and the Patrol. Each participant was presented with a certificate of completion.

Students who attended the program were: Kedriana Baird, Xavien Broadwell, and Dalis Howard of Novinger High School; Gabriella Walters of Schuyler County High School; Markos Black of Marceline High School; Levi Vanatta of Macon High School; Axell King of Clark County High School; Kylan McMann, Mekaila Adrian, and Tyson Voth of Highland High School; and Sydnee Richardson of Salisbury High School.



(front, l to r:) Markos Black, Xavien Broadwell, Dalis Howard, Gabriella Walters, Kedriana Baird, Sydnee Richardson, Mekaila Adrian
(back, l to r:) Axell King, Tyson Voth, Kylan McMann, Levi Vanatta

HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS



Corporal David A. Jones, (A) apprehended a suspect who had been on the run in Bates County. Photo by Billy Wade.

On Friday, May 1, a suspect fled from Corporal David A. Jones (A) in a stolen vehicle. The vehicle eventually came to a stop, and the suspect fled on foot into a wooded area. Despite an extensive search, the suspect was not located.

Bates County citizens were notified of the incident and were provided a descrption of the suspect. On Saturday, May 2, Bates County 911 emergency services received a report of an individual matching the suspect's description in the area. Cpl. Jones and Bates County deputies responded and located the suspect from the previous day. The suspect again fled on foot, but following a foot pursuit, Cpl. Jones successfully apprehended him.

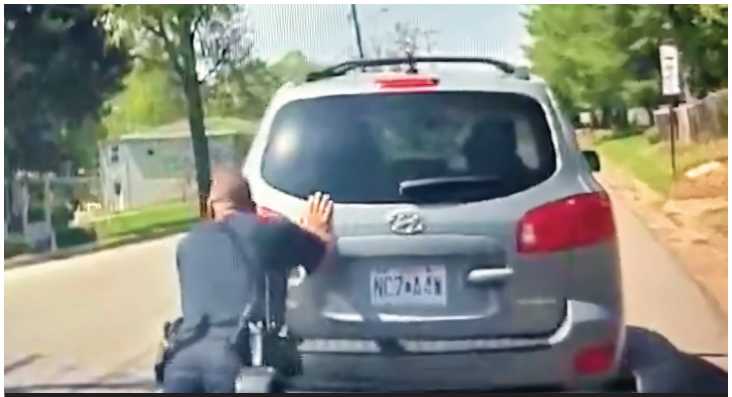


Commercial Vehicle Officer Brian M. Grier (H) represented the Patrol in a positive manner while assisting Ms. Wanda Huls on the evening of March 21, 2026. She was traveling on Interstate 29 when she struck a deceased deer. Her car then stopped running. CVO Grier arrived to assist with traffic flow. He also remained by Ms. Huls' side and told her stories to keep her calm while she tried to find a tow truck. Ms. Huls said, "Without his assistance, I'm not sure that my stress level would have been managed. I truly appreciate his presence during that time."

Keep up the good work, CVO Grier!



The 100 stands for 100% getting a ticket.
Photo submitted by Corporal Brian R. Peters (Q/FOB)



Corporal Dustin H. Crafton (F) assisted a stranded motorist by pushing their vehicle off the roadway to a safer location.

31 CELEBRATED AT PATROL *Awards Ceremony and* MASTERS *Banquet*

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)



On Saturday, April 11, 2026, Patrol employees, retirees, members of the MASTERS, and their guests gathered at the Ameristar Casino in St. Louis. 31 Patrol employees, both uniformed and civilian, were honored at the 2026 Missouri State Highway Patrol Awards ceremony and MASTERS banquet.

Corporal Michael A. White, Corporal Catherine M. Bishop, Corporal Mark D. Benson, and Corporal Clay R. Knox of the Troop C Honor Guard presented the colors. Lieutenant Shayne K. Talburt (E) and his daughter, Braidy, performed the National Anthem. Troop C Chaplain, Dr. Michael Atherton, provided the invocation and benediction. Major Ben C. Jones (Q/SSB) served as the master of the ceremony and emcee. United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, R. Matthew Price, was the keynote speaker. He stated that at this very moment, the Patrol is living in a special moment. "This is a generational, stars-aligning moment. Your top three law enforcement attorneys in the state have history. We have deep friendships, we have mutual respect for one another, and we are not competing for the next job against one another. We all simply want the same thing—to get as many bad guys in Missouri as possible," said U.S. Attorney Price. He emphasized that the open communication and relationship established between the Patrol and state government will make the following years a success for law enforcement.

The night also served to reflect on the 31 lives of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Jennifer Zacher, and her son, Will Sampietro, shared their experience with MASTERS and how the support of the MASTERS helped their family after Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr. was killed in the line of duty on August 17, 2005. "... the one thing that he [Jay] could give our kids was their education. And because of organizations like the MASTERS, Will was able to obtain his pilot's license. I feel that the MASTERS is also a part of the village that is needed when you are the only parent," said Mrs. Zacher. Since its inception, the MASTERS has assisted 21 families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Award Recipients:

Fred M. Mills MASTERS Public Service Award
Sergeant Andrew A. Henry (H)

Career Milestone Award
Lieutenant William B. Sevier (C)

Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Public Service
Driver Examiner Supervisor Lisa K. Nielson (H)

Lifesaving Award
Motor Vehicle Inspector Cory B. Boatright (D)
Trooper Edgar J. Raya (C)
Trooper Taylor J. Wiebe (E)
Trooper James E. Williams (E)
Corporal Jason S. Albers (Q/GD)
Corporal Steven M. Salfrank (Q/GD)
Corporal Antonio Sandoval (D)
Corporal Gregory T. Ulm (E)
Trooper Benjamin W. Dillon (E)
Corporal Andrew M. Warren (E)
Corporal Vince P. Wiley (H)
Sergeant Todd M. Barthelmass (Q/GD)
Lieutenant Bradley D. Ream (B)
Corporal Cory M. Stauffer (I)

Meritorious Service Award
Trooper Jerry W. Hunter (A)
Trooper Justin C. Johnson (Q/DDCC)
Corporal Jason A. Green (A)
Corporal Brandon L. Harris (F)
Corporal Christian J. Mendez (C)
Corporal Brant W. Masek (F)
Trooper Dylan H. Bert (C)
Corporal Christopher A. Winter (F)
Sergeant Joseph D. Oughton (Q/DDCC)
Sergeant Derrick R. Powell (Q/DDCC)
Trooper Dustin W. Harrison (B)

2025 Matilda "Tillie" Sonnen Civilian of the Year
Senior Automotive/ Marine Technician Daniel P. Smith (A)

2025 Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer of the Year
Corporal Casey M. McDonald (A)

Valor Award
Trooper Justin D. Hedrick (C)

Congratulations to all the award recipients!



Sgt. Andrew A. Henry (H) with his wife, Kimberly



Captain Greg D. Primm (A), Daniel P. Smith (A), Cpl. Jason A. Green (A), Cpl. Casey M. McDonald (A), Tpr. Jerry W. Hunter (A)



Cpl. Brandon L. Harris (F) surrounded by his family



Motor Vehicle Inspector Cory B. Boatright (D) with Col. Michael A. Turner



Cpl. Steven M. Salfrank (Q/GD) with wife Heather Salfrank and mother Margaret Salfrank



Driver Examiner Supervisor Lisa K. Nielson (H) poses for a photo with her daughters (l to r) Alexis McClellan, Kristen Saxton, and Haley Nielson.



Cpl. Andrew M. Warren (E)



Sgt. Joseph D. Oughton (Q/DDCC)



Sgt. Todd M. Barthelmass (Q/GD)



Lt. William B. Sevier (C)



Tpr. Dustin W. Harrison (B) and Sgt. Derrick R. Powell (Q/DDCC)



Cpl. Christian J. Mendez (C) with his wife, Anne



Cpl. Christopher A. Winter (F)



Cpl. Antonio Sandoval (D)



Tpr. Justin D. Hedrick (C) with his wife, Emily



Tpr. Dylan H. Bert (C) and Cpl. Brant W. Masek (F)



Tpr. James E. Williams (E)



Tpr. Taylor J. Wiebe (E)



Tpr. Benjamin W. Dillon (E) and Cpl. Gregory T. Ulm (E)



Cpl. Vince P. Wiley (H)



Cpl. Cory M. Stauffer (I)



Lt. Bradley D. Ream (B) with his wife, Leslie, son Owen, and Ella Porter.



Tpr. Justin C. Johnson (Q/DDCC) with his wife, Kayla



Tpr. Dustin W. Harrison (B) and family



Tpr. Edgar J. Raya (C), supported by his family

Obituaries



Bob Brasch

ROBERT A. "BOB" BRASCH

Robert "Bob" Brasch, age 83, passed away on March 12, 2026. Bob graduated from Joplin High School in 1960 and then attended Joplin Junior College. While there, he served in the Missouri National Guard Reserves. In 1988, Bob joined the Patrol and retired in 2004 as a Motor Vehicle Inspection Supervisor. He dedicated 15 years of service. Bob is survived by his loving wife, Linda, of 59 years. He is survived by his two children, Deanna (Phillip) Anderson and Kevin (Kristen) Brasch. Bob also had four grandchildren. To learn more about Bob, please visit the Parker Mortuary and Crematory website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Brasch family.



Steven Tatum

STEVEN M. TATUM

On March 11, 2026, Steven Tatum passed away at the age of 44. He was a Driver Examiner at Troop C. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Tatum family.



Ken Barent

KENNETH B. "KEN" BARENT

Kenneth "Ken" Barent passed away at his home on March 26, 2026. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 23 years. After his retirement, Ken dedicated 10 years of service to the Patrol as a Commercial Vehicle Officer. Ken is survived by his loving wife, Diane, his daughter, Angie (Cullen) Curran, as well as two sisters-in-law, Gerri Farrin and Kay (Bob) Brown, several nieces and nephews, and many friends. To learn more about Ken, please visit the Mason-Woodard Mortuary & Crematory website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Barent family.



Kwei Su

KWEI L. SU

Kwei Su passed away on April 7, 2026, at the age of 84. She joined the Patrol in 1976 as a forensic serologist. She dedicated 12 years of service before leaving the Patrol in 1988. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Su family.



Bob Young

GALEN R. "BOB" YOUNG

Galen "Bob" Young passed away on March 27, 2026. In 1970, he entered the United States Air Force and proudly served his country for 24 years. After his retirement, Bob worked for the Patrol as a Driver Examiner Supervisor and retired after 24 dedicated years of service in 2018. Bob is survived by his wife, Joanne, sons Timothy, and Gregory (Heidi) Young; two grandsons, and three brothers. To learn more about Bob, please visit the Dove Cremations & Funerals website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Young family.



Jim Niermeyer

JAMES A. "JIM" NIERMEYER

James "Jim" Niermeyer passed away peacefully on January 4, 2026, at his home in St. Cloud, FL. He was born in Sedalia, MO. In 1962, Jim joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent on numerous missions. He proudly served his country and earned many commendations, including the Purple Heart. After his service, Jim joined the Patrol and dedicated over 30 years of service before retiring. During his career, he served in several positions, including Chief Technical Engineer. He is survived by his wife, Sandra "Sandy" (Crawford) Niermeyer, four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. To learn more about Jim, please visit the Compassionate Cremations & Funerals website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Niermeyer family.



Dale Crites

DALE W. CRITES

On April 10, 2026, Dale Crites passed away unexpectedly. Dale grew up in Rolla, MO, and graduated from Rolla High School in 1965. In 1968, Dale began his career with the Patrol and became the first trooper ever stationed in Farmington, MO. In 1982, he completed the Canadian Police College Polygraph Examiner's Course, becoming one of the first troopers trained outside the United States. After 30 years of dedicated service, Dale retired at the rank of sergeant. He is survived by his sons, Jeffrey (Margie) Crites and Jason (Erin) Crites; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. To learn more about Dale, please visit the Cozean Memorial Chapel & Crematory website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Crites family.



David Young

DAVID F. YOUNG

On April 17, 2026, David Young passed away at his home, surrounded by his family. David served his country in the United States Army from December 1954 to November 15, 1957. He then joined the Kirksville Police Department in 1962 and served for two years. David worked for the St. Louis Police Department for six months before returning to Kirksville where he worked for the Adair County Sheriff's Office from 1964 to 1966. After his time with the Adair County Sheriff's Office, David dedicated 25 years of service to the Patrol and retired in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, four daughters, 16 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. To learn more about David, please visit the Travis-Noe Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Young family.



Illa Burk

ILLA J. BURK

Illa Burk passed away on April 5, 2026, at the age of 69. Illa joined the Patrol in 2000 as a Troop A Driver Examiner. She retired after 21 years of dedicated service. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Burk family.



Richard Miller

RICHARD L. MILLER

Richard Miller passed away on April 12, 2026, surrounded by his family. He graduated from Central High School in Springfield, MO, and attended Southwest Missouri State University. Richard joined the Patrol in 1957 and retired in 2001 after 43 years of dedicated service. He was a Chief Driver Examiner for Troop D. Richard is survived by his children, Rick (Elaine) Miller, Julia (Butch) Atnip, and Jan (Steve) Canfield. He had seven grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter. To learn more about Richard, please visit the Ulmer Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Miller family.



George Ridens

GEORGE E. RIDENS

On April 16, 2026, George Ridens passed away at the age of 70. He graduated from Norwood High School in 1974. George proudly served the Patrol for over 35 years. During his career, he served at Troop G and Troop E before retiring as Troop E's troop commander in 2016. George is survived by his parents; loving wife of 50 years, Sheryl; two children, Chris (Shelly) Ridens and Jera (Robert) Morse; sister, Geneva (Randy) Dugger; brother, Gary (Geraldine) Ridens; five grandchildren, and many extended family and friends. To learn more about George, please visit the Cotrell Willow Ridge Funeral & Cremation Services website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Ridens family.



Dawna Martin

DAWNA K. MARTIN

Dawna Martin passed away on April 7, 2026, at the age of 73. She joined the Patrol in 1997 and retired as a Driver Examiner for Troop A in 2014. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Martin family.

JENNIFER J. BURKS

On April 22, 2026, Jennifer "June" Burks passed away at Cox South Hospital in Springfield, MO. June graduated from Seymour High School in 1971. She began working for the Patrol in 1988 in a clerical position. June then went on to serve as a Driver's Examiner and retired in 2002. June is survived by her husband, Eddie, daughter Bridgette (Greg) Dickson, stepson Travis (Kristi) Burks, her brother, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, two grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, two step-granddaughters, six great-grandchildren, and many extended family members. To learn more about June, please visit the J.D. Lee & Sons Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Burks family.

On The Fast Track:

125th Accelerated Recruit Class Graduates

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

The 125th Recruit Class started their journey at the Patrol Academy on January 5, 2026. This accelerated class spent 15 weeks learning and preparing to serve the state of Missouri as Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers. These 19 recruits all had previous experience in law enforcement. Those who go through the accelerated recruit class are required to have an active Missouri Class A POST license in good standing or hold an active Class B POST license in good standing that is eligible for upgrade. Additionally, recruits had to have served at least three consecutive years of full-time experience such as a Missouri POST-commissioned police officer, military police officer, or an out-of-state police officer. The training from the Academy helped build on to their previous law enforcement knowledge and abilities and built them up to meet the Patrol standard.



The new troopers were asked to describe their time at the Academy in one word:

Eventful • Adverse • Challenging • Interesting • Eye-opening
Humbling • Educational • Tough • Stressful • Fun

During the 15 weeks, the new recruits spent their time learning skills ranging from firearms, swimming, defensive tactics, crash investigations, DWI investigation, defensive driving, and many more. Even though recruits had previous experience in law enforcement, a learning curve was still present. Trooper Charles D. Jones (F) said "The Highway Patrol's Academy is definitely everything people say it will be. It is a lot more intense and holds every recruit accountable and to a higher standard. You will know if you are not meeting expectations." The 19 recruits pushed themselves every day—both mentally and physically. A Patrol mindset had to be created and utilized instead of what the recruits may have previously known and practiced. "The level of passion the instructors had while teaching their course—you can tell they are wanting to set recruits up for success because they may one day be working the road. . . The instructors want us to fall into place so that other troopers know our level of training is the same," said Tpr. Jones.

Recruits were first exposed to the creation of a Patrol mindset during equipment issue. This high-stress exercise was designed to push recruits and test their resilience in confusing and stressful settings. Stress followed the recruits throughout their time at the Academy. Whether that was through defensive tactics or in the lunch line. In the long run, the stress prepared the class to handle the taxing situations they may face while on patrol and has set them up to be successful troopers.

The instructors at the Academy provided many hands-on lessons for the 125th Recruit Class. The recruits participated in DWI investigation training, emergency vehicle operations, stress combat, and even a FIFA World Cup scenario. Providing the recruits with hands-on scenarios allowed them to apply what they learned in the classroom to real world situations. Even though these exercises were in controlled settings, the impact was still made. Trooper Austyn S. Mendoza (D) said, "The Academy's training has given me a solid foundation to rely on as I encounter real life situations on the road . . . The Academy's training was very beneficial and of the highest quality due to the instructors. I am very thankful."

Along with a Patrol mindset, recruits also had to meet a specific physical standard. Recruits are required to pass a 500-meter row test and a 1.5-mile run. The results and times vary based on age and gender, with an average of 2.25 minutes 500-meter row for females and 2.08 minutes 500-meter row for males. Females should have an average of 23.41 minutes for a 1.5-mile run and males should average 18.97 minutes for the run. It is important that recruits maintain a certain physical standard during their time at the Academy and after. No two days are exactly the same while on patrol, and making sure troopers are fit and ready for foot pursuits or other physical actions is imperative when serving the citizens of Missouri.

> "We commit to service, we commit to professionalism, we commit to doing the right thing, even when it may be a tough situation.
>
> - Trooper Charles D. Jones



The 125th recruit class salutes the colors.

After a short 15 weeks, graduation finally arrived on April 10. The usual traditions were performed—the Troop F Color Guard presented the colors, the National Anthem was sung by Sergeant Andrew A. Henry (H), and the 125th Recruit Class sang "Hail, Hail State Patrol" as they entered the gymnasium. Governor Mike Kehoe provided the keynote address to the class, and Colonel Michael A. Turner also spoke. Pastor Byron Beck, Fellowship General Baptist Church, provided the invocation and benediction, and the Honorable Kelly Broniec, Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the new troopers.

During the graduation ceremony, four class awards were presented. The recruits accumulated points toward graduation in the categories of physical fitness, firearms, and academics throughout their time at the Academy. Trooper Keaton D. Siebenaler (D) accepted the Physical Fitness Award; Trooper James Q. Chapman (F) accepted the Firearms Trophy; and Trooper Zachary K. Bridges (E) accepted the Academics Award. Colonel Turner presented the Colonel C. E. "Mel" Fisher Superintendent's Award to Tpr. Siebenaler.

Tpr. Jones, the 125th Class Commander, left the class with the following words during his address. "Today marks the end of a journey that tested us in ways that we could not have fully understood when we first got here and walked through the Academy doors. And at the same time, marks the beginning of something even better." He emphasized the importance of leaning on your fellow classmates during times of trouble and always remembering the training and foundation for success that was created from the Academy. Tpr. Jones continued, "Today we don't just graduate. We commit. We commit to service, we commit to professionalism, we commit to doing the right thing, even when it may be a tough situation. And above all, we commit to going home safely and helping each other do the same."

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT



DEREK B. CARNAGEY
Sergeant
Q/AD
Retired April 1, 2026
28 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



ALEXANDER W. WHITEHEAD
Corporal
Troop A
Retired April 1, 2026
30 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service



MICHAEL L. SCOGGINS
Sergeant
Troop E
Retired April 1, 2026
29 years, 9 mo. of dedicated service



DENNIS W. RICHARDSON
Division Assistant Director
Q/DVSD
Retired April 1, 2026
19 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



JEFFREY L. GERTSON
Trooper 1st Class
Troop F
Retired April 1, 2026
28 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



STEVEN H. CRABTREE
Corporal
Q/GSD
Retired April 1, 2026
29 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service



CHRISTOPHER M. GACH
Sergeant
Troop A
Retired April 1, 2026
30 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



TODD E. DIEHL
Program Specialist
Q/FFD
Retired April 1, 2026
34 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



AMANDA F. SAPP
Trooper
Troop B
Retired May 1, 2026
28 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service



THOMAS B. ZIEGLER
Sergeant
Troop H
Retired May 1, 2026
28 years, 10 mo. of dedicated service



KIMBERLY J. HUTSON
Sr. Intelligence Analyst
Q/MIAC
Retired May 1, 2026
26 years, 1 mo. of dedicated service



WILLIAM P. BREMER
Sergeant
Troop A
Retired May 1, 2026
31 years, 10 mo. of dedicated service



DAWN R. KLIETHERMES
Sr. Forensic Scientist
Q/CLD
Retired May 1, 2026
22 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



BRYAN D. ZUMSTEG
Motor Vehicle Inspector
Troop C
Retired May 1, 2026
6 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



RICHARD D. PIPKIN
Sergeant
Q/GD
Retired May 1, 2026
30 years, 4 mo. of dedicated service



BRUCE D. FISKE
Captain
Troop G
Retired May 1, 2026
30 years, 4 mo. of dedicated service



LEIGH A. FALTER
Admin. Support Prof.
Q/TND
Retired May 1, 2026
28 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



MARGARET A. EICHHOLZ
Procurement Analyst
Q/BPD
Retired May 1, 2026
14 years, 3 mo. of dedicated service

PATROL HISTORY

By Sgt. E. M. Raub (Q/RDD)

While most of us probably feel like we are the proverbial victim of Murphy's Law, some people seem to always come out on top. Such was the case for one trooper in the summer of 1975.

The Patrol citizen band radio program had just gotten into full swing and was attracting a lot of publicity. Several officers around the state adopted "handles" and became virtual celebrities with truckers and other travelers. Trooper Ben F. Goodin, known to CB'ers as Dudley Do-Right, was one of those pioneer legends.

With little advance warning, Goodin was assigned to pick up Richard D. Ralls, a reporter from the Kansas City Star. Ralls wanted to write a feature article on the effectiveness of CB radios in Patrol cars. The feeling in the local zone was primarily one of apprehension. If anything can possibly go wrong, it most certainly would happen when a reporter from one of the state's largest newspapers is riding with you. And even if nothing went wrong, you certainly couldn't expect that during those few hours the reporter is there, that anything really newsworthy would happen.

The first couple of hours, Goodin worked along I-70 and chatted with a few truckers; it seemed like it was going to be a fairly dull evening for the reporter. Then the Boonville Police reported three escapees from the Missouri Training School for Boys had just accosted a local youth, Tim Smith, and stolen a pickup truck belonging to Smith's father. The suspects were last seen heading east on MO 98 toward I-70. Trooper Goodin was on I-70, but not in a position he could reach the interchange of MO 98 and I-70 before the escapees. He then called on the CB radio to truckers in that area to watch for the stolen Dodge pickup. It was nearing dusk, and any delay in spotting the truck would certainly aid the escapees in avoiding apprehension. Within minutes, a trucker reported the stolen pickup was headed east into Boone County. Goodin notified Troop F radio of the new information, and Trooper Charlie Schaeffer quickly got into a position to establish a roadblock. Goodin coordinated the apprehension by keeping track of the location of the pickup with truckers on the CB while keeping Troop F and Trooper Schaeffer informed by Patrol radio. The three escapees were captured by Goodin and Schaeffer without incident.

The event was fully recorded and reported, complete with dramatic photos, by the reporter Ralls. After processing the three youths and the stolen truck, Goodin was overheard modestly telling the reporter that these things really don't happen every day. Nevertheless, it was an excellent selling point for the value of CB radios in Patrol cars. And once again, despite all odds and living up to his reputation, Trooper Ben Goodin had come out of potential disaster smelling like a rose!

(This article was printed originally in the May 1992 issue of the Patrol News. Captain Raub is now retired).

WITH sympathy

Ret. Capt. Ivan D. Smith - father

Ret. Chief CVO Vonda K. Smith - father-in-law

Ret. Asst. Chief Telecom. Eng. William E. Pollard - uncle

Comm. Operator Julie A. Weston (F) - mother

Ret. Cpl. Kenneth E. Swon - son

Lt. David L. Fouch (Q/FOB) - wife

Tpr. Taylor A. Tarwater (F) - father

Ret. DE Supervisor Michelle D. Applegate - husband

CVO Travis W. Noyes (B) - grandfather

Sr. Client Supp. Tech. Craig L. Mosley (Q/CTD) - father

Cpl. Catlynn E. Newbold (Q/TND) - grandmother

Ret. Asst. Dir. of Information Systems Stanley E. Williams - wife

Capt. Shawn P. Skoglund (H) - mother

Ret. Criminalist Supervisor Dale S. Lawrence - sister

Ret. Cpl. Roger Y. Wilson - wife



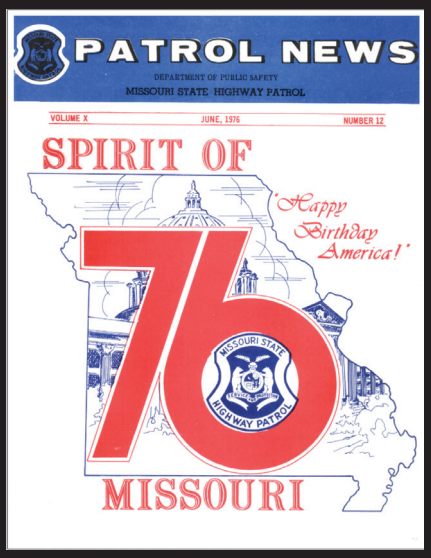
Looking Back

IN THE PATROL NEWS



30 YEARS AGO

The June 1996 edition of the Patrol News featured Arie Crawford, the first minority female to be promoted to corporal in Patrol history. She was also the first female officer to serve in the Governor's Security Division.



50 YEARS AGO

The June 1976 edition of the Patrol News celebrated the bicentennial of America with a special cover and red and blue font colors throughout the magazine. The cover was inspired by a submitted drawing from Driver Examiner Jack Truitt (B).



20 YEARS AGO

On January 21, 2006, Sergeant Matthew K. Funderburk (D) stopped a vehicle for following too closely and not displaying visible license plates. A consent search was conducted and revealed 39 bundles of U.S. currency, resulting in over $500,000. Readers can learn more about the traffic stop in the May-June 2006 edition of the Patrol News.



40 YEARS AGO

On May 15, 1986, multiple tornadoes hit Troop E. The storms left behind damages totaling $80 million, 30 injuries, and three fatalities. A picture of one of the tornadoes is featured on the back of the June 1986 edition of the Patrol News. The picture was taken by Trooper J. F. Keathley.



10 YEARS AGO

Captain Vince S. Rice (TND) spearheaded the "Troopers for Tony;" a two-day bike ride from St. Louis Children's Hospital to Linn, MO. The ride raised $3,500 for seven-year-old Tony Peters who was recovering from leukemia. More details about Troopers for Tony can be found in the May-June 2016 edition of the Patrol News.

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
General Headquarters
P.O. Box 568
1510 E. Elm St.
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568



Photo by Billy Wade