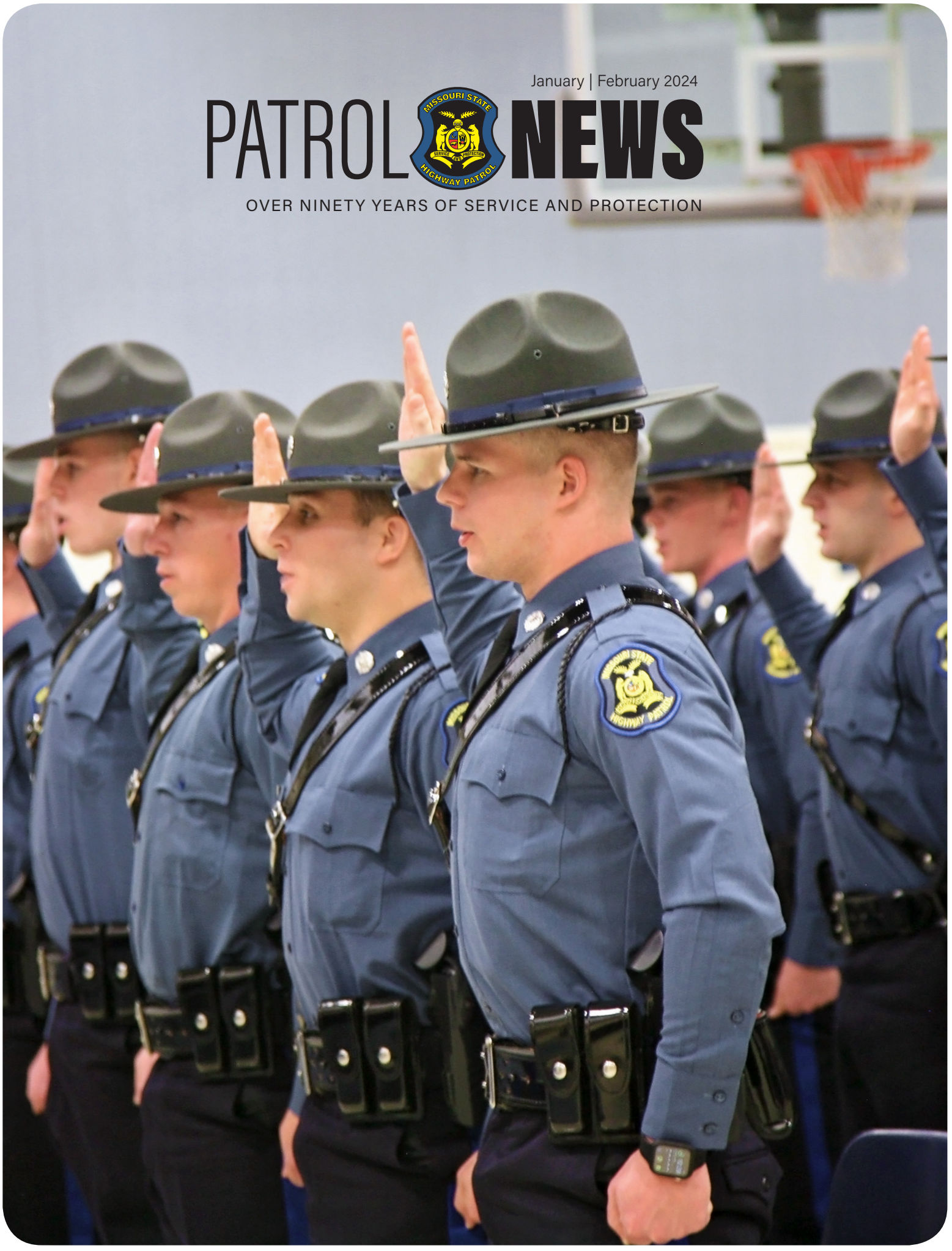
January | February 2024

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF



Major Christopher S. Jolly
Technical Services Bureau

THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the landscape of law enforcement, introducing novel tools and strategies that promise to revolutionize policing. One of the key applications of AI in this field is predictive policing. Machine learning algorithms process vast datasets of historical crime information, enabling law enforcement to forecast potential crime hotspots. This proactive approach allows agencies to allocate resources more effectively, preventing criminal activity before it occurs.

Facial recognition technology is another significant aspect of AI adoption in law enforcement. It empowers authorities to swiftly identify individuals from images, aiding in criminal investigations and enhancing public safety. However, the use of facial recognition technology has sparked debates around privacy and civil liberties, raising important ethical considerations that demand careful scrutiny.

The integration of AI in evidence analysis has streamlined investigative processes. Algorithms are capable of sifting through massive amounts of digital data, including text, images, and videos. This is particularly valuable in combating cybercrime, where traditional investigative methods often struggle to keep pace with the volume and complexity of digital evidence.

Administrative efficiency within law enforcement agencies has also seen improvements with the introduction of virtual assistants and chatbots powered by AI. These automated systems handle routine inquiries, allowing human officers to concentrate on more complex tasks. The result is not only increased operational efficiency but also enhanced public service.

While the benefits of AI in law enforcement are evident, challenges persist. Algorithmic bias, rooted in historical data, poses a risk of perpetuating and amplifying existing disparities within the criminal justice system. Addressing these issues requires ongoing efforts to refine algorithms, enhance transparency, and ensure accountability in AI systems.

In conclusion, the rise of AI in law enforcement marks a transformative era in policing. The potential for improved crime prevention, investigative efficiency, and administrative streamlining is vast. However, careful attention to ethical considerations, particularly regarding privacy and bias, is paramount to harness the full potential of AI while upholding the principles of justice and accountability.

***This is the first Patrol News article that was written in its entirety by AI. To complete this task, I requested the OpenAI ChatGPT platform to generate a 325-word article on "The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Law Enforcement." I received the finished product in less than one second. AI may become one of the most significant technological advances in history. As new technologies such as AI continue to be developed and evolve, it is critical that the Patrol continually research and implement systems that will improve the safety and efficiency of our employees.

Although the Patrol does not utilize all the AI technologies listed in the article, we are beginning to explore areas within our agency that could benefit from AI-generated solutions. For example, personnel from the Patrol's CJIS Division, in cooperation with the Research and Development Division, have been in discussions with several vendors to develop an internal chatbot that would initially be used to assist employees in answering policy-related questions without having to rely on manually locating the information. That will be quite a change from scouring the multitude of blue pages found in the General Order binder that I began my career with more than 25 years ago. AI will also be used to improve our current applications and assist in the development of new applications that will be utilized in the future.



CELEBRATING OVER 57 YEARS OF NEWS
PATROL **NEWS**
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Department of Public Safety
ERIC T. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT
Missouri State Highway Patrol

PATROL NEWS STAFF

Capt. John J. Hotz
Managing Editor

Cheryl Cobb
Editor

Holly Hyde
Designer

Meghan Basinger
Social Media

Chad Buschjost
Printing

Rachel Hays
Photography

TROOP REPORTERS

Troop A: Sgt. Andy Bell
Troop B: Cpl. Justin Dunn
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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

January | February 2024

PATROL **NEWS**
OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION
Volume 58 ▪ Number 4

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ON THE COVER

New troopers from the 118th recruit class take their oaths of office.
See story on page 10.

HOMETOWN HERO

By Corporal Justin S. Dunn (B)



Master Sergeant Graydon L. Gaines (B) is the zone sergeant in Adair and Schuyler counties. He is very passionate about removing impaired drivers from Missouri's roadways. He is also an educator and helps other officers sharpen their DWI enforcement skills. Sergeant Gaines works hard as a leader to serve his community and supports his employees in achieving their career goals. He is currently serving in the Missouri National Guard as a Captain in an engineering division. He has been deployed twice and proudly serves his country. Sgt. Gaines has dedicated his adult life to making his country and state a safe place for all who live and visit.

Sergeant Gaines was recently honored by the Kansas City Chiefs as one of Missouri's hometown heroes at their December 25, 2023, home game against the Las Vegas Raiders. Sergeant Gaines and his wife were honored with free tickets to the game and a parking pass. Congratulations Sergeant Gaines on a well-deserved honor, and for your accomplishments on and off duty.

Roger Martin Elevated to Life Member of APCO International



By: Zachary Dykes
Communications Training Coordinator (Q/COMMD)

Roger Martin (middle) becomes life member of APCO.

During the annual Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference that took place in in Nashville, Tennessee this past August, retired Communications Chief Trainer Roger Martin, was voted by the Association Membership to be elevated to the position of Life Member.

This title is not easily earned with members having to have served at least 15 years and having made at least five significant contributions to the Association or the Emergency Communications Profession during their membership. Aside from his numerous contributions at the national level, Roger was a leader in training and enhancing emergency communications in Missouri throughout his career. While employed at the Patrol, Roger served for several years as the Missouri Chapter President and continues to serve in the role of Secretary during his retirement.

Additionally, Roger has and continues to serve as the co-chair of the Missouri Professional Training Partnership, a partnership between the Missouri Chapter of APCO and the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Communications Division which is dedicated to offering low-cost training to communicators around the state.

Although he has retired, his dedication to public safety and specifically public safety communications continues. The Communications Division would like to congratulate Roger on this outstanding and well-deserved achievement! The Patrol's Communications Division has a long history of involvement with APCO, dating back to Director of Radio Harry Duncan. Director Duncan went on to serve as the national president of APCO from 1956 to 1957.



DPS HONORS JOHNSON AND ROBERTS

By Sergeant T. Eddie Young (G)

On November 9th, 2023, Troop G held an award ceremony to honor the heroic actions of Sergeant Adam R. Johnson and Corporal Johnathan R. Roberts, who were recognized as October's Sworn Team Members of the Month. The event, attended by DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond and Major Michael A. Turner (Q/FOB), was a special occasion to commend the extraordinary bravery and quick thinking of these two officers.

Sgt. Johnson and Cpl. Roberts were honored for the exceptional rescue mission they carried out in May 2023. The two officers were dispatched to the Hales Crossing area in the midst of flash flooding caused by the rapid expansion of the North Fork River. Upon arrival, they were faced with the daunting task of rescuing individuals who had been swept away by the powerful floodwaters.

They launched an inflatable boat and embarked on their perilous rescue mission. Their first encounter was with a woman who was clinging onto a submerged tree for dear life. With Cpl. Roberts skillfully maneuvering the boat and Sgt. Johnson lending a helping hand, they successfully pulled the woman out of treacherous waters and ferried her to safety. Their quick actions saved her life, as she was suffering from hypothermia.

But the duo's heroic efforts didn't end there. As they were transporting the first victim to shore, they heard the distressing cries of a man in need of help. The pair used their spotlights to locate the man, perched on top of a log in the middle of the raging river. After ensuring the first victim's safety, they returned to rescue the man, who was also suffering from hypothermia and in dire need of assistance.

Their daring rescue mission saw them navigating through debris and swiftly moving waters, all while battling the darkness of the night. Eventually, they managed to reach the second victim and pull him to safety, demonstrating unwavering determination and valor throughout the entire operation.

The ceremony, attended by a crowd, including a group of Willow Springs FFA students, was a poignant reminder of the selflessness and bravery displayed by these officers. DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond and Major Turner presented certificates of recognition and challenge coins to honor Sgt. Johnson and Cpl. Roberts for their exceptional service to the community.

The event served as a fitting tribute to the courage and selfless actions of Sergeant Adam R. Johnson and Corporal Johnathan R. Roberts, who truly embody the spirit of heroism within the ranks of Troop G. Their actions have left an indelible mark, not only on the lives of the individuals they rescued but hopefully on the community as a whole.

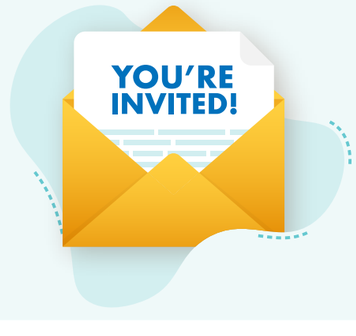


Sergeant Adam Johnson and Corporal Johnathan Roberts were awarded Department of Public Safety's October Team Members of the month. DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond presented the officers with their certificate and a DPS challenge coin. The event was held at Troop G Headquarters with family, friends, and coworkers in attendance.

WITH sympathy

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

Ret. Cook Sprv. Michael Ferguson – mother
Ret. CITS II Pamela Ferguson – mother-in-law
Ret. Telecommunicator Ronald King – son
Ret. Trooper Theresa Davis – mother
Tpr. Tom O. Mitchell (F) - father
PRD Tech. III Samantha Bryan (Q/PRD) – grandfather
Ret. CVO Kevin Levart – father
Ret. Sgt. Francis Gehner – wife
Lt. Jason Decker (C) – grandmother-in-law
Ret. Asst. Dir. D. Russ Dunwiddie – mother
Temp. Bldg. & Grnds. John Morris (B) – father-in-law
Ret. Comm. Op. Mark C. Nelson – father
CVO Randall K. Cooper (E) – father
CVO Billie G. Cooper (E) – uncle
Ret. PRD Program Sprv. Loretta Mitchell - mother
MVI Sprv. Janna Clamme (I) – father
Comm. Operator III Eric Douglas (D) – stepfather
Admin. Office Support Asst. Anita Douglas (D) – father-in-law



The Missouri State Highway Patrol Annual Awards Ceremony and MASTERS Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center.

The awards banquet is open to all MASTERS members, MSHP employees, and their guest/spouse. The banquet usually starts with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. with dinner immediately following, and then the presentation of awards. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Redel at (573) 526-6159 or mary.redel@mshp.dps.mo.gov.



SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT

The Patrol spread Christmas cheer with some photos of our K9 team!

"Deck the halls with bones and chew toys, fa la la la la la. . . squirrel!"







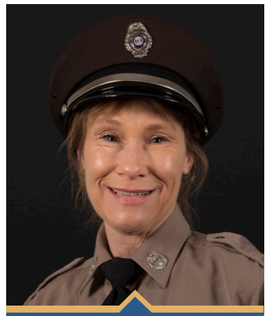
2.7K VIEWER LIKES

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT

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



NATHAN C. AHERN
Lieutenant
Troop A
Retired January 1, 2024.
31 years of dedicated service.



DENENE C. GROSS
Driver Examiner III
Troop C
Retired January 1, 2024.
13 years, 7 months of dedicated service.



TERRY L. MEARS
CIA II
Q/DDCC
Retired January 1, 2024.
26 years, 1 month of dedicated service.



DAWN M. MOORE
Chief Operator
Troop E
Retired January 1, 2024.
24 years, 7 months of dedicated service.



DIANNA L. NEIER
Special Assistant
Q/TND
Retired December 1, 2023.
27 years, 5 months of dedicated service.

Photo not available

SCOTT W. SIMMONS
Sergeant
Q/DDCC
Retired January 1, 2024.
33 years, 6 months of dedicated service.



ANDREW B. SWEARINGIN
Sergeant
Troop I
Retired January 1, 2024.
28 years of dedicated service.



APRIL L. WARREN
Comm. Operator III
Troop F
Retired January 1, 2024.
24 years, 5 months of dedicated service.

Radio Operators GRADUATE Communications Academy

By: Zachary Dykes
Communications Training Coordinator (Q/COMMD)

On the morning of December 15, 2023, eight Communications Operator Trainees (COTs) entered Classroom E of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Academy and prepared to graduate from the Communications Academy. As part of their extensive training program, COTs are required to attend this two-week academy, which aims to provide knowledge and skills for trainees to build upon throughout the training process. Following graduation, COTs return to their home Troop for additional on-the-job training throughout their first 18 months.

During the Academy, COTs attended a basics course which meets or exceeds statutory requirements for public safety communications personnel in Missouri. During this course they learned about the inner workings and history of the 9-1-1 system, common terminology and phrases utilized in public safety. They learned about various radio technologies and a bit about the science behind radio communications as well as learned about liability and communicating with the deaf and hard of hearing through a TTY teletypewriter device. In addition to the basics course, COTs were tested on spelling, geography and various policies and procedures. They finished off the week with a 100-question test and a scavenger hunt through the Patrol Museum.

To kick off week two, COTs underwent an in-depth 12-hour overview of the Patrol's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, taught by CAD Administrator Chief Rocky Ponder (Q/COMMD). This overview included several hours of hands-on practical exercises. During one of these exercises, COT Lauren Wilson (B) surprised both instructors and taught them a shortcut in CAD that was not widely known.

Just like our training program, our Communication Academy is designed to build upon skills and knowledge already learned and provided. COTs were given time throughout their academy to practice their call taking, interview and CFS creation skills. One of the more fun and interesting bits of lecture surrounded pursuits. Following completion of the instruction, COTs were given the opportunity to "run" a pursuit through simulation.

The day before graduation, COTs conducted site visits to various Divisions and partner agencies including the Patrol Hanger to learn about the Aircraft Division. Communications Personnel often interact with Patrol pilots over the radio but rarely get to interact with them face-to-face. The second stop was at the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN) Network Operations Center office. Here the COTs were able to look at the inner workings of a tower site and the Patrol and MOSWIN radio infrastructure. The third stop took the COTs to the Patrol's radio shop where Section Chief Keith Randall (Q/COMMD) provided an overview of the User Support Section's mission and operations. The final stop of the day was touring the Patrol's Mobile Communications Command Vehicle (MCCV), aka Big Blue, and the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV). Throughout the week COTs were once again tested on geography, spelling, and policies and were administered a comprehensive 100 question final.

During the graduation ceremony COTs were treated to remarks from Director of Radio J. Corey Chaney, Lt. Colonel Tony Flannigan (Q/ASO) and Colonel Eric Olson. Colonel Olson, Director Chaney and Operations and Training Section Chief James Parks (Q/COMMD) presented each graduate with their certificate of completion.

Throughout the Academy, COTs battled for the coveted top academic student award, known as the Harry Duncan Honor Graduate Award. This spot was determined through a cumulative total of all academic tests issued throughout the Academy and was named in honor of one of the original Radio Operators and later Director of Radio, Harry Duncan. With an overall class accuracy of 91%, the race for honor graduate was hard fought and ended with only four points separating first and second place. The Communications Division would like to congratulate Christina Aldrich (H) for achieving this award.



Days before graduation the Communications Operator Trainees visited multiple divisions, including the Aircraft Division. Pictured: (l to r) Christina Aldrich (H), Lori Triplett (I), Brittany Bruce (G), Seth Moore (E), Christian Martin (I), Dena Reed (B), Brooke Herrin (B), Lauren Wilson (B)

DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, SAME GOAL

By Dr. Mark Pottorff
Curator (Q/PIED)

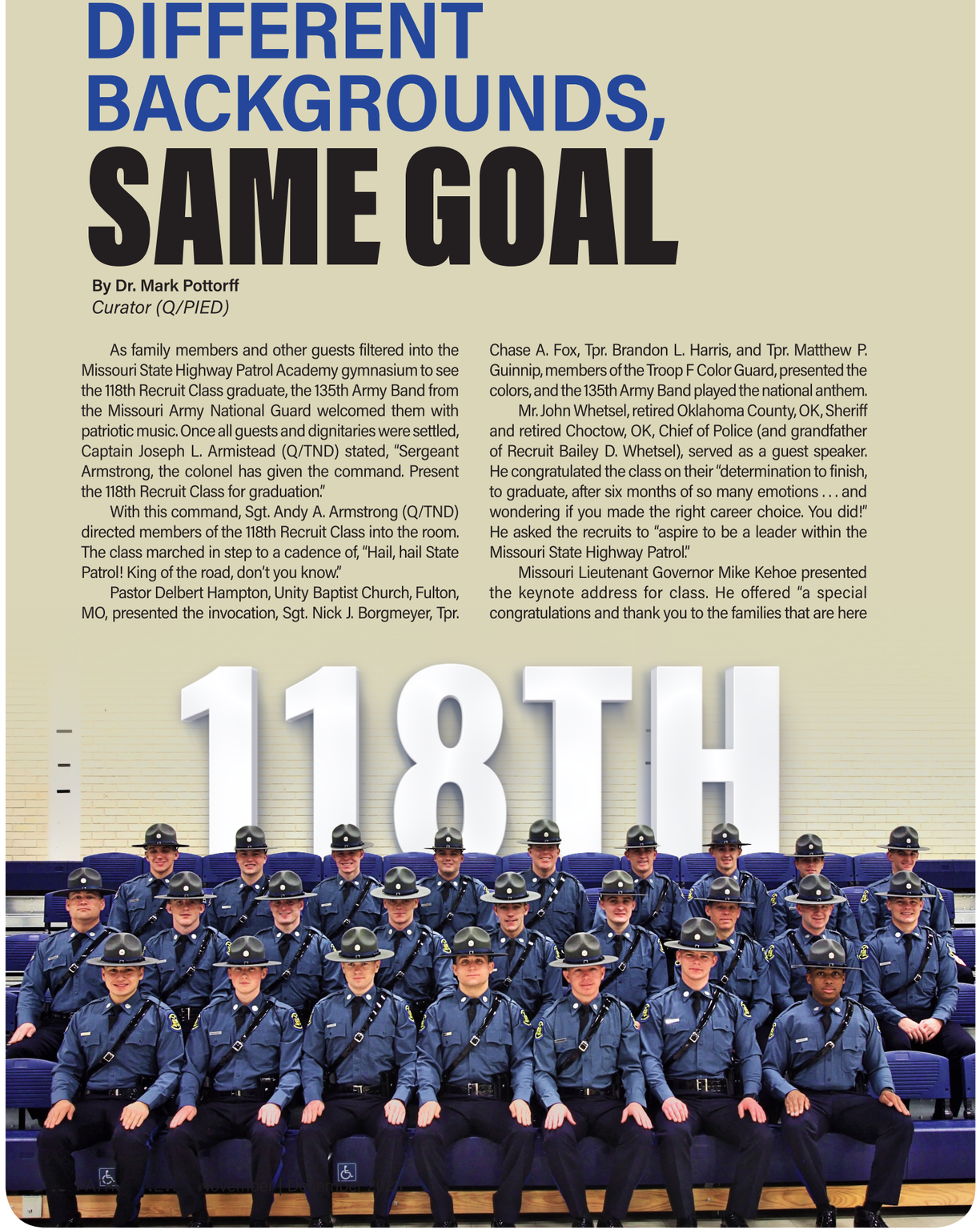
As family members and other guests filtered into the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy gymnasium to see the 118th Recruit Class graduate, the 135th Army Band from the Missouri Army National Guard welcomed them with patriotic music. Once all guests and dignitaries were settled, Captain Joseph L. Armistead (Q/TND) stated, "Sergeant Armstrong, the colonel has given the command. Present the 118th Recruit Class for graduation."

With this command, Sgt. Andy A. Armstrong (Q/TND) directed members of the 118th Recruit Class into the room. The class marched in step to a cadence of, "Hail, hail State Patrol! King of the road, don't you know."

Pastor Delbert Hampton, Unity Baptist Church, Fulton, MO, presented the invocation, Sgt. Nick J. Borgmeyer, Tpr. Chase A. Fox, Tpr. Brandon L. Harris, and Tpr. Matthew P. Guinnip, members of the Troop F Color Guard, presented the colors, and the 135th Army Band played the national anthem.

Mr. John Whetsel, retired Oklahoma County, OK, Sheriff and retired Choctow, OK, Chief of Police (and grandfather of Recruit Bailey D. Whetsel), served as a guest speaker. He congratulated the class on their "determination to finish, to graduate, after six months of so many emotions . . . and wondering if you made the right career choice. You did!" He asked the recruits to "aspire to be a leader within the Missouri State Highway Patrol."

Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe presented the keynote address for class. He offered "a special congratulations and thank you to the families that are here today to support these men." He said the support shown will be just as important to the new troopers after graduation. He said members of law enforcement communities from all over the state have told him, "family support . . . is the most critical part of their success."



He told the recruits, "starting the moment you take this oath, you have the ability to profoundly influence lives." He concluded by saluting the graduates for their commitment to Missouri and asking them to "be safe on the roads and come back home after each shift."

Judge Robin Ransom, of the Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the recruits. With the Oaths sworn, Missouri had 25 new members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Colonel Eric T. Olson presented diplomas and then addressed the class and those who were instrumental in getting the 118th to their graduation. He told the class, "you're going to remember this day forever."

The Colonel meets with each member of every recruit class before graduation. He reminded them that they had talked about commitment. He said, "Last night . . . now Trooper Willhite mentioned something, . . . in his speech, which was very good, he talked about give and get." The Colonel said he wanted the class to remember this as they move forward in their career, because "we all know to get something, we have to give something, and that will be an important focal point for you moving forward." He said the members had discussed all of the core values during their meetings with him and "using those as a filter on your decision-making process would be a measure that could lead you to success."

He told the recruits, "I want you all to walk out of here today, understanding the importance of being well-rounded. Focus on your physical and mental health." He emphasized that the Patrol has resources to assist them in their endeavor to stay healthy. He closed by stating, "I am committed to you. The command staff here is committed to you. Your troop commanders, your zone sergeants, your field training officers, all are committed to you, and I want to wish you the very best."

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 winners for the 118th Recruit Class were Trooper Hunter W. Hampton, Physical Fitness Award; Trooper Jackson S. Collier, Firearms Award; Trooper Dustin R. Willhite, Academics Award; and Trooper Hunter Hampton, Superintendent's Award.

> "We all came from different backgrounds, but we sat in the bleachers with the same goal in mind . . . to walk across the stage as a Missouri State Trooper."
>
> — Trooper Kolby J. Estes

Trooper Kolby J. Estes, the 118th's class commander, addressed his fellow class members and all guests. He told his class, "this is the end of a chapter in our lives . . . but it's just the beginning of our careers in law enforcement with the Missouri State Highway Patrol." He thanked all who helped the class get to the point of graduating and emphasized their families, stating, "Words can't describe the amount of sacrifices that you've made throughout the duration of this Academy."

He recalled when the 118th came to the Academy 25 weeks earlier, stating, "we all came from different backgrounds, but we sat in the bleachers with the same goal in mind . . . to walk across the stage as a Missouri State Trooper."

He asked his classmates to remember two bits of advice he had received. "First, remember that you aren't alone . . . we all have people who care about us. Lean on these people." Second, he reminded the class to get involved in their communities; "You will be looked up to by many young boys and girls who view us as heroes. Ensure that doesn't change."



1. Trooper Dustin Willhite's baby girl naps during the ceremony.
2. Trooper Tim O'Sullivan, a graduate of the 116th recruit class, is a member of the 135th Army Band.
3. New troopers take their Oath of Office.

What SURPRISED the 118TH?

By Dr. Mark Pottorff,
Curator (Q/PIED)

As the 118th Recruit Class gathered early on the morning of December 18, 2023, just four days before their graduation, to get their first official portrait taken, I had the chance to ask them about their time at the Academy. I asked them, "What is something that happened during your time at the Academy that you did not expect or that surprised you?"

The recruit's answers ranged from the serious to the light-hearted to some good-natured ribbing for fellow recruits. Here are a few of their responses:

"The brotherhood that developed between the class."
— Recruit Dustin Willhite

"How far people have come not just as professionals but to be true gentlemen and ladies."
— Recruit Jackson Collier

"I learned I was still able to climb a rope."
— Recruit Jonathan Pinker

"One thing that surprised me was the amount of people that went through the entire hiring process and quit so easy at the beginning of the Academy."
— Recruit Kristopher Geren

"Falling down a flight of stairs."
— Recruit Chad Johnson

"(Name withheld to protect the innocent) passing out during the indoor CS gas exposure."
— Recruit Edgar Raya

"When Recruit (Name withheld to protect the innocent) passed out from CS gas.
— Recruit Justin Hedrick

"One thing that surprised me was how well I handled OC spray."
— Recruit Bailey Whetsel

"One thing that surprised me during my time here at the Academy was the amount of material we covered in six months."
— Recruit Corey Klotz

"How badly the OC spray hurt."
— Recruit Klayton Kennedy

"(I) did not think the instructors would be nicer towards the end."
— Recruit Gunner Meloy

"The hands-on training that we were able to do and be a part of."
— Recruit Connor Norris

"The quality hands on training that is offered here and is not offered to other agencies."
— Recruit Ethan Talleur

"Running does not get easier."
— Recruit Dallas McKenzie

"Food was better than expected, most days."
— Recruit Robert Mott

"The amount of physical training."
— Recruit Dalon Brown

"How bad OC spray hurt."
— Recruit Brady Hart



The names (hometowns) and first assignments of members of the 118th Recruit Class are listed below:

Troop A
Trooper Klayton R. Kennedy, Plattsburg, MO, Platte County
Trooper Corey W. Klotz, Nevada, MO, Bates County
Trooper Connor W. Norris, Kearney, MO, Clay County

Troop B
Trooper Kristopher B. Geren, Fowler, IL, Marion/Ralls Counties
Trooper Tristen C. Miller, Shelby, MO, Linn/Chariton Counties

Troop C
Trooper Dalon J. Brown, Hazelwood, MO, North St. Louis County
Trooper Jackson S. Collier, Farmington, MO, Ste. Genevieve/Perry Counties
Trooper Brian J. Fessenden, Palmyra, MO, South St. Louis County
Trooper Justin D. Hedrick, St. Charles, MO, South St. Louis County
Trooper Dallas R. McKenzie, Quincy, IL, St. Charles County
Trooper Roan Oosthuizen, Grapevine, TX, St. Charles County
Trooper Edgar J. Raya, St. Louis, MO, South St. Louis County
Trooper Ethan G. Talleur, St. Clair, MO, Franklin County
Trooper Mason K. Wilson, Seneca, MO, St. Charles County

Troop E
Trooper Brady T. Hart, Puxico, MO, Butler/Ripley Counties
Trooper Gunner L.R. Meloy, Marble Hill, MO, Butler/Ripley Counties

Troop F
Trooper Ryan C. Byers, Joplin, MO, Morgan/Moniteau Counties
Trooper Hunter W. Hampton, Fulton, MO, Cole County
Trooper Jonathan E. Pinker, Overland Park, KS, Camden/Miller Counties
Trooper Bailey D. Whetsel, Jones, OK, Cole County

Troop G
Trooper Chad K. Johnson, Seymour, MO, Texas/Wright Counties

Troop H
Trooper Robert K. Mott, Mt. Pulaski, IL, Holt/Atchison Counties

Troop I
Trooper Aaron M. Cunningham, Rolla, MO, Crawford County
Trooper Kolby J. Estes, Warsaw, MO, Phelps/Maries Counties
Trooper Dustin R. Willhite, Hartville, MO, Laclede County



Back (I to r) Jeremy C. Jobson (B), Noah W. Morris (A), Aaron L. Krause (A) Front (I to r) Sergey Z. Skots (A), Casey M. O'Loughlin (C) Not Pictured: Bradley S. Aytes (B)

Welcome Six New Commercial Vehicle Officers!

By Chief Brandon S. Whittington (Q/CVE)

On Friday, December 1, 2023, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division proudly welcomed six new Commercial Vehicle Officers into their ranks. With their family and friends watching, they were presented their POST licenses by Major Benjamin C. Jones (Q/SSB) and sworn into service by the Honorable Scott T. Evans.

Chief CVO Brandon S. Whittington (Q/CVE) addressed the audience in the General Headquarters 2nd Floor Conference Room. Sharing the many accomplishments of the class, training over 1,000 hours, and taking and passing 20 written and 12 practical exams. The class also fired nearly 5,000 rounds of handgun, shotgun, and rifle ammunition, and ran over 200 miles (almost the entire distance across the state).

Chief Whittington also presented two CVO class awards. The Academic Award, given to the Commercial Vehicle Officer with the highest overall average written exam score, was presented to CVO Bradley Aytes with a 95.92%. The class Firearms Award is presented to the CVO with the highest overall average from the three firearm practical exams. CVO Casey O'Loughlin, with an average score of 92.41%, was the receipt of this award.

The 15th Commercial Vehicle Officer class reported to their troops and began helping to keep the roadways of Missouri safe on December 18, 2023.



(right) Master Sergeant Greg Primm (Q/DDCC) served on the panel at the Fentanyl Forum.

MISSOURI FIGHTS AGAINST FENTANYL EPIDEMIC

By Master Sergeant Darrin Haslag (Q/DDCC)

On December 18, 2023, Division of Drug and Crime Control Master Sergeant Greg Primm served as a panelist for the Congressional Fentanyl Forum, held at the University of Missouri Campus, in Columbia, Missouri. This forum was hosted by fellow panelists and U.S. Congressmen Blaine Luetkemeyer and Mark Alford. Discussions centered on the danger fentanyl poses to the people of Missouri and ways to move forward in the fight against this dangerous epidemic. Other panelist included University of Missouri President Mun Choi, Missouri Senator Caleb Rowden, Missouri Representative Sherri Gallick, family members of fentanyl poisoning victims, and emergency services/substance abuse prevention specialists. Master Sergeant Primm stated, "The fentanyl epidemic is our greatest challenge we are currently facing. There is no silver bullet or singular solution, but it is solvable with collaborative efforts. Since 2017, over 10,700 Missourians have been killed by opioids. We have an opportunity every day to stand between our fellow citizens and the people distributing deadly opioids."

BREAKING GROUND:
TROOP A HEADQUARTERS



Pictured (l to r): John Jamerson with Crossland Construction Co., Chris Redline, MoDOT District Engineer for Kansas City, Captain Steve Wilhoit, Troop A Commander, Colonel Eric Olson, State Representative Kemp Strickler, Lee's Summit Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Representative Doug Richey

By Sergeant Andy Bell *(A)*

On Wednesday, November 29, 2023, a groundbreaking ceremony took place in Lee's Summit for the construction of a new Troop A Headquarters. The ceremony took place at the construction site, which is located at MoDOT District 4 Headquarters, 600 NE Colbern Road, in Lee's Summit.

Representative Doug Richey, Representative Kemp Strickler, Lee's Summit Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, and Colonel Eric Olson all spoke, sharing words of appreciation and insight into the future for the community of Lee's Summit. Representative Richey stated he was honored to have participated in securing funding for the new headquarters and values the relationship he has with the Patrol, especially after serving the past 11 years as one of the Patrol's chaplains. Representative Strickler said, "Today is a win, win." He stated, not only will the Missouri Highway Patrol benefit from a much-needed new facility, but the community of Lee's Summit will benefit from a much-needed redesigned traffic interchange at Missouri 291 Highway and US-50 Highway, allowing for better traffic flow and business growth. Colonel Olson expressed his appreciation to the many stakeholders involved in securing funds and supporting the construction of a new Troop A Headquarters. Colonel Olson shared his excitement for the new headquarters and is encouraged by what the future holds with the new location.

The relocation and construction of Troop A Headquarters will address two issues that are being faced at the current location. The first issue is limited space. The current Troop A Headquarters was constructed in 1968 and falls well short of the minimum space requirement to perform tasks in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The new Troop A Headquarters will provide approximately 8,000 more square feet of building space to help provide adequate working space for Patrol employees. The second issue faced at the current location is traffic congestion. Not only is it difficult to access Troop A, but other businesses and Lee's Summit High School suffer from the congestion. The current interchange located at Missouri 291 at US-50 is extremely busy and prone to several crashes. The relocation of Troop A will allow for the construction of a new interchange and increase proper traffic in a heavily traveled area.

The Missouri Legislature appropriated funds for the project in the FY 2024 budget. There were several stakeholders involved in reaching this milestone. A few of these stakeholders include Governor Mike Parson, Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, Senate Appropriations Chair, Senator Lincoln Hough, Senator Mike Cierpiot, House Budget Chair, Representative Cody Smith, Representative Doug Richey, Representative Keri Ingle, Representative Kemp Strickler, Missouri Department of Transportation, the City of Lee's Summit, and Lee's Summit R-VII School District.



The Artisan Contracting team gather for a photo with Sergeant Clark Parrott (E), The MASTERS Executive Director Sarah Weadon, and The MASTERS President Tom Drury.

Honoring 10 YEARS of Support to The MASTERS from Artisan Contracting, Inc.

By Sarah Weadon
Executive Director, The MASTERS

In the fall of 2014 Mr. Larry Frankum, then owner of Artisan Contracting of Cape Girardeau, MO reached out to The MASTERS and to the Missouri State Highway Patrol seeking to organize a Charity Golf Tournament to benefit The MASTERS. Each October since then, Artisan has continued to work diligently in organizing this tournament and ensuring it is a success every year. Even during 2020 when the Tournament was not played in person due to COVID restrictions, Artisan stepped up by reaching out to their loyal sponsors over the years and fundraised for the tournament and MASTERS, utilizing mail donations.

The 2023 Tournament, which was held on October 3, 2023, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Artisan Contracting Charity Golf Tournament to benefit The MASTERS, and it was the largest one to date. On November 15, 2023, a reception was held at the Artisan office to honor Mr. Larry Frankum and the Artisan Contracting team and to present them with a small token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication to The MASTERS over the last ten years. "It's been one of the most personally satisfying things I've done in my life", said Larry Frankum when describing the decision to hold this annual event in support of The MASTERS and the Patrol. The MASTERS appreciates every single person at Artisan Contracting, every contributor, and each participant of the charity golf tournament over the years.

Deaths



Evelyn L. Ward

EVELYN L. WARD

Evelyn L. Ward, 87, of Lake Saint Louis, MO, passed away Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Evelyn dedicated her career to serving as a driving instructor for the Missouri Highway Patrol. Evelyn is survived by her husband, Harold, 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made in Evelyn's name to St Jude Children's Research Hospital. To learn more about Evelyn, visit the Baue Funeral Homes website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Ward family.



Ramona J. Fluegel

RAMONA J. FLUEGEL

Ramona J. Fluegel, 95, of Centertown, MO passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at her home. Ramona was a graduate of Centertown High School. Ramona worked for the Missouri Highway Patrol from 1960-1989 where she worked as a secretary with the crime lab and narcotics lab. She is survived by one daughter, one brother-in-law, 4 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Ramona was preceded in death by a daughter, Joy Book. The family suggests memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association c/o the funeral home. To learn more about Ramona, visit the Bowlin-Cantriel Funeral Services website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Fluegel family.



Alan D. Neifert

ALAN D. NEIFERT

Alan D. Neifert, 85, passed away on November 2, 2023. Alan graduated from Mexico High School, went on to become a Policeman, and later joined the Army. He then moved to St. Charles, MO where he joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He held many positions, retiring in 1997 as Chief of Motor Vehicle Inspection. The day after retiring from the MSHP, Alan began serving as a Security Officer for the newly opened Harrah's Casino. Alan is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Nancy Ruth Neifert (nee Hoss), his son, one sister, and one brother. The family suggest memorials be made in Alan's name to Bristol Hospice and Dementia Society of America. To learn more about Alan, visit the Baue Funeral Homes website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Neifert family.



Clint E. Dill

CLINT E. DILL

Clint E. Dill, 62, departed this life at his home in Mountain Grove on November 5, 2023. Clint graduated from Marshfield High School and joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1985. He served with the patrol until his retirement in 2013. Clint is survived by his wife of 29 years, Tina Dill, one son, one daughter, two stepdaughters, two sisters, two brothers, and eight grandchildren. The family suggests memorial be made in memory of Clint Dill to St. Jude Children's Hospital. To learn more about Clint, visit the Craig-Hurtt Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Dill family.



Gary L. Dunlap

GARY L. DUNLAP

Gary L. Dunlap, 74, passed away on November 10, 2023. He graduated with the class of 1967 from Neelyville High School. Gary furthered his education with Three Rivers College and Southwest Missouri State University at Cape where he received an Associate of Arts Degree, majoring in social studies with a minor in biology. Gary began his career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol on March 1, 1970, when he started at the Academy at age twenty. He, along with sixteen members of the thirty-nineth recruit class, graduated June 9, 1970, marking the last time a recruit class would be trained at the old academy in Rolla. After graduating he was assigned to Troop I, based in Rolla. He stayed in Rolla until being transferred to Dent County, where he remained until retirement. He was promoted to sergeant July 1, 1992, and assigned zone commander of the newly created Zone 7 in Dent County. Gary, according to the highway patrol, was one of the finest shootists and weapons experts the patrol had. Two years after graduating from the academy, Gary was selected as a member of the patrol's pistol team, which traveled throughout the United States competing in matches. He shot on both the bulls eye pistol team and the combat pistol team, shooting in the nationals at Perry Camp, Ohio, several times. He's received several shooting awards, both statewide and nationally. After retiring at the age of fifty-two, he was still involved in law enforcement, Salem Police Chief Clifford Jadwin recruited Gary as a volunteer reserve officer for the police department. Gary is survived by his wife, Carol Dunlap, of Salem, MO, one daughter, and one granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Gary Dunlap to St. Jude Children's Hospital. To learn more about Gary, visit the Wilson Mortuary website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Dunlap family.



Tracy A. Hudson

TRACY A. HUDSON

Tracy A. Hudson, 65, of Willow Springs, passed away Sunday morning, November 12, 2023, at her home in Willow Springs. Tracy attended Willow Springs High School before leaving and earning her GED. She worked for 28 years at the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a Commercial Vehicle Officer. She is survived by her husband, John, one son, one daughter, three stepchildren, her mother, Carol Sillman, one sister, 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. To learn more about Tracy, visit the Willow Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Hudson family.



Virginia A. Soetebier

VIRGINIA A. SOETEBIER

Virginia A. Soetebier, 85, of DeSoto, MO, passed away Wednesday, November 29, 2023. She worked in the restaurant business with her mother for years at the Bus Cafe, Cottage Grill, and Walker's Cafe, to name a few. In 1979, Virginia began working for the Missouri Highway Patrol as a weight inspector. She retired from the Missouri Highway Patrol in 1996. Virginia is survived by four grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Memorials in Virginia's memory are preferred to the ASPCA or the local Humane Society. To learn more about Virginia, visit the Vinyard Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Soetebier family.



Lewis L. Bounds

LEWIS L. BOUNDS

Lewis L. Bounds, 89, of Jefferson City, MO, passed away Sunday, December 3, 2023. Lewis was a 1952 graduate of Centerville High School and joined the United States Army in 1953. He proudly served nearly two years in Korea with the 32nd Infantry Regiment prior to his honorable discharge from active duty in 1955. Lewis remained in the United States Army Reserves until 1960, fulfilling eight years of combined service. Post military service, Lewis continued to follow his call to serve and protect when he decided to join the ranks of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Lewis began his career as a trooper in Wayne County, Mo. and later entered the MSHP Aircraft Division becoming one of the first pilots whose duties were to provide lifesaving transportation of premature infants, transplant organs, and emergency patients as well as provide criminal investigation assistance and transportation and security for Governor Warren E. Hearnes. Lewis, or "Louie" as he was known by his Patrol peers, was regarded as an excellent pilot who operated with expertise, flying in conditions some wouldn't walk in. He knew his own capabilities as well as that of his aircraft and was a trusted man in the cockpit. Lewis finished his career as the head of the Hazmat Department at the Patrol Headquarters, retiring as a sergeant. Lewis is survived by his wife of over 67 years, Treva Bounds of Jefferson City; three daughters, seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions are suggested to Operation Bugle Boy and Central Missouri Honor Flight. To learn more about Lewis, visit the Freeman Mortuary website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Bounds family.



Siah T. Davis

SIAH T. DAVIS

Siah T. Davis passed away on December 11, 2023. He graduated from Rolla High School in 1955. Siah joined the Army Reserves, achieving the rank of Sergeant First Class before leaving that service. Siah soon joined another service in 1961 with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. At his initial duty station in Lebanon, he was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant. His promotion to Lieutenant took him and Joan back to Rolla (Troop I), and his final promotion was Captain of Troop G in Willow Springs. Along the way he collected enough college courses in criminal justice and traffic management for an associate degree. He retired in 1992 with 31 years of service. Siah is survived by two sons, 5 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one sister-in-law, one brother-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to the Pomona Christian Church Building Fund. To learn more about Siah, visit the Yarber Mortuary website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Davis family.



Ruby J. Scott

RUBY J. SCOTT

Ruby J. Scott, 80, of Imperial died Dec. 28, 2023. Mrs. Scott grew up in Lepanto, Ark. She retired from the Missouri Highway Patrol. She is survived by her husband: Phillip R. Scott of Imperial, four children, two sisters, and two brothers, 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends. To learn more about Ruby, visit Heiligtag-Lang-Fendler Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Scott family.


Vernon L. Conard

VERNON L. CONARD

On Thursday December 28th, Vernon "Leroy" Conard went home to the lord to be with his wife, Peggy. Leroy graduated from Sarcoxie High School in 1954. After high school, he joined the United States Air Force where he served five years. Upon graduation he became part of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He was soon transferred to Osceola, Missouri, where he raised his family and the remainder years. He retired after 31 years of service with the highway patrol. He then served a term as the Saint Clair County sheriff. He is survived by his three children, six great grandchildren, and many more people who loved him. To learn more about Vernon, visit Sheldon-Goodrich Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Conard family.


William L. Aber

WILLIAM L. ABER

William L. (Bill) Aber was born April 20, 1941, in Joplin, MO and died November 6, 2023, in Jefferson City. He attended Jefferson City Public Schools from first grade through high school, graduating in 1959. During this time, he joined the Cub Scouts and progressed to being an Eagle Scout. He attended Amherst College in Massachusetts until he joined the United States Air Force in 1961. Bill served in Vietnam between 1968 and 1969 where he navigated an AC-47 Gunship; the legendary "Spooky" or "Puff the Magic Dragon." He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service in Vietnam on September 20, 1968. Fourteen additional medals were conferred on him including the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. Most of his Air Force duty was navigating a variety of cargo aircraft flying missions throughout the world. He left the Air Force in 1974 as a Captain. Upon his return to Jefferson City, Bill worked at the Missouri Highway Patrol General Headquarters as a data analyst until his retirement. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserves Psyops Division as a Master Sergeant. Bill is survived by one son, one daughter, two brothers, and one sister. The family suggest memorials be made in Bill's name to River City Habitat for Humanity or Community Christian Church. To learn more about Bill, visit Freeman Mortuary website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Aber family.


Larry D. Schrader

LARRY D. SCHRADER

Laurence "Larry" Dean Schrader, 63, of California, MO passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at his home. He was a 1978 graduate of Jefferson City High School. He was later united in marriage on February 28, 1992, in Jefferson City, MO to Suezi Barr who preceded him in death. Larry retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol (DDCC) after many years and also worked for Meloy Freeze proof tanks after his retirement. He is survived by his mother, Joyce Keitel, one son, one brother, one sister, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by 2 sons and a daughter. The family suggest memorials be made to the Jefferson City Animal Shelter c/o the funeral home. To learn more about Larry, visit Bowlin Cantriel Funeral Services website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Schrader family.


Harold Z. Wood

HAROLD Z. WOOD

Harold "H Z" Wood, age 94 of Neosho, MO, passed away Monday December 11, 2023. Harold was born March 12, 1929, in Duenweg, Missouri to Geoffrey and Erma (Mullins) Wood. He retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol where he worked at the scales and was a driver's examiner. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Wood family.





My family and I want to thank everyone for the calls, cards, prayers and their attendance at the funeral of our son, Jeremy James "JJ" Frerking. It meant so much to us.

Jerold L. Frerking
Ret. CVO Supervisor

My family and I would like to thank the Patrol family for the many expressions of sympathy following the passing of my mother Nancy Dunwiddie. The kind words and memorial donations were very comforting and appreciated.

Russell Dunwiddie
Ret. Assistant Director, PRD

50 YEARS AGO

JANUARY 1974 - Trooper Gary Phillips (F) noticed some excited boys looking at something in the ditch along Highway 54. When he approached the boys, they told him they were picking up soda bottles and found a purse. However, they couldn't look inside the purse, because a snake was curled up in it. After calling Trooper Jerry Liley for assistance and some crafty use of very long pieces of wire, the purse was opened, revealing a lovely, snake-skinned makeup pouch.

40 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 1984 - Trooper J.B. King (I) shared a story of seeing a vehicle lose control on Hwy 18, run off the road, and hit a tree. Because he was right there when the crash happened, he was on the scene instantly. As he approached the rear of the car, a woman got out, reached back into the vehicle, handed him two full cans of beer, and said, "Quick, throw these away before the Trooper gets here!" She had reached back into the car and was handing Tpr. King two more full cans of beer before she realized who he was and asked, "Where did you come from?"

30 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 1994 - The cover photo and two articles put the spotlight on the Patrol's 66th Recruit Class which graduated on February 4 in the auditorium of the Lewis and Clark Middle School in Jefferson City, MO. D.E. Supervisor Ethel Caldwell (A) reported some excitement in the testing station when Marcus Allen of the Kansas City Chiefs came in to surrender his California license and test for his Missouri license. After studying for a while in waiting room, he passed his test. After passing his test, he signed autographs for anyone who wanted one and thanked the staff for being nice and considerate.





December 2014 - Retired Captain Chris T. Ricks waves at onlookers while delivering toys.

20 YEARS AGO

JAN/FEB 2004 - This edition featured stories of two civilian employees who were making a difference for the Patrol. Sherry Carter (C) was awarded the Civilian of the Year Award, and Captain Ronald S. Johnson described her as "diligent, committed, dedicated, loyal, selfless, and caring." Another article featured MVI Sprv. Eric Gibson (D) who was deployed to Kuwait as a squad leader with the 1138th Military Police Company of the Missouri National Guard. Gibson said the most interesting part of his assignment was "Having a chance to visit a different country; to experience their culture and way of life."

10 YEARS AGO

JAN/FEB 2014 - The cover featured photos of Santa (retired Capt. Chris T. Ricks) arriving on the Jefferson City Police Department's BearCat for Operation T.O.Y.S. and of Sgt. R. Brooks McGinnis and Sgt. D. Shane Green (both Troop A) with some friends they made while delivering toys. Then Lt. Justin McCullough (F) and Cpl. Lance DeClue (I) were honored as the December 2013 Employees of the Month. They were honored for their extraordinary work during flash flooding on August 6, 2013.

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