July | August 2024

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF



Major Ben C. Jones
Support Services Bureau

In 1987, the Patrol began preparing for a new commercial driver license program, which started with a written test in January 1990. The driving skills portion of the test would begin in July 1990. Prior to that, the first Commercial Driver License Examiner training session took place in Warrensburg, MO. The five-day training addressed how to conduct road tests under the new CDL program. Driver examiners and driver examiner sergeants from around the state attended.

The evolution of the CDL skill testing from 1987 to 2023 reflects a continuous commitment to enhancing safety standards and operational efficiency. In the 1980s, skill testing primarily focused on basic maneuvers and adherence to traffic regulations, often conducted in controlled environments.

Throughout the decades, there has been a growing emphasis on assessing a drivers' ability to handle real-world challenges, such as adverse weather conditions and complex traffic situations. Advancements in technology and vehicle systems have resulted in many commercial motor vehicle driving schools incorporating such challenges via simulator. The simulators and computerized assessments evaluate a driver's proficiencies in handling various scenarios such as navigating urban streets and maneuvering through tight spaces.

In order to modernize the CDL skill testing process, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and American Association of Motor Vehicle Administration (AAMVA) worked together and developed criteria for the new CDL skill testing standards now being used by state agencies and third-party testing companies across the country. This modernization of the CDL skills test has been a significant step forward in enhancing roadway safety and ensuring drivers are adequately prepared for the demands of commercial driving.

Since 2019, Driver and Vehicle Safety Division Assistant Director Dennis Richardson has represented the Missouri State Highway Patrol on AAMVA's Test Maintenance Subcommittee. He has consistently invested a significant amount of time and effort toward providing services that ensure a safe and secure environment. He has assisted with the development of the modernized criteria for skill testing, pre-trip inspection, and basic control testing. The subcommittee's focus on safety-critical items allows for a more comprehensive evaluation of driver's abilities, ultimately leading to better-trained professionals behind the wheel of commercial vehicles. In December 2023, Missouri became one of the first states to implement the new modernized CDL skill testing standard.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is committed to serving and protecting all people by enforcing laws and providing services to ensure a safe and secure environment. Sound familiar? It's our mission, and this example from the Driver and Vehicle Safety Division shows our agency is truly a leader in highway safety. I am proud of the commitment and involvement the agency has had in the commercial driver license program since its inception. Congratulations to Assistant Director Richardson on being an integral part of this important CDL testing update. Thank you to our CDL examiners, who are out there every day implementing this program. We want only the best commercial drivers to earn a CDL in Missouri. Excellent work, DVSD!

CELEBRATING OVER 58 YEARS OF NEWS
PATROL NEWS
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OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION
Volume 59 • Number 1

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ON THE COVER

In May 2024, the Patrol debuted the refurbished 1988 Ford Mustang. This vehicle will be used at displays, in parades, and as a recruiting tool. For more information on the 1988 Mustang project, see story on page 16.



EMPLOYEES, RETIREES SWING INTO ACTION

Submitted By Missouri State Troopers Association

Forty retirees joined 40 current employees for the 53rd Annual MSHP Employees and Retirees Golf Tournament on Monday, June 10, 2024. The weather was gorgeous, and it was a perfect day for golf at Tanglewood Golf Course in Fulton, MO. Golfers enjoyed lunch after the tournament. A great time was had by all. Congratulations to the winners!

A - Flight
Ret. Lt. Mike W. Cross & Sgt. Jason M. Cross (H) — 61
Ret. Sgt. Neil R. Atkinson & Tpr. Adam M. Kinney (Q/GD) — 63
Ret. Sgt. Don E. Phillips & Ret. Sgt. John A. Cyrus — 64

B - Flight
Director Zach J. Russell (Q/FFD) & Assistant Director Eric S. Romph (Q/FFD) — 73
Ret. Capt. E. Dwight Hartung & Ret. Sgt. J. Rod Applebury — 73
Ret. Cpl. Jeff B. Myers (Q/GD) & Sgt. Chris M. Turner (Q/GD) — 73

C - Flight
Sgt. Bryan J. Hamerle (A) & Tpr. Colten B. Henderson (A) — 77
Ret. Col. J. Bret Johnson & Ret. Major Tim P. McGrail — 78
Ret. Chief Oper. Steve D. Gronemeyer (C)
& Ret. Asst. Chief Tele. Eng. Larry W. Marten — 78

Hole 5 - Closest to the Pin — Cpl. Jonny D. Fariole (Q/DDCC)
Hole 9 - Longest Putt — Auto. Tech. III Brant P. Tschirgi (Q/FFD)
Hole 13 - Longest Drive — Ret. Sgt. Tom G. LeFaivre
Skins Game — Sgt. Collin M. Stosberg (Q/RCOD) & Lt. Eric F. Brown (Q/PIED)
Ret. Sgt. Don E. Phillips & Ret. Sgt. John A. Cyrus

Ret. Sgt. Jimmie Mays and Ret. Sgt. Larry Long were proud to be the most "seasoned" participants at the tournament.

RETIREES UNITE Through Uncommon Trade

By Ret. Tpr. Ron T. Burgett Jr.

It all started when I was about six years old. I had a goal to be a charter boat captain after seeing the movie, "Jaws." Yes, the one that made most fear the water drove me to it. I also wanted to go into law enforcement, wanting to do as my father did.

I was able to fulfil part of my goal of joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol in January 2001. From that day forward, the next step to achieve my goal was to retire, move to Florida, and start a charter business. That second goal was set into motion on October 1, 2021, when I retired.

In January 2022, we had a charter boat built for us to run. By February 24, 2024, I, along with my wife, Gidget, sold everything and moved to Florida. Along the way, we went to school to become United States Coast Guard captains, and by January 2024, formed our business, MO Grouper, LLC in Panama City Beach, FL. Yep, I went from MO trooper to MO grouper.

Here's where things got weird. We contacted a local tattoo parlor in Panama City Beach. A tattoo artist (Kris) stated she would love to attempt the logo. She asked about the name of the boat, and I explained it. She said she loved it and that she does not have any problems with cops, she is actually dating a cop. After weeks of back and forth talking she brought up her boyfriend and asked if I would take him fishing. She stated that I may even know him. I told her that I don't know many of the local officers. She giggled a bit and said he was from St. Louis. I told her that's a big town, and I probably wouldn't know him. She then elaborated: He is a retired Missouri state trooper, Rod Calvert. I thought to myself, "What a small world."

We were able to get the fishing trip scheduled and completed on May 1, 2024. Retired Sergeant Calvert was fit to be tied as this was his first offshore trip. He was able to hook into some monster amberjacks that wore him out. There may have been a few snide remarks about sergeants being soft. The trip was a success, and two troopers were able to unite after retirement, while never having met on the job. We look forward to our next charter trip. And, to think, this all came to fruition from a conversation with a tattoo artist about a logo.



Ret. Sgt. Rod Calvert won this fight with a big fish in Florida.

Ret. Sgt. Rod Calvert, Ms. Kristi Buchanan, are pictured with MO Grouper Captains Gidget and Ron Burgett Jr. (retired Missouri trooper).

DPS HONORS SGT. SARAKAS' *Excellent Judgement*

By CVO Sprv. Billie G. Cooper (E)



Sergeant Phil G. Sarakas (E), assigned to commercial vehicle enforcement, is the May 2024 DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month. The ceremony took place at Troop E Headquarters on May 30, 2024, and recognized his excellent handling of a critical incident. This critical incident involved the pursuit and apprehension of four suspects in a bank robbery that occurred in Iowa.

On Nov. 16, 2023, while working in Wayne County, Sgt. Sarakas heard radio traffic concerning a vehicle southbound on U.S. Highway 67 associated with the Iowa bank robbery and whose driver was suspected in a drive-by shooting. He closely monitored southbound traffic and soon recognized a vehicle matching the broadcast's description. After verifying the vehicle and registration with Troop E Communications, he followed the vehicle and waited for other officers to respond before making a traffic stop. When enough officers were in place, Sgt. Sarakas activated his emergency equipment and made a traffic stop. The driver and front seat passenger were taken into custody, but the two other men fled in the vehicle, leading to a lengthy vehicle pursuit. The pursuit ended in Piedmont, MO, when the vehicle crashed into a utility pole. The men were taken into custody after a foot pursuit, and a large amount of stolen cash was recovered. There were no injuries, in part because of the organized response by Sgt. Sarakas.

From the start of this potentially dangerous event, Sgt. Sarakas exercised caution and good judgment. He waited until he had adequate backup and until after the pursuit had passed the area of an elementary school before initiating the traffic stop. He also provided up-to-date, accurate information to Troop E Communications, which allowed other officers to get into position to respond.

"I am very proud of Sgt. Sarakas and all the officers involved in this incident," said Major Turner. "Their actions resulted in the successful resolution of a dangerous situation."

"Sgt. Sarakas used excellent judgement and all the officers involved worked as a team to apprehend the suspects," said Capt. Jason J. Cluver (E).



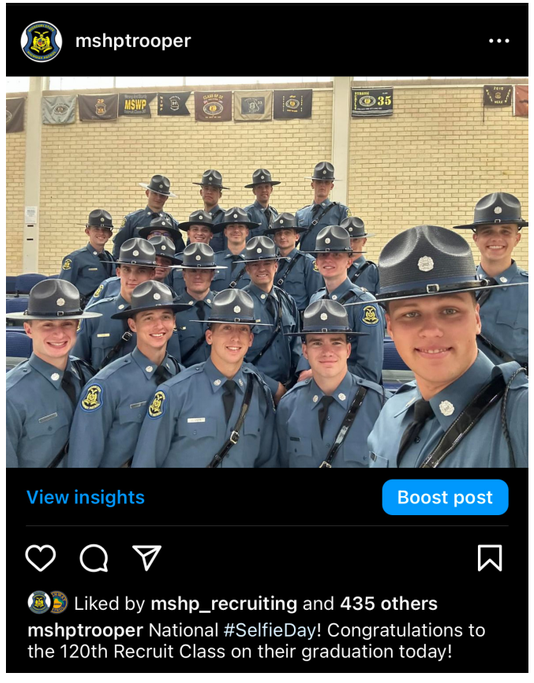
(l to r) Major Ben Jones (Q/SSB), CVO Sprv. Bill Cooper (E), Major Mike Turner (Q/FOB), Sgt. Phil Sarakas (E), DPS Director Sandra Karsten, and Capt. Jason Cluver (E) paused for a photo after the award presentation.

WITH *sympathy*

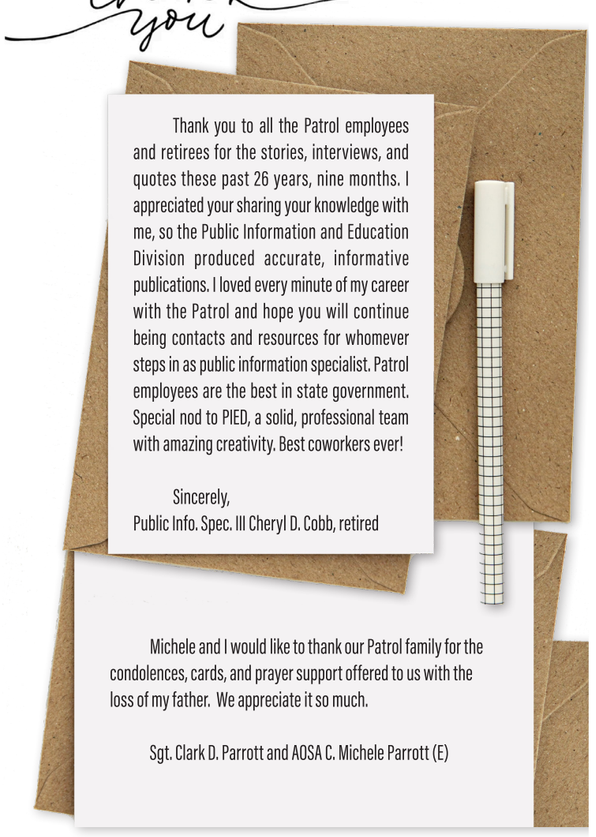
Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:

DE Sprv. Linda A. Bradley (D) - brother
Cpl. Mathew G. Yendes (D) - mother
Sgt. Mark D. DeGraffenreid (A) father
Ret. MVI Sprv. Kenneth G. Harris - wife
MVI Sprv. L. Mitch Radar (C) - aunt
Ret. Cpl. N. Jim Britt - mother
Tpr. Noah G. Britt (G) - grandmother
Ret. Sgt. Mike D. Stone - mother
Sgt. Clark D. Parrott (E) - father
Admin. Asst. C. Michele Parrott (E) - father-in-law
Sgt. Tom G. Sims (Q/GD) - mother
Ret. Lt. W. Shane Sims - grandmother
Ret. MVI Sprv. Kenneth G. Harris - wife
Ret. Sgt. Roger P. Gosney - wife
DE I Pleshette Swanson (C) - brother
Ret. CVE Sprv. II Oral D. Hively - wife
Auto. Tech. III Matthew A. Robinson (C) - wife's grandmother
Sgt. D. Brad Haggett (Q/RCOD) - mother
Ret. Quality Control Clerk II Linda J. Hart - husband
Capt. Scott B. White (Q/PIED) - mother

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT



thank you



Thank you to all the Patrol employees and retirees for the stories, interviews, and quotes these past 26 years, nine months. I appreciated your sharing your knowledge with me, so the Public Information and Education Division produced accurate, informative publications. I loved every minute of my career with the Patrol and hope you will continue being contacts and resources for whomever steps in as public information specialist. Patrol employees are the best in state government. Special nod to PIED, a solid, professional team with amazing creativity. Best coworkers ever!

Sincerely,
Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, retired

Michele and I would like to thank our Patrol family for the condolences, cards, and prayer support offered to us with the loss of my father. We appreciate it so much.

Sgt. Clark D. Parrott and AOSA C. Michele Parrott (E)



16th CVO Class Takes their Oath of Office

Congratulations to the 16th CVO Class (from l to r), which included CVO Colby Bowman (C), CVO Justin Jones (C), CVO Dennis Hartmann (C), CVO Edward Wollbrinck (C), and CVO Jay Hamblett (I).

By Dr. Mark G. Pottorff (Q/PIED)
SEC Curator

The atmosphere in the second floor conference room was festive as family, friends, and Patrol employees gathered to witness and celebrate the 16th Commercial Vehicle Officer Class graduate. Lieutenant Trois L. Maloney (Q/TND) welcomed those gathered for this joyous occasion and introduced the 16th CVO Class chaplain, Dennis Hartmann, who offered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Scott T. Evans, municipal judge for Jefferson City, MO, spoke briefly to the class, praising the work the Patrol does each day. He then administered the Oath of Office.

Colonel Eric T. Olson spoke to the members of the class about their time at the Academy, "I know it wasn't easy and took commitment." He said completing their program also took commitment from many others. The colonel then took time to thank the families for their commitment and for supporting the new CVOs.“ It takes a lot to successfully navigate a career in law enforcement in 2024, and the family piece is vital to that success,” he said. Col. Olson thanked the Recruiting and Community Outreach, Training, and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement divisions for their work finding qualified applicants and providing the training they needed to be successful.

The colonel spoke of the many parts of the Patrol that come together to provide the citizens of this state or anybody traveling through it the safest environment. “I want to thank you gentlemen in advance for the work you are going to do in that regard." He concluded by saying, that a lot of times in law enforcement, decisions can be complicated. "I have found, and I can assure you, that as long as you run all those decisions through our core values ... the decisions that come out on the other side will be right, fixable, trainable, and be positive experiences for you, the citizens that you are dealing with, and the agency as a whole."

After speaking, Col. Olson presented each member of the class with his commission certificate. Two awards, firearms and the academic, were presented. CVO Edward G. Wollbrinck earned both awards for the 16th CVO Class. Overall, the 16th CVO Class earned a 90.17 average in academic performance and an 87.16 average in firearm proficiency. CVO Wollbrinck had a 91.44 average in academics and a 96.85 average in firearms.

Before introducing the class commander of the 16th CVO Class, Lt. Maloney discussed her interactions with the class as "always positive and . . . always respectful of each other and the people around them." She stated that a positive and respectful attitude goes "a long way to how we work, not only in our profession, but within our communities going forward." She asked the class to remember those traits because, "We never know what people are going through." Lt. Maloney then encouraged the class to treat people as they would want to be treated.

CVO Wollbrinck, the 16th CVO Class commander, addressed his fellow CVOs and everyone gathered for their graduation. "Today marks a pivotal moment in our lives as we stand here in our uniforms ready to embark on a journey of service for our community," he told his classmates. He said the training the class had "instilled a deep sense of responsibility for the communities we are about to serve." CVO Wollbrinck reminded his classmates that beyond the enforcement side of their jobs, "There lies a greater calling, to serve with compassion and empathy ... Let us always approach our duties with empathy, treating everyone we encounter with dignity and respect." CVO Wollbrinck called on the class to always remember the oath they had taken and to let the oath guide them in time of uncertainty and remind them of the noble purpose they serve. He concluded by congratulating the class, calling on them to, "Go forth with pride and purpose and with steadfast commitment to making our highways safer for those who travel upon them."



CVO Dennis Hartmann signs his Oath of Office while the Honorable Scott T. Evans (seated), municipal judge for the Jefferson, City, MO, served as witness.



CVO Edward Wollbrinck (center) accepted the Firearms and Academic awards from Col. Eric Olson (l). CVO Chief Brandon Whittington (r) also congratulated them.



The 16th CVO Class repeat their Oath of Office.

“Go forth with pride and purpose and with steadfast commitment to making our highways safer for those who travel upon them." — CVO Edward Wollbrinck



The new CVOs placed their hats on the window sill so they could greet family and friends before their graduation ceremony.

16th CVO Class Provides Takeaways, Advice

Q&A

By Dr. Mark G. Pottorff (Q/PIED)
SEC Curator

In preparation for the 16th CVO Class' graduation, I had the opportunity to ask them a few questions about their experiences at the Patrol Academy. Here's what I learned:

What do you feel is the most valuable thing(s) you have learned during your time at the Academy?



CVO Edward G. Wollbrinck (C), 16th CVO Class commander, said the most valuable takeaway for him was stress management. "The kinds of stresses you are subjected to while undergoing training are far greater than what you experience in a normal day-to-day life." He said the training provided a "different outlook at the smaller stressors in life, giving them less of a hold on you."



Stress was also on CVO Dennis R. Hartmann's (C) mind, more specifically, the danger of letting stress keep one from learning all the skills they must learn in a short time. He said it is important that a person, "Relax and stay focused, ask questions, take good notes, and don't beat yourself up if you don't comprehend something right away. Keep pushing forward!"



CVO Jay A. Hamblett (I) compared his time at the Academy to "drinking from a fire hose." He said, "It's hard to pick just a couple of things as the most valuable, but if I have to, I would say the firearms and defensive tactics were invaluable because those give you the confidence needed to do enforcement actions."



CVO Colby Bowman (C) agreed that his time at the Academy was intense, but concluded, "Ultimately, the humbling experience of physical training taught me invaluable lessons in perseverance, resilience, and time management."



CVO Justin B. Jones (C) concluded, "The most valuable thing I have learned in the Academy is you need more than one plan ... nothing in law enforcement is just one way and you need to be able to adapt and change on the fly."

What advice would you give someone interested in becoming a CVO?

CVOs Wollbrinck, Jones, and Bowman advised anyone interested in becoming a CVO to spend some time researching the position. CVO Bowman said a person interested in being a CVO should also research the duties, responsibilities, and requirements of the job to ensure it aligns with their interests and career goals.

CVO Jones suggested scheduling time to shadow a current CVO at a weigh station, "to see if this is the line of work you want to pursue."

CVO Hamblett advised that physical fitness is vital to success at the Academy. He encouraged prospective CVOs to, "Get into a workout routine and a good diet, and do a ride along with a local troop to get a good feel for the position." CVO Bowman agreed, saying anyone interested in pursuing the CVO career path should "Maintain a regular exercise routine and prioritize your health and wellness to ensure you meet the physical demands of the job."

Commitment was the focus of CVO Harmann's advice to anyone wanting to become a CVO. He said it was vital to have 100% support from a spouse or significant other. "Also, know it will be tough on your spouse and family, so be mindful of their sacrifices during your training." He concluded that if a person comes to the Academy, they should be 100% committed.



Col. Eric Olson and Capt. Jason Crites (F) salute as Mrs. Alyce Bava and Mr. Jim Bava remember their son, James.

We Shall *Never Forget*

By Capt. Justin L. McCullough (Q/FOB)

As the sun set over the blue dome of the Missouri State Capitol for Friday night's candlelight vigil, it was likely that rain would be present for Saturday's memorial service. The threat of inclement weather forced the law enforcement memorial service to move into the Capitol rotunda for the first time in over a decade. It could not have been a more fitting location to memorialize our state's fallen officers. As I watched the ceremony, I noticed the words inscribed above the entrance to the rotunda. "Honor to those who have honored Missouri" graced one of the entryways. The 31 Missouri state troopers who courageously laid down their lives for this state certainly embodied the words etched in the marble. Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe and Attorney General Andrew Bailey addressed the esteemed guests of this state's fallen heroes. Their words of inspiration left no doubt that law enforcement officers in the state of Missouri will continue to be supported for years to come.

This year, 11 of the 31 families of the Patrol's officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice were in attendance. As they read the names of those troopers, I couldn't help but appreciate the dangers associated with the law enforcement profession and the understanding that every time our officers don their uniform, they live by their oath that they may be asked to lay down their life for another.

This year four new officers and one canine were recognized for their ultimate sacrifice. Their names were inscribed on the wall of honor because, without hesitation, they ran toward danger in the name of public safety. Kansas City (MO) Police Officer James Muhlbauer and his canine "Champ" saw their end of watch on February 15, 2023. The other names added to the memorial wall were Hermann (MO) Police Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith (EOW March 12, 2023) and Missouri Department of Corrections Officer Kelly Rolando (EOW October 22, 2023). Missouri Department of Corrections Functional Unit Manager Jason Pulliam was also added to the wall (EOW October 15, 2021).

Moving the ceremony inside also meant having the traditional 21-gun salute take place inside the tall, echoing walls of the Capitol. Hearing the spent casings fall onto the marble floor added a certain ambience that put the entire day in perspective. Interacting with many of the families that were represented at the memorial service reinforced my understanding of the appreciation they have for the commitment by all those in attendance in remembering the sacrifices they have made and will make for the rest of their lives. Honoring our fallen ensures we shall never forget the contributions made by the officers that have paid the ultimate sacrifice and the families that bear the burdens left behind by their legacies.

STRONG AND STEADY, 120 at the Ready!



Congratulations to the 120th Recruit Class!

By Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)
Public Info. Spec. III

There was an air of anticipation as friends, family, and coworkers took their places in the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy gymnasium June 21, 2024. Graduation for the 21 new troopers making up the 120th Recruit Class was about to begin. The new troopers filed into the gym using a cadence that reaffirmed their choice to become a trooper.

In his prayer, Pastor Robert Lilly, Crossroads Baptist Church in Piedmont, MO, asked for the new troopers to be granted peace in the service they would render in their new careers. Troop F Color Guard then proudly presented the colors while Sergeant Andrew A. Henry's (H) voice filled the room as he sang the national anthem. Captain Joseph L. Armistead (Q/TND) served as emcee. Representative Douglas Richey, who also serves as a Patrol chaplain in the Troop A area, addressed the class.

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey provided the keynote address. He expressed his appreciation for the Patrol's leadership team and the Academy. "All Missourians take pride in the Patrol."

He also took a moment to thank the families supporting troopers in their careers. "To the graduating class: Thank you for stepping up, thank you for volunteering, thank you for joining the noble profession of law enforcement," said Attorney General Bailey. "Today is a great day, a day of celebration. Not every day is going to be this good. You're going to have rough days. I want you to think about today when you have a bad day in the future. Know we have your back." Attorney General Bailey told the class they were joining the ranks of heroes. "The legacy of those who came before you and who are serving today — it is up to you to carry that forward … Thank you for putting your lives on the line for the rest of us. Please continue to fulfill the legacy of excellence. I am confident you will."

The Honorable Kelly Broniec, Supreme Court of Missouri, then administered the Oath of Office to the new troopers.

Four class awards were presented during the graduation ceremony. Trooper Bryce S. Lautenschlager (A) accepted the Academics Award, and Trooper Thomas A. Stamos (C) accepted the Firearms Trophy. Trooper Alec W. Land (D) accepted the Physical Fitness Award. Colonel Olson presented the Superintendent's Award to Tpr. Alec Land.

Col. Olson then spoke to the new troopers saying commitment is a very important value in a career as a trooper. "Some might say that policing in 2024 is difficult, if not impossible," said the colonel. "We discussed the potential distractions and agreed that the only way not to be distracted was to stick with the Patrol's core values on duty and off duty." He told the class the value of commitment will see them through good times and those that aren't as good. "This career is a marathon, not a sprint," said Col. Olson. "There will be a time when you question the path you're on. This is when you double down on your commitment. Reaffirm your commitment to this career and the things that made you successful in it, like those who have come to support you here today, your coworkers, and the citizens of Missouri. If you do that, you'll experience reward and satisfaction unlike most people experience in their professional lives. I appreciate you, 120th, and I wish you great success. Best wishes to you and your families."

Class Commander Michael L. Grapes (I) thanked the families who supported 120th Recruit Class, the instructor staff who "showed them how to do things," and the 120th Recruit Class itself. "We've built strong friendships that will last a long time and set the foundation of our law enforcement careers," said Tpr. Grapes. "I encourage every one of us to stay laser focused, because our training is not done. Always strive to be better today than you were yesterday."

Congratulations to the 120th Recruit Class!

The names, hometowns, and first assignments of members of the 120th Recruit Class are listed below:

Troop A

Bryce S. Lautenschlager (Lexington, MO) — Zone 12, Johnson County
Micah J. Saladrigas (Smithville, MO) — Zone 3, Clay County
Aric M. Storey (Platte City, MO) — Zone 2, Platte County
Griffin W. Winesburg (Joplin, MO) — Zone 15, Henry County

Troop C

Thomas L. Benner (New Haven, MO) — Zone 7, Warren County
Samuel C. Clair (Marshfield, MO) — Zone 1, North St. Louis County
Kendall L. Goforth (St. Francois, MO) — Zone 16, Ste. Genevieve and Perry Counties
Ryan A. Lilly (Jefferson City, MO) — Zone 13, Jefferson County
Cole A. Richardson (Sullivan, MO) — Zone 13, Jefferson County
Thomas A. Stamos (Lebanon, IL) — Zone 12, Jefferson County

Troop D

Alec Land (Hollister, MO) — Zone 15, Stone and Taney Counties
Alexander Smock (Jerico Springs, MO) — Zone 12, Christian County
Karter Wagner (Galena, MO) —Zone 15, Stone and Taney Counties

Troop E

William L. Vanmatre (Wappapello, MO) — Zone 11, Stoddard County

Troop F

Jase W. Cox (Centralia, MO) — Zone 4, Audrain and Montgomery Counties
Tanner M. Rayhart (Eldon, MO) — Zone 11, Camden and Miller Counties
Gage C. Schimke (Ashland, MO) — Zone 15, Callaway and Montgomery Counties

Troop G

Ethan C. Minge (West Plains, MO) — Zone 4, Northern Howell and Shannon Counties

Troop H

Collin R. Kinman (Greenwood, MO) — Zone 1, Holt and Atchison Counties
Richard J. Wilcox (Cameron, MO) — Zone 10, Daviess and DeKalb Counties

Troop I

Michael L. Grapes (Lebanon, MO) — Zone 8, Laclede County



The 120th Recruit Class awaits the command to turn and be seated for graduation.



The 120th Recruit Class reverently bow their heads for the invocation.



Col. Eric Olson encouraged the 120th Recruit Class to remain committed to being troopers on duty and off.



Cpl. Logan Bolton (C), Cpl. Gary Daniels (Q/RCOD), Tpr. Mike Malone (Q/RCOD), and Capt. Danielle Heil (Q/RCOD) are always pleased to see recruits successfully complete their training and hit the road.



The 120th Recruit Class enjoyed a water polo tournament during their stay at the Academy. This group, known as the Misfits, won the competition.



Tpr. Bryce Lautenschlager accepted the Academics Award and is seen here with (l) Col. Eric Olson and (r) Attorney General Andrew Bailey.



Col. Eric Olson (l) and Attorney General Andrew Bailey (r) congratulated Trooper Thomas Stamos as he accepted the Firearms Trophy.



Missouri Supreme Court Judge Kelly Broniec administers the Oath of Office to the new troopers.



Col. Eric Olson presented the Superintendent's Award to Tpr. Alec Land and Attorney General Andrew Bailey (r) congratulated him. Tpr. Land also accepted the Physical Fitness Award.



The 120th Recruit Class salutes during the national anthem.



Ret. Sgt. Carl "Rod" Land stands proudly with his son, Tpr. Alec Land.



The Academy instructors always congratulate the new troopers after they sign their Oaths of Office.

ADVICE
from the 120th Recruit Class

By Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)
Public Info. Spec. III

Each class that attends the Highway Patrol Academy has a unique experience, but they also have experiences troopers have had over the past 93 years of the Patrol's history. To help future classes learn from other's experiences, I asked the 120th Recruit Class, "What advice would you give incoming recruits about life at the Academy?" Their responses offer a variety of insights into what it takes to be successful during training.



"Be prepared and make use of the time you have at home. Spend all the time with your family and spouse you can, because one of the hardest things for me here is missing my family. Another piece of advice I would give is to get into shape before you come into the Academy, it will be one less thing that could stress you out while you are here."

— Trooper Thomas L. Benner



"The advice I would give to recruits about life at the Academy is to breathe. The Academy is a stressful time, and taking a step back and collecting yourself can make a difficult situation much different. Coming together as a team is imperative. You're going through this process together, and having someone to lean on and depend on can make a huge difference in your life at the Academy."

— Trooper Bryce S. Lautenschlager



"Best advice I can give is if you want to become a trooper and succeed in the Academy, you need to focus on the task at hand and set your mind to it. You can accomplish anything if you give all your efforts to it! Stay laser focused."

— Trooper Michael L. Grapes



"I would say a very good piece of advice is to find the joy in life. No matter what you are doing or how tough the present is, just understand that through a good relationship with God you can find the peace and joy in any situation."

— Trooper Ryan A. Lilly



"The advice I would give incoming recruits about life at the Academy is that you must be mentally tough. The Academy may get pretty hard at times, but being able to be mentally tough and push through makes your work so much better."

— Trooper Cole A. Richardson



"To be physically prepared for an extremely strenuous six months. Also to know why you want to be a MSHP trooper. Hold onto this desire as it will help motivate you when the going gets tough here."

— Trooper Griffin W. Winesburg



"I would say have things squared away at home. The less one has to worry about while they are here, the more they can focus on completing the task at hand. And make sure they have a good support group back home."

— Trooper Kendall L. Goforth



"I would say to exercise way in advance and to be mentally strong. Have that end goal in mind, and don't lose it. There's where a lot of people quit. They are not mentally tough."

— Trooper Micah Saladrigas



"Run more than eight miles a week and work on your core."

— Trooper Alexander K. Smock



From Vision to Reality

1988 Mustang Back on the Road

By Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)
Public Info. Spec. III

> "I very much appreciate the Patrol Foundation's support. Without their assistance, the Mustang still wouldn't be on the road." - Ret. Capt. John Hotz

In 2019, then-Captain John J. Hotz (retired February 2024) had a decision to make. The 1959 Dodge patrol car had been in hundreds of displays and parades and was showing its age. The public information officers driving the vehicle experienced the challenge of mechanical issues more and more often and parts were harder for the Public Information and Education Division to locate. The 1959 Dodge did attract a lot of attention, so having a historical vehicle out and about was something the division knew was important.

After some thought, Capt. Hotz chose the Patrol's 1988 Mustang to replace the 1959 Dodge, which would be placed in the Safety & Education Center. The Mustang would perhaps attract the attention of a younger crowd, and that could help the Patrol's recruiting program.

The project was approved, and the 1988 Mustang was taken to State Fair Community College in 2019. When the pandemic occurred and the college students were dealing with canceled classes and fewer hours for required courses, work on the Mustang project slowed. They worked on the wiring harnesses and various other systems but were unable to focus on the Mustang and complete the work.

"In 2024, we picked it up after I approached the lieutenant colonel (David A. Flannigan) about requesting funding from the Patrol Foundation for a Jasper remanufactured engine and transmission for the car," explained Capt. Hotz. "These came with a three year warranty, so I hoped we wouldn't have any mechanical issues for a while." He also mentioned that it's one of the few Mustangs in the Patrol's fleet to have automatic transmission, making this particular car the best choice for refurbishment.

Lt. Col. Flannigan agreed that approaching the Foundation was appropriate. So, Capt. Hotz approached Major Scott A. Shipers (Q/ESB), who represents the Patrol on that board. When Major Shipers took the idea to them, they enthusiastically approved it. So, the Mustang was retrieved from the college and delivered to the Patrol Garage.

"I very much appreciate the Patrol Foundation's support," said Capt. Hotz. "Without their assistance, the Mustang still wouldn't be on the road."

"Our garage guys finished the work in the Spring," said Capt. Hotz. He praised the Patrol Garage personnel [Automotive Tech. Sprv. Nicholas W. Veltrop, Asst. Garage Supt. W. Cody Hargis, and Asst. Garage Supt. Adam J. Feltrop (all Q/FFD)] for their expertise and for completing the project.

"It's a car that attracts younger folks, the ones we want to recruit,"



Capt. Scott Sater (D) took a trip down memory lane behind the wheel of the Patrol's Mustang.



The Patrol's 1988 Mustang is ready for the road!



People along the parade route loved seeing the Patrol's recently refurbished Mustang.



Sgt. Mike McClure (D) provided transportation for the Mustang, so it could be part of the National Law Enforcement Week in Branson, MO.

said Capt. Hotz. "They might come up and talk with us when they see the Mustang. My hope is that we'll have a 1988 Mustang and a current Mustang side by side at trade shows."

An enclosed trailer had been purchased in preparation for the project's completion and was used when the Mustang traveled to Branson, MO, for National Law Enforcement Week.

"It was driven in the light parade through the Branson Landing with roughly 30 other police cruisers," said Sergeant Mike P. McClure (D). "The 1988 'fox body' Ford Mustang was a highlight for many fans of that particular model of vehicle as well for those who enjoyed the nostalgia of a classic/antique Highway Patrol edition vehicle. Cruising through the narrow street of the landing with hundreds of spectators lining both sides, we heard 'best car in the show!' several times with some following asking questions about the car. It was a huge hit."

The Patrol's Mustang then took part in a static display during the Friday motorcycle competition. Again, several folks were intrigued, made positive comments, and asked questions. "Most all were impressed that it was refurbished by and owned by the Patrol," said Sgt. McClure.

"The best part for me was watching Captain (D. Scott) Sater (D) having a ball driving it during the parade," said Sgt. McClure. "He came on the Patrol in 1988 and is due to retire soon. It was very evident how much he enjoyed showing the vintage patrol car to those that were there to celebrate with us."

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT

For your years of dedicated service, loyalty, and selfless giving, we THANK YOU.





TRENTON A. BADGETT
Corporal
Troop D
Retired June 1, 2024
27 years, five months of dedicated service



CHRISTINE M. BRENTON
Corporal
Q/GD
Retired June 1, 2024
30 years, 10 months of dedicated service



ROBERT B. BYRNES
Sergeant
Troop D
Retired June 1, 2024
25 years, five months of dedicated service



CHARLES J. DAY
Lieutenant
Q/TND
Retired June 1, 2024
29 years, 10 months of dedicated service



CHRISTOPHER W. HARLAN
Trooper
Troop F
Retired June 1, 2024
30 years, 10 months of dedicated service



DUSTY L. HOFFMAN
Captain
Q/PIED
Retired June 1, 2024
30 years, 10 months of dedicated service



PATRICIA A. HUENKE
Clerk Typist III
Troop C
Retired June 1, 2024
Six years of dedicated service



KENT M. KREFTMEYER
Sergeant
Troop F
Retired June 1, 2024
27 years, five months of dedicated service



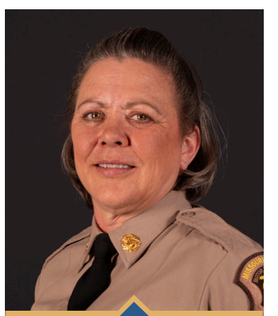
DOUGLAS F. LAUF
Aircraft Main. Sprv.
Q/AD
Retired June 1, 2024
17 years, 11 months of dedicated service



MICHAEL W. LEE
Sergeant
Troop D
Retired June 1, 2024
16 years, four months of dedicated service



WILLIAM S. SIMS
Lieutenant
Troop H
Retired June 1, 2024
28 years, five months of dedicated service



KELLY S. WEISSINGER
MVI Sprv.
Troop A
Retired June 1, 2024
29 years, 8 months of dedicated service



RICHARD L. AYERS
Sergeant
Troop E

Retired July 1, 2024
25 years, six months of dedicated service



DEAN A. BARTLETT
Corporal
Troop F

Retired July 1, 2024
27 years, nine months of dedicated service



CHERYL D. COBB
Public Information Specialist III
Q/PIED

Retired July 1, 2024
26 years, nine months of dedicated service



MICHELE L. COON
Lieutenant
Troop E

Retired July 1, 2024
27 years, six months of dedicated service



MARK L. FREEMAN
Corporal
Troop G

Retired July 1, 2024
27 years of dedicated service



TRAVIS W. HITCHCOCK
Sergeant
Q/DDCC

Retired July 1, 2024
31 years, six months of dedicated service



MICHAEL A. MITCHELL
Sergeant
Troop I

Retired July 1, 2024
31 years, six months of dedicated service



MICHAEL D. MURRILL
Trooper
Troop D

Retired July 1, 2024
24 years, three months of dedicated service



CARLA J. SIEBENECK
Accounts Assistant
Q/BPD

Retired July 1, 2024
18 years of dedicated service



STANTON M. PATTERSON
Corporal
Troop D

Retired July 1, 2024
29 years of dedicated service



NANCY A. SCHEULEN
Assistant Director
DDCC

Retired July 1, 2024
21 years, 11 months of dedicated service



STEVEN C. WYATT
Technician I
Q/TD

Retired July 1, 2024
12 years, one month of dedicated service

55 YEARS AGO

JULY 1969 - The cover story was titled, "Task Force Frank Patrol Campus," and discussed the Patrol's endeavors to help calm the riots on the campus of Lincoln University that spring. The task force was redeployed in May after fires and sniper fire erupted on the campus. More than 200 troopers from around the state were assigned to this detail before the issue was resolved. The task force was originally deployed earlier in the month when a restraining order was issued in Cole County Circuit Court to make protesters leave the student union.

45 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 1979 - The cover of this issue of the *Patrol News* featured a picture of Colonel Alvin R. Lubker administering the Oath of Office to Arthur "Bill" Schneider who was part of the first class of commercial weight inspectors to complete the Advanced Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement School at the Academy. The inspectors had limited police powers which had been granted by legislation passed earlier that year. Thirty inspectors took the oath on July 12, 1979.

35 YEARS AGO

JULY 1989 - Sergeant Curt Mathews, supervisor of the Patrol's Missing Person Unit, successfully investigated an individual who was maintaining written correspondence with several underage girls across the United States. The man reportedly told the girls he was a student minister or a medical doctor. The suspect claimed to own a ranch for handicapped girls and tried to lure girls to come to his ranch for jobs. Working with other law enforcement organizations, Sgt. Mathews was able to obtain search warrants for the subject, including a warrant to search his over-the-road tractor trailer.

25 YEARS AGO

JULY 1999 -The cover of this issue featured a portrait of Sergeant David C. May, a Patrol pilot. Sgt. May died in a helicopter crash on May 17, 1999, and this issue featured stories written by his co-workers in remembrance of their friend. Sergeant John A. (Jay) Sampietro (D) said Sgt. May stopped Sampietro when he was 18 and traveling "quite a bit" over the speed limit in his father's 1983 Nissan Pulsar. He described May as "professional and polite, just what you would expect from the Missouri State Highway Patrol."



15 YEARS AGO

JULY/AUGUST 2009 - The photo on the cover featured a Special Olympics athlete receiving a medal from Sgt. Daniel S. Bracker (D). After receiving the medal, the athlete kissed Sgt. Bracker's hands in appreciation, much to Sgt. Bracker's surprise. Captain Bradley W. Jones (Q/TFD) and Captain Tim G. Baysinger (Q/RDD) attended the National Police Week activities in Washington, D.C., in 2009. In his article, Capt. Jones wrote that the experience was, "both rewarding and emotional." He concluded that, "the importance of honoring our officers who made the ultimate sacrifice cannot be overstated."

PATROL HISTORY TRIVIA

By Ret. Capt. Ernest M. Raub
Troop F

The 1981 Patrol yearbook gives a good account of the kidnapping of Trooper Clark Huston in October 1936, but the disposition of that case was not reported.

Briefly, two men had been arrested by Tpr. Huston after he found them in a stolen car on U.S. Highway 40. By ruse and concealment of a pistol, the two took Tpr. Huston captive. Near Jefferson City, Tpr. Huston managed to escape and notify his headquarters. Five hours later, the two men were shot by Laclede County Sheriff's Office personnel at a roadblock. One was killed, and the other, Johnny Johnson, alias Johnny Jones, was wounded in a hail of machine gun fire.

Johnson was transported back to Boone County by Tpr. Huston and Boone County Sheriff Pleas Wright. He waived a preliminary hearing, waived his right to counsel, and 12 days after his crimes, he pled guilty and was sentenced to 35 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary. The bullet wounds on his face and scalp were still in bandages when he was sentenced. (Justice could be swift back then.)

Of all the various crimes with which Johnson could have been charged, the prosecutor charged him with "robbery with a firearm," because it carried a penalty of 10 years to death. The robbery charge was based on the taking of $6 from Tpr. Huston.

(The article was printed originally in the October 1983 issue of the Patrol News. *Capt. Raub retired as a captain in 1999.)*

Cadets Encouraged to be the Best Version of Themselves



Congratulations on a successful week to members of the American Legion Cadet Program #52!

By Cpl. Michael K. Halim (Q/TND)

The 52nd American Legion Cadet Program concluded with a graduation ceremony on Friday, June 14, 2024. The 17 young people had just completed a week of learning about leadership and law enforcement, while paying attention to detail and bonding as a team. Captain Joseph L. Armistead, Q/TND, served as emcee for the event and welcomed dignitaries and families on behalf of the cadet class. "You did not know what to expect when you arrived on Sunday," said Capt. Armistead, "but you did what was asked and expected without complaint or questions. I saw many of the cadets pushed mentally and physically outside of their comfort zones, and yet they persevered."

Lieutenant Colonel David A. Flannigan, assistant superintendent of the Patrol, congratulated the cadets and offered encouragement. "Coming here this week was a big step in your life," said Lt. Col. Flannigan. "It shows your commitment to be part of something bigger than you are. You have to be committed, to be successful at anything in life. You have to be committed to be the best version of you."

Captain Danielle E. Heil (Q/RCOD) served as the keynote speaker for the event. She provided inspiration and described an event in her life that led to her becoming a member of the Patrol. She described driving up on a motor vehicle crash and observing a trooper arrive on scene.

"The Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper's arrival changed my life," said Capt. Heil. "His professionalism, command presence, and his compassion were impressive, to say the least. That one event planted a seed of a new dream in me." Capt. Heil praised the cadets and offered advice about a career in law enforcement. "The journey you've embarked on is not for the faint of heart," she said. "If it was easy, everyone would do it. Rise to the occasion and improve upon yourself. As you leave here today, remember that you carry with you not just the tools of this trade, but the spirit of service and commitment to justice."

The 52nd cadet class commander also spoke and talked about the cadet's experiences throughout the week. "Teamwork is not the only value that has been installed in us," said Class Commander Preston B., "like attention to detail, accountability, and integrity in things like bed making and having a sharp uniform. No matter the profession, whether it's being a trooper or a teacher, you'll need these traits. Keep these skills and traits in mind Class 52, no matter what you do, and keep your experiences from this week in mind as well."

State Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson, Missouri American Legion, and State Director Frankie Adams, Missouri American Legion Cadet Patrol Program, assisted Captain Armistead in presenting four awards and a scholarship for a cadet who has an interest in the criminal justice field. Each cadet accepted a superintendent's coin from Lt. Col. Flannigan and graduation certificates, along with congratulations from the Missouri American Legion Commander Mark Clark and State Adjutant Finley-Jackson.

When asked about his experiences throughout the week, Cadet Luke P. said, "My favorite part of the week was driving the patrol vehicles on the EVOC track. It was really interesting to get a glimpse into the training needed for a trooper to become an effective emergency driver."



The 52nd cadet class commander encouraged his classmates to remember the values instilled in them throughout the week. He included teamwork, attention to detail, accountability, and integrity in his list.

Obituaries



Constance A. Welschmeyer

CONSTANCE A. WELSCHMEYER

Constance A. Niekamp Welschmeyer, 73, died Thursday, May 9, 2024, at St. Mary's Hospital following a lengthy illness. Connie is survived by her two children, five grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, four brothers, and many nieces and nephews. A graduate of Helias High School, Connie was employed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, St. Mary's Hospital, and Sears during her many years of work. She was employed by the Patrol from 1972 until she retired in 2000. At the time of her retirement, she was assigned to the Motor Equipment Division as an account clerk III. To learn more about Connie, visit the Houser-Millard Funeral Home website. The family suggests expressions of sympathy be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, or the charity of the donor's choice. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Welschmeyer family.



Robert J. Bradley

ROBERT J. BRADLEY

Dr. Robert J. Bradley, 91, of Jefferson City, died peacefully at Heisinger Bluffs on June 16, 2024. Dr. Bradley, or Bob as he was known to friends and family, graduated from Normandy High School, received his Bachelor of Science in Business and Athletics from Truman State University (then Northeast Missouri State Teachers College), and received his PhD from the University of Iowa. After teaching business courses at Truman State University, Bob accepted a position with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1971 as director of Information Systems. While at the Patrol, he pioneered developments in law enforcement computer systems, including the nationally recognized Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES), providing data to state, county, and municipal departments from FBI and Interpol databases, as well as from other states. In 1993, he retired from the Patrol and worked for an additional four years in a similar capacity for the Missouri Supreme Court. He also served a term as Chairman of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics. Bob is survived by his wife, Judy (Beltzer) Bradley, a brother, a sister, three sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to the Samaritan Center or to the Catholic Newman Center at Truman State University. To learn more about Bob, visit the Trimble Funeral Home-Jefferson City website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Bradley family.

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Cadets in the 52nd American Legion Cadet Program file into the Academy gymnasium for graduation.

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@MSHPTrooperB	@MSHPTrooperDDCC
@MSHPTrooperC	@MSHPColonel
@MSHPTrooperD	@MSHPRecruiting
@MSHPTrooperE	@MSHP_CVE
@MSHPTrooperF	@MSHPCrimeLab
@MSHPTrooperG	@MSHP_DVSD