May | June 2024

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR



from the STAFF



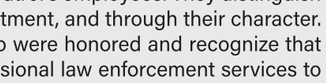
Major Scott A. Shipers
Executive Services Bureau

Each April, we gather for the Annual Patrol Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and recognize the achievements of our employees. Since 1993, The MASTERS members have joined the Patrol's employees and their families to recognize our extraordinary employees throughout the state. It is truly an honorable event. We greatly appreciate the ongoing generosity of The MASTERS and the support they provide to the men and women of the Patrol.

At this year's ceremony, we presented 31 awards, recognizing the tremendous work, bravery, and sacrifice of our employees. Later in this issue, you will enjoy the article summarizing the evening. Those who were honored have represented themselves and our agency in a positive manner. Our award recipients serve as genuine examples of the quality of the Patrol's employees. They distinguish themselves in many ways, through hard work, leadership, commitment, and through their character. Each makes a difference in our state. We are proud of those who were honored and recognize that they are examples of our entire Patrol family, who provide professional law enforcement services to the public each and every day.

Although we have experienced frequent change with the many services we provide, the foundation of the Patrol has remained the same since 1931. The Patrol continues to set the standard for professionalism and commitment to public safety for law enforcement agencies across the state and our nation. Regardless of position, rank, title, or tenure, every Patrol employee strives to accomplish the Patrol's mission. I encourage all coworkers, supervisors, and staff members to recognize superior performance and submit award nominations throughout the year. Thank you to all Patrol employees for your dedication to service and for demonstrating the Patrol Core Values in your daily work.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients.



CELEBRATING OVER 57 YEARS OF NEWS
PATROL NEWS

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

May | June 2024

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OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 58 • Number 6

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ON THE COVER

Col. Eric Olson presented the Matilda "Tillie" Sonnen Civilian Of The Year award to Technical Support Manager Lindsey Holtmeyer, Q/CJIS.



Troop C Operators Applauded for Efforts

By Zach M. Dykes (Q/CommD)
Asst. Chief Oper.

On November 6, 2023, the Northwest Regional Ambassador for the Missouri Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), Mr. D.J. Malone, recognized several members of Troop C communications for their actions during an apparent malicious attack on the Regional Justice Information System's computer system on September 11, 2023. REJIS provides data processing services and online information systems for criminal justice entities including law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts. The 2023 attack resulted in over 120 agencies having their administrative messages and "hit" confirmations, such as warrants or stolen vehicles/articles, routed to Troop C. This, when added to their typical number of messages and confirmations, greatly impacted the workflow of the Troop C operators.

Not only did Troop C communications personnel assist during the initial incident, but they continued to assist local agencies for several days while REJIS remained down. This extra work did not affect their service to the troopers on the road or other Troop C personnel. Those recognized included Chief Operator Robert L. Schrage, retired Assistant Chief Operator David R. Axelrod, Assistant Chief Operator Jenny L. Cruise, Assistant Chief Operator Chris D. Feilner, Communications Operator III J. Pat Callihan, Communications Operator III Trevor E. Dunn, Communications Operator III Vincent C. Gasperson, Communications Operator III Leslie A. Goedecke, Communications Operator III Karen M. Olejniczak, Communications Operator III Heather J. Thomas, Communications Operator III (now Assistant Chief Operator) Kayleigh M. Troske, Communications Operator Trainee Rhonda M. Ausmus, Communications Operator Trainee Jennifer E. Durbin, and Communications Operator Trainee Nicole Wollbrinck.

"This event is a clear example of the pivotal role that our operators play and how they can quickly adapt to any event or situation," said Director J. Corey Chaney (Q/CommD). " These 14 operators went above and beyond to assist the agencies of Missouri in their time of need, and in doing so, exhibited several Patrol core values including resourcefulness, professionalism, and commitment."

Congratulations Troop C operators!

Teammates in Action

The Missouri Chapter of APCO is one of the three professional associations dedicated to the betterment of the emergency communications profession in Missouri. Since its inception in 2019, the Teammates in Action program has spotlighted the efforts of over 150 public safety communications professionals in 48 different events. This is the ninth event in which Communications Division personnel have been recognized through this program. Learn more about the Teammate in Action program at moapco.org/teammate.

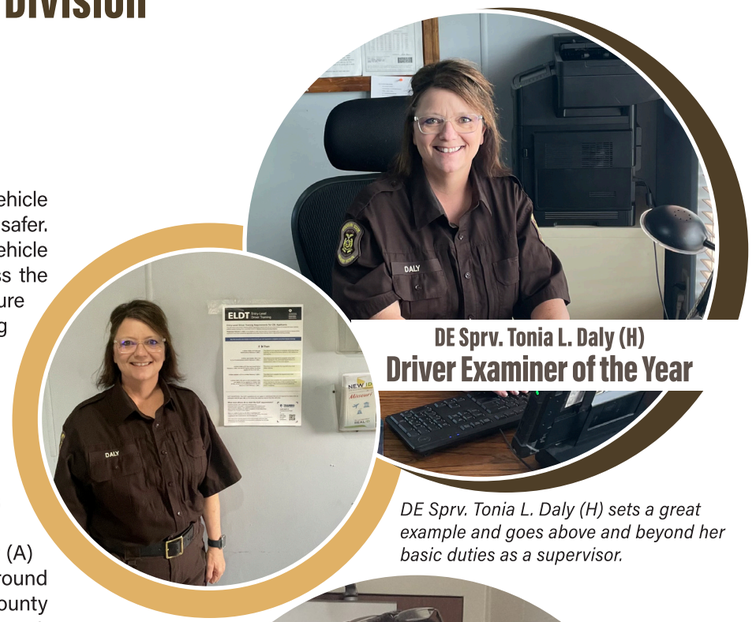
Driver & Vehicle Safety Division Honors Conner, Daly

By Capt. Darewin L. Clardy (Q/DVSD)

Every year, employees of the Driver & Vehicle Safety Division help make our roadways safer. Our motor vehicle inspectors ensure vehicle inspections are carried out correctly all across the state, and our examiners test drivers to ensure they understand the laws related to operating a vehicle on Missouri roads. The division has recognized a "Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year" and "Driver Examiner of the Year" since 2020, to honor the excellent work of DVSD employees. Each troop sends in nominations for both awards, and division staff name the award recipients. Congratulations to the 2023 recipients!

Motor Vehicle Inspector II Bill J. Connor (A) began his career at the Patrol with a background serving in the United States Air Force, Pettis County Sheriff's Office, and the Sedalia Police Department. This background in law enforcement gives him a unique view and ability to look at situations from a different perspective to find the best solution for customer situations. Inspector Connor is responsible for the VIN salvage program and inspector mechanic training program at the Sedalia satellite inspection facility. He accomplishes these duties all while maintaining oversight of over 100 safety inspection stations in his six-county area. When the satellite facility is closed during the Missouri State Fair, Inspector Connor goes to the businesses to conduct inspections to ensure they are not unduly inconvenienced during the fair.

Driver Examiner Supervisor Tonia L. Daly (H) serves as the Chillicothe, MO, travel crew supervisor. She sets a great example and goes above and beyond her basic duties as a supervisor. She was one of the first Troop H examiners to volunteer for the Troop C Driver Examination Summer Surge in June 2023. Supervisor Daly did a wonderful job and brought back guidance for other Troop H driver examiners to prepare them for the assignment. She volunteered to re-attend Basic CDL School in July 2023, and CDL Modernization School in November 2023, to stay current with the federal guidelines. Supervisor Daly was instrumental in the successful laying out the new Chillicothe CDL lot, which offers unique challenges due to its soft, cinder-based surface. She is team-oriented in her approach, and quicky recognizes the crew for all their hard work and dedication.



DE Sprv. Tonia L. Daly (H)
Driver Examiner of the Year

DE Sprv. Tonia L. Daly (H) sets a great example and goes above and beyond her basic duties as a supervisor.



MVI II Bill J. Connor (A)
Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year



MVI II Bill J. Connor (A) answers questions from an employee of Rick Ball Ford in Sedalia, MO. "I almost always have questions outside the inspection program related to title work or something else," said MVII Connor.

WITH sympathy

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

Lt. Jeff B. Johnson (D) - father
Ret. Crim. Intel. Analyst II Beth A. Holtmeyer - son
Ret. Quality Control Clerk II Nina D. Holtmeyer - nephew
Ret. Clerk IV Lisa L. Kempker – nephew
Tpr. Thomas R. Hecker (H) - grandmother
Sgt. Andy A. Henry (H) – grandmother
DE III Tracy R. Connell (H) – father-in-law
Ret. Quality Control Clerk II Rosie A. Lueckenotte – husband
Ret. CVO Richard E. Wallace – wife
Tech. I Heather S. Boldwin (Q/PRD) – grandmother
Cpl. Todd E. Erpenbach (E) – wife
Ret. Sgt. Leland C. Burnett – mother
Comm. Oper. III Tina M. Johns (A) - father
DE Chief Debra S. Clema (B) - brother-in-law
Tech. II Britt N. Walters (Q/PRD) - grandmother
Sgt. Mark D. DeGraffenreid (A) - father
Ret. Sgt. Kenneth L. Campbell - wife

congratulations

STATE TEAM MEMBERS OF THE MONTH NAMED

Congratulations to the following employees who were named State Team Members of the Month! The state of Missouri honors all state team members of the month at one ceremony. Four Patrol employees were recognized at the ceremony Wednesday, June 26, 2024. Social Media Specialist Meghan E. Basinger (Q/PIED) used her talents to help locate a suicidal female, so necessary assistance could be arranged. Corporal Justin E. Peabody (Q/DDCC) carefully, and with commitment, tracked down answers in several missing person cases. Corporal John R. Roberts and Sergeant Adam R. Johnson (both G) rescued two campers who had been swept away by floodwater.





DPS Recognizes CORPORAL LEACH

By Sgt. Clark D. Parrott (E)

Corporal Chris E. Leach (E) was named March 2024 DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month for his swift actions in saving a motorist's life.

On the morning of October 17, 2023, Cpl. Leach was on patrol on Missouri Route B in Butler County when he noticed a pickup truck stopped on the shoulder of the road. Cpl. Leach activated his emergency lights and stopped behind the vehicle. When he approached the vehicle, he found the 82-year-old driver slumped over the steering wheel. He was not able to move his right arm or leg and was drooling. Cpl. Leach put the vehicle into park because the driver was not able to do so. He then requested an ambulance and contacted the driver's wife to explain what had occurred. Butler County EMS arrived and transported the driver to Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center.

"Cpl. Leach's actions definitely saved the life of a driver who had experienced a serious medical episode," said Captain Jason J. Cluver (E). "His commitment to serving the public is commended."

The medical center later advised that because Cpl. Leach had acted quickly, medical personnel had been able to administer lifesaving treatment and increase the chances of recovery. Four days later, the driver came to Troop E Headquarters and reported to Cpl. Leach's supervisor that he had pulled his vehicle over when he began experiencing stroke-like symptoms with the hope that a trooper would find him.

"Cpl. Leach is a credit to your organization and the reason I'm alive," he said.

The Department of Public Safety recognized Cpl. Leach at a ceremony on March 25, 2024, Deputy Director Kevin Bond presented the certificate.

Colonel Eric T. Olson was there to congratulate him, "Cpl. Leach's effort is a great example of taking care of the basic elements of service. The public has high expectations of the Patrol, and I appreciate Cpl. Leach keeping that bar high."



Col. Eric Olson congratulates Cpl. Chris Leach.



Major Mike Turner (Q/FOB), Capt. Jason Cluver (E), DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond, and Cpl. Chris Leach are pictured.



Patrol Joins Operation Lone Star

Seven troops, the Division of Drug and Crime Control, and the Field Operations Bureau were represented in the first Missouri detail. Pictured (l to r) are Sgt. Kotter Kasischke (D), Sgt. Jeffery Fugett (D), Tpr. Caleb Hirner (B), Cpl. Jake McKinney (F), Sgt. Justin Turner (Q/DDCC), Cpl. Mayela Barron (G), Lt. Brandon White (Q/FOB), Cpl. Dakota Fletcher (A), Cpl. Jason Hurt (I), Cpl. Adam Michels (C), and Sgt. Cody Frame (F).

By Lt. Brandon M. White (Q/FOB)

The Missouri State Highway Patrol recently assisted the Texas Department of Public Safety by participating in Operation Lone Star, an effort to help secure our border from criminal activity. Twenty-two Patrol members were assigned to this detail and were operational during March and April. The first group of 11 were assigned to Operation Lone Star for 30 days, and the second group was assigned for 15 days. Members assigned to this detail stayed in McAllen, TX, but primarily worked in Starr County, an area heavily enforced by Texas troopers. During the operation, Patrol members were paired with a new Texas trooper each week. The Patrol's primary responsibility was assisting Texas troopers in enforcing Texas state statutes while helping Customs and Border Protection and local agencies. The Texas and Missouri troopers conducted patrols along routes with high criminal activity. Their primary focus was criminal interdiction, crimes in progress, and other similar emergencies.

During the 45-day detail, Patrol members assisted with the following:

Traffic Stops—1,432
Undocumented Migrant Detentions—519
Undocumented Migrant Turn-Backs—61
Driving While Intoxicated Arrests—23
Warrant Arrests—9
Drug Arrests—46
Weapon Violations—3
Commercial Vehicle Inspections—54
Scout Contacts—4
Disturbance Investigation—1
Homicide Investigation—1
Other Misdemeanor Arrests—5
Motor Vehicle Crashes—20
Minor In Possession of Intoxicants—3
Paraphernalia Arrest—1
Vehicle Pursuits—4

Troopers reported attending and responding to many unique events and situations. One such event was a National Guard helicopter crash that occurred near the town of La Grulla, TX, while conducting aviation operations near Rio Grande City, TX. Two National Guard members and a U.S. Border Patrol agent were killed. All five of the Missouri troopers on the nightshift responded and assisted until released by military personnel. A Patrol member was tasked with providing scene security the following day. On March 13, 2024, two Patrol members attended Border Patrol Agent Christopher Luna's funeral service in Edinburgh, TX.

In addition to patrolling on land, Texas DPS and Customs and Border Protection provide security on the Rio Grande River. Missouri State Highway Patrol marine enforcement troopers assisted and familiarized themselves with marine operations with the Texas Tactical Marine Unit, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (game warden), and Customs and Border Protection Marine Operations. Air Operations by Texas DPS and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided several detail members with an aerial overview of the Rio Grande Valley, primarily along the Rio Grande River.

"It was a great experience, and I would have never imagined returning to my home state to work alongside Texas state troopers," said Corporal Mayela Barron (G). "One of the best experiences I had was with the second Texas state trooper I rode with. He took me to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Roma Port of Entry. We walked on the international bridge and stopped at the U.S./Mexican border. There, I saw the original Roma-Miguel Aleman Suspension Bridge. It was built in 1928 and was taken out of service in 1972, because of the new bridge. Afterward, a U.S. customs agent provided me with information on what to look for when searching for secret compartments in vehicles. Also, I was able to observe one of the U.S. Customs K-9s at work. The K-9 was trained to detect guns, ammunitions, and currency."

Patrol members assigned to Operation Lonestar were also involved in activities outside the scope of enforcement. One member attended a career fair with his detail DPS partner at Bryan Elementary School in Mission, TX. Another member participated in a school safety meeting hosted by the Starr County Sheriff's Office. Customs and Border Protection provided two training sessions on current trends that several Patrol members attended. Additionally, the Patrol and Texas DPS were included in and attended the Rio Grande City State of the State Address.

The detail reported that almost all their interaction with the Texas population was positive, and most people were grateful they had traveled to Texas to help. Once, some members of the first detail were stopped in a restaurant parking lot by a friendly couple who expressed their appreciation for the troopers' assistance. The detail also saw several shocked reactions when people realized they were troopers from Missouri.

Sergeant Kotter J. Kasischke (D) was one of the troopers who volunteered to assist with Operation Lone Star. He said the Texas troopers, "were happy to have us ride with them and serve as a force multiplier. We started work and it was just like being in Missouri, troopers working with troopers." Sgt. Kasischke said the troopers shared a lot of laughs over meals, and their conversations covered a variety of topics. "On more than one occasion, several of them said they were just worn out from battling the problems at the border, and how three and half years of overtime projects was wearing on them." He also had the opportunity to ride with U.S. Border Patrol on an air boat, and described agents as, "another group of great guys who are battling their own issues, but from the federal side." He said he was honored to be "part of this era in the history of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. It doesn't matter how you feel about the political issue. We were asked to go, and we did what we were asked to do."



While assigned to the detail, Missouri troopers assisted local police and county sheriff's departments with traffic stops and disturbances. Here, Cpl. Jason Hurt is assisting the Sullivan City Police Department with a traffic stop.



Marine-certified troopers joined the Texas DPS Tactical Marine Unit to familiarize themselves with DPS responsibilities on the Rio Grande River near Anzalduas Park.



Sgt. Kotter Kasischke assists the Border Patrol while they process a group of undocumented migrants.



Troopers assigned to the detail worked 12-hour shifts and were assigned to assist a new Texas DPS trooper each week. Cpls. Dakota Fletcher (photo left) and Adam Michels (photo right) stand next to their partners.



(from l to r) Group two of Operation Lone Star represented eight of the Patrol's nine troops. Pictured (l to r) are Sgt. Nick Borgmeyer (F), Cpl. Matthew Cook (D), Tpr. Eric Smith (B), Cpl. Brent Fowler (C), Cpl. Jon-Yves Bellers (I), Tpr. Colten Henderson (A), Sgt. Tim Shoop (B), Cpl. John Roberts (G), Lt. Brad Ream (B), Tpr. Tyler Reinke (E), and Tpr. John Colwell (A).

ACE AWARD

Gaming Division Names 2023 Officer of the Year



(r) Cpl. Dan Wohler (Q/GD) accepts the Gaming Division's 2023 Ace award from Lt. Jeffrey Fitzgerald (Q/GD).

By Lt. Shawn M. Griggs (Q/GD)

Congratulations to Corporal Daniel D. Wohler (Q/GD) for being named Gaming Division's Ace (officer of the year) for 2023. He is currently assigned to the Ameristar and Harrah's casinos in Kansas City and serves as the intelligence officer for his unit. In 2023, Cpl. Wohler volunteered to be a firearms instructor for the Gaming Division. He also serves as an active threat instructor, an ASP instructor, and an emergency medical responder instructor. During 2023, Cpl. Wohler was tasked with designing a training video to assist officers with evidence submission procedures for the Gaming Division. He also designed a method of tracking evidence destruction, which made the process quicker and significantly more efficient. The new process will assist officers, as well as prosecutors and judges.

Cpl. Wohler distinguishes himself by skillfully detecting criminal activity and conducting thorough investigations. In 2023, Cpl. Wohler investigated an allegation of rape involving two Ameristar Casino employees. He also investigated threats made to the casino security manager. The investigation revealed a connection between threats to law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges. The investigation resulted in a warrant application for the charge of making a terroristic threat.

Another investigation led Cpl. Wohler to check the Ameristar Casino player account system and license plate reader for a bank robbery suspect after observing the information on the Patrol's reporting system. It was discovered the vehicle driven by the bank robbery suspect was at the Ameristar Casino on the same day as the bank robbery. This information was then forwarded to the investigating officers, which ultimately accelerated the investigation to capture the suspect.

Additionally, Cpl. Wohler developed an intelligence spreadsheet to efficiently compile data after a spree of robberies occurred at local casinos in 2023. The intelligence information not only assisted gaming officers but proved to assist other agencies with the identity of some of the suspects.

In addition to his investigative work, Cpl. Wohler is distinguished by his leadership skills. He mentors officers during familiarization periods and internships and plays a vital role in leading new officers during their transition to the Gaming Division.

Congratulations to this year's Ace, Cpl. Dan Wohler!



Cpl. Dan Wohler (Q/GD) comes forward to accept the Gaming Division's 2023 Ace award during a Missouri Gaming Commission meeting.

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT

National Puppy Day is just another chance for the Patrol to show off their K-9 Unit.





Troop B Hosts Student Alliance Program

By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)

On Saturday, March 2, 2024, seven students representing four area high schools completed the 2024 Troop B Missouri State Highway Patrol Student Alliance Program. The program was conducted at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon, MO, on Saturday, March 2, 2024, and Saturday, March 9, 2024. During the two-day program, students were familiarized with many duties performed by a Missouri state trooper and participated in hands-on activities, such as firing a Glock pistol, stop and approach, and crime scene investigations. The students observed a canine demonstration and heard presentations from several members and civilian employees of the Patrol. The program, which targeted juniors and seniors, was conducted to provide an opportunity for interested individuals to learn more about law enforcement and the Patrol. Each participant was presented with a certificate of completion at the end of the course.



PATROL HISTORY TRIVIA

Editor's note

Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner wrote an article to inform Patrol employees of a pending bill that would allow for the hiring of 52 new members. He also included the requirements prospective applicants had to meet. This information was sent with a blank employment application to those who inquired. He shared the information to help prepare current members for questions from interested applicants.

On February 13, 1946, the Missouri Senate passed House Bill No. 404, which provides for a pay raise of $50 per month for all Patrol members. An amendment was attached to this bill by the Senate to provide for fifty additional patrolmen and two additional captains, or a total of 52 more members. The limitation on the number of lieutenants was changed from 10 to 12. It will now be necessary for the House to vote on the amendment before it goes to the Governor for signature. The prospects for final passage of the bill look good, although we will be unable to make any definite plans until it is finally passed and signed. It does not carry the emergency clause and assuming that it is passed before the legislature takes a recess April 1, the bill would become effective July 1, 1946.

When the time comes for the selection of the new members, it will be desirable to have as many applicants to select from as possible. This will provide more competition and offer an opportunity to select the best that can be obtained. The fact that we will be making new appointments is to be publicized well in advance of the examination date. However, it is not our desire to receive a large number of applications from individuals who are obviously not qualified. On the following page, you will see the list of qualifications that is forwarded along with every application blank that is sent out. These qualifications will be strictly adhered to in the selection of the recruits.

All members will be asked about the requirements and can be of assistance in encouraging the kind of applicants desired as well as discouraging those who are not considered good prospects. In addition to possessing the qualifications listed, an effort should also be made to determine whether an applicant is actually interested in Patrol work or merely trying to find a job. Those applicants who are considered eligible will all be placed on our active list and called when the examinations are held. Persons still on active military status should not apply unless they will be discharged or placed on inactive duty by the time the examinations are given.

Added at press time: House Bill 404 has now passed the House and goes to the governor.

IMPORTANT! READ CAREFULLY! REQUIREMENTS:

As requested, there is attached an application blank for your use in applying for a position as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Only those who are not less than 5' 8", and those not over 6' 3" in height in their bare feet, and those who have passed their 24th but not reached their 36th birthday, will be eligible for appointment. Applicants must be high school graduates.

Mental tests and very strict physical examinations are given — the requirements for physical being similar to those for a commission in the United States Army, including the Wasserman test. No applicant will be considered who has any of the following defects or diseases, or any other physical impairment:

Impaired Vision
Impaired Hearing
Deformities
Diseased Tonsils
False Teeth
Decayed Teeth (Aggravated)
Heart Disease
Bright's Disease
Diabetes
Tattoo Marks
Overweight
Underweight
High Blood Pressure
Hernia
Alcohol Addiction
Drug Addiction
Venereal Disease
Infectious or Contagious Disease
Nervous Ailments (Epilepsy, etc.)
Hemorrhoids

The law provides that no member shall be appointed that has been convicted of or against whom any indictment may be pending for any offense. All persons applying will be fingerprinted, if and when examined, to determine any prior criminal record.

Your attention is directed to the fact that prospective members must be resident tax-paying citizens of the state of Missouri for three years prior to appointment. Should you meet the requirements as outlined, make sure that your application is completely filled in, in order that its return and unnecessary correspondence will not be made necessary. Do not send tax receipts or other valuable personal papers unless requested to do so, since applications on file for a period of years may be destroyed and the return of these papers is not practical.

If you do not meet the standards outlined herein you are advised not to return this application for any further consideration as you will be ineligible for appointment until the deficiency or defect is removed.

GHQ Professionals Host SkillsUSA Competition

By Sgt. Darrin R. Haslag (Q/DDCC)

On April 5, 2024, the Patrol hosted the Missouri SkillsUSA competition at the General Headquarters' complex in Jefferson City. The Missouri SkillsUSA is a statewide competition for high school students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. State gold medalists earn the right to compete nationally at the SkillsUSA Championships in June, where they can earn scholarships and tools of the trade for their performance.

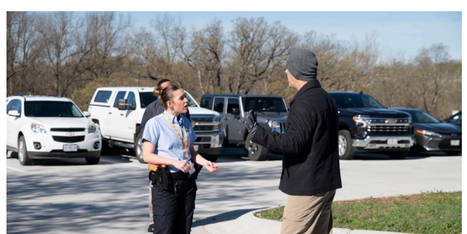
Students came to GHQ to compete in crime scene investigation or criminal justice scenarios. For the crime scene investigation competition, teams of three students representing Missouri schools and vocational learning centers were taken to the Academy dorm, where they found a mock crime scene. The students sought search warrants, identified and documented evidence, and completed necessary reports including property records, investigation narratives, photo logs, and diagrams of the scene. Division of Drug and Crime Control criminal investigators then judged and scored their work. Additionally, students were tasked with demonstrating proficiency in three skill stations, which consisted of firearm cartridge comparisons, presumptive blood testing, and the search of a cellular phone for evidence in a murder. Crime Laboratory Division criminalists and DDCC intelligence analysts judged the students' skill station work. Each school or vocational learning center received a cumulative grade, which was provided to SkillsUSA organizers, who named a winner to advance to nationals.

For the criminal justice portion of the competition, students worked independently and were portraying road officers responding to each of five scenarios. The five scenarios included a variety of situations an officer might encounter while on the job. Students responded to and investigated a child abduction, a civil dispute with minor assault, an armed suicidal person, contact with a sex offender at an elementary school playground, and a traffic stop with a misdemeanor warrant arrest. The students with the highest score then move forward to compete at nationals.

While spearheaded by the Public Information and Education Division, SkillsUSA is a collaborative effort. Dedicated professionals from GHQ graciously devote their time to helping make the competition a success each year. Their work undoubtedly leaves a lasting impression on the participants, who we all hope will someday accept a call to public service.

Sgt. Rich Stewart (Q/RCOD) role plays during the SkillsUSA competition as Cpl. Gary Daniels (Q/RCOD) grades the student.

(l to r) Sgt. Demond Tauber (Q/HRD) and JCPD School Resource Officer Chris Gosche were involved in a property line dispute students had to investigate.



(r) Sgt. Andy Bell (A) portrayed an armed suicidal man during the SkillsUSA criminal justice part of the competition. Students were expected to fill the role of a road officer responding to the scene.



(l to r) Sgt. Brad Haggett (Q/RCOD) and Sgt. Mike Mitchell (l) take part in a traffic stop scenario during the criminal justice competition.

Missouri Welcomes THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

By Sgt. T. Eddie Young (G)

At 1:55 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2024, Troop G employees encountered a unique event that tested our preparedness and adaptability: a total eclipse. This celestial phenomenon brought with it not only awe-inspiring sights, but also a significant influx of people traveling to the area to witness it firsthand. A potential surge was anticipated, and troopers had their hands full preparing for what could range from 10,000 to 200,000 individuals converging on their jurisdiction. Such a broad estimation posed challenges in planning, but troop staff members and communications personnel diligently attended regional meetings to ensure proper arrangements were in place.

As the eclipse drew nearer, zones were fully staffed, with marine enforcement troopers stationed strategically on Bull Shoals Lake, the Current River, and Clearwater Lake. Moderate traffic was noticed prior to the event with congestion beginning to increase noticeably two hours before the eclipse's commencement at 12:37 p.m. Operations ran smoothly during the eclipse itself, affording personnel a welcome reprieve to divert their attention to the celestial spectacle overhead.

Post-eclipse, however, it was all hands on deck. Traffic surged to unprecedented levels, with reports indicating that U.S. Highway 63, stretching from the Arkansas state line to West Plains, MO, a span of approximately 22 miles, became a solid line of vehicles crawling along at an average speed of 20 mph. This gridlock persisted across all U.S. highways within Troop G's jurisdiction for roughly four hours following the conclusion of the eclipse.

The allure of the eclipse drew motorists from far and wide, with some merely passing through en route to other totality locations and many others stopping to partake in various festivals and events. One notable encounter involved Corporal Troy M. Broyles intercepting a driver in Carter County on U.S. Highway 60, who he clocked at a staggering 95 mph as they raced to reach their chosen viewing spot.

During patrols, troopers observed numerous out-of-state vehicles, including three parked at a viewing location bearing South Dakota registrations. Upon speaking with Ms. Brittany Hoilien and her daughter, Kaelyn, it was revealed that their family had embarked on a 630-mile journey from Irene, SD, a trek spanning roughly nine hours, to witness the eclipse in West Plains.

Troop G's experience during the total eclipse of April 8, 2024, highlights the dedication and adaptability of its personnel in managing unexpected surges in traffic and ensuring the safety of both residents and visitors.

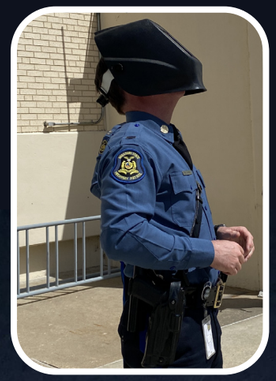


Tpr. Alysha Falterman (G) captured this photo during totality.

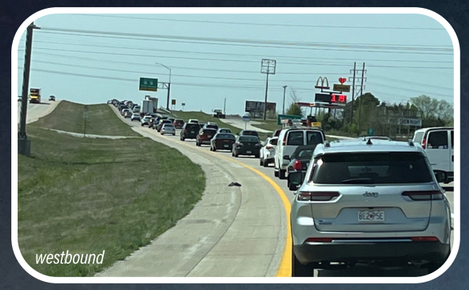
ONLOOKERS CONVERGE IN TROOP E FOR ECLIPSE

By Cpl. Gregory T. Ulm (E)

On April 8, 2024, the Great American Eclipse made its way into Missouri, and more specifically, Troop E. Eight Troop E officers were assigned to a special project for the surprisingly large influx of traffic to the area. Thankfully, no traffic crashes were reported during the project, and troopers enjoyed not only the magnificent display of God's work, but also the opportunity to meet onlookers from a variety of backgrounds. The Poplar Bluff Public Schools reported onlookers from each of the 50 states, and 22 different countries.



Asst. Dir. Mandy Kliethermes (Q/PRD) brought her son's welding mask and planned to view the eclipse through it. When she decided she didn't want to mess up her hair, Lt. Jerry Callahan (Q/PRD) swapped his glasses for the welding mask. "The welding mask cast a green tone to what you saw through it," remarked Lt. Callahan.



These two pictures show no matter what direction you traveled, traffic was intense on U.S. Highway 63 after the solar eclipse April 8.



Sgt. Adam Johnson (G) kept watch on Bull Shoals Lake April 8.





Photo: Kylee Carter, Richland Schools



Cpl. Greg Ulm met photographer David Kurtovich while working during the eclipse.

WHAT CAUSES AN ECLIPSE?

Eclipses are caused by a rare alignment of celestial spheres. The size ratio of the sun to the moon is roughly 400 to one, meaning the sun is 400 times larger. However, because the distance ratio is also 400 to one in relation to earth, when the moon is positioned precisely enough, an eclipse of the sun occurs. If the moon was any further from the earth, you wouldn't be able to see an eclipse like the one witnessed on April 8.

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT

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



DIANA J. KEMPKER
Procurement Officer I
Q/BPD

Retired May 1, 2024.
14 years, four months of dedicated service.



SHERRY T. LEWIS
Personnel Analyst II
Q/HRD

Retired May 1, 2024.
21 years, two months of dedicated service.



DOUGLAS P. LITTLE
Sergeant
Troop H

Retired May 1, 2024.
31 years, four months of dedicated service.



JASON M. PACE
Captain
Q/RCOD

Retired May 1, 2024.
26 years, 10 months of dedicated service.



DAVE W. DUNCAN
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II
Q/FFD

Retired April 1, 2024.
Eight years, two months of dedicated service.



PATRICIA A. LEHMEN
Technician III
Q/PRD

Retired April 1, 2024.
Seven years, seven months of dedicated service.



SCOTT E. RAWSON
Sergeant
Q/DDCC

Retired April 1, 2024.
31 years, three months of dedicated service.



HEATH A. SEARS
Sergeant
Q/FOB

Retired April 1, 2024.
27 years, nine months of dedicated service.



TERRY R. POTTER
Lieutenant
Troop D

Retired May 1, 2024.
24 years, one month of dedicated service.



CINDY A. SCHEIDT
Designated Principal Assistant
Q/SO

Retired May 1, 2024.
40 years of dedicated service.



VONDA K. SMITH
CVO Chief
Troop A

Retired May 1, 2024.
35 years, six months of dedicated service.



DAVID K. STRIEGEL
Captain
Q/AD

Retired May 1, 2024
28 years, four months of dedicated service.



CHRISTOPHER K. SHANNON
Sergeant
Q/GD

Retired April 1, 2024.
26 years, two months of dedicated service.



MICHAEL E. CARSON
Sergeant
Troop E

Retired May 1, 2024.
30 years, nine months of dedicated service.



ROLAND H. CRETEL
MVI III
Troop A

Retired May 1, 2024.
Seven years, 11 months of dedicated service.



DOUGLAS R. HAGER
Comm. Oper. III
Troop E

Retired May 1, 2024.
27 years, 10 months of dedicated service.



THAD M. WILSON
Lieutenant
Q/GSD

Retired May 1, 2024
28 years, 10 months of dedicated service



"Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it."

– Gene Perret, comedy writer & producer

PROTECTING THE PEACE, HOLDING THE LINE:

CLASS 1-1-9



Introducing the 119th Recruit Class! Pictured are (l to r) Troopers Samuel Crosson, Matthew Tucker, Ryan McFatrich, Trevor Sutton, and Robert Watkins. Welcome to the Patrol family, fellas!

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

On Wednesday, April 17, the Patrol's Academy presented the 119th Recruit Class for graduation. It was a festive atmosphere with friends and co-workers gathering to congratulate the five new troopers. Pastor Tim Smith, Aurora Springs Baptist Church, Eldon, MO, provided the invocation and benediction. Troop F Color Guard presented the colors and soon-to-be Trooper Samuel J. Crosson's tenor voice rang clear and strong when he sang the national anthem.

Keynote speaker DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten told the graduates, "Your numbers may be few compared to a traditional Patrol Academy class, but your contributions can be many. We have a long track record of brave, well-trained troopers working to make our state safer." The director then pointed out that those early troopers established, "the most important connection any law enforcement agency can have with the public it serves: Trust. Today's core values of integrity, responsibility, respect, professionalism, resourcefulness, compassion, character, and commitment, combined with ordinary interactions every day ,reinforce this. This has been part of your training and now you will put that into action. I encourage you to serve the public with these same values daily," she said. "Never take for granted your family, including your Patrol family, active or retired. We are your greatest supporters." She then thanked the class for taking on the legacy of generations of troopers who came before them. "Stay safe, and may God bless your service to the state of Missouri."

The Honorable Robin Ransom, Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the new troopers. There were just five of them, but everyone in the gymnasium heard them recite their Oath of Office with conviction in voices that filled the room. Afterward, Colonel Eric T. Olson presented the diplomas, taking a moment to speak with each new trooper.

Once they were seated, Col. Olson addressed the new troopers. He mentioned the 119th Recruit Class marked the Patrol's third effort at an accelerated academy. "I know the five members of the 119th would agree the training environment has been challenging and, at the same time, rewarding ... There's no doubt you've received some of the finest law enforcement training in the country, and I attribute that to the quality of our instructors." The colonel spoke of his spending time with each of the graduates in the days leading up to graduation and discussing the importance of commitment, professionalism, and integrity. " Your timing of joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol for a career is exceptional," he said. "With hard work and focus, many exciting career opportunities await you." He then shared that the Patrol's first colonel told the first troopers they needed to take time, "to visit with the farmer and the businessman, and to answer the questions of the curious youth. He might as well have been standing here today with the exact same message, because it is no less important now than it was then."

"For 78 days, we were challenged to wake up better than the night before," said Trooper Robert G. Watkins, class commander, in his remarks. "It is safe to say that through the endless miles of running that we developed a very special bond with the pavement that surrounds these grounds." Tpr. Watkins thanked the instructors, reassuring them that it may not have seemed that way, "but we enjoyed those early mornings and late nights that you spent with us to get to this point. Thank you for ensuring each of us understood the course of instruction ... and for coaching us to grow as law enforcement officers." He expressed the class's appreciation to family members for their support throughout their Academy experience. To the members of the 119th Recruit Class, he said, "Let us not forget who we are as individuals and what brought us to this place. Although we will now separate and go to our respective zones, we can continue to challenge each other as we have challenged each other here. Continue to learn, be eager to excel, share your experiences with those who follow behind you, and remember we will always be gentlemen who enforce the law."

Congratulations to the 119th Recruit Class!

Listed below are members of the 119th Recruit Class, their hometowns, and their first assignments.

TROOP A
Trooper Samuel J. Crosson
(Odessa, MO) - Zone 8, Lafayette County

Trooper Ryan T. McFatrich
(Lexington, MO) - Zone 8, Lafayette County

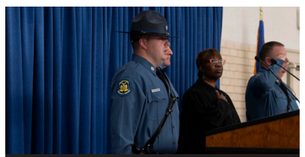
Trooper Matthew T. Tucker
(Harrisonville, MO) - Zone 11, Cass County

TROOP D
Trooper Robert G. Watkins
(Springfield, MO) - Zone 2, Greene County

TROOP E
Trooper Trevor C. Sutton
(Poplar Bluff, MO) - Zone 1, Butler/Ripley Counties



Trooper Robert Watkins earned the Superintendent's Award, Academic Award, Firearms Award, and the Physical Fitness Award while at the Academy.



Soon-to-be Tpr. Samuel Crosson sang the national anthem beautifully at graduation.



Tpr. Ryan McFatrich smiles as he prepares to sign his Oath of Office with Missouri Supreme Court Justice Robin Ransom as witness.



Tpr. Trevor Sutton signs his Oath of Office with Missouri Supreme Court Justice Robin Ransom serving as witness.



Col. Eric Olson congratulates Tpr. Matthew Tucker as DPS Director Sandra Karsten observes.



Members of the 119th Recruit Class say their oath and become troopers.



119th Recruit Class Shares Academy Experiences

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

There are approximately 32 years of law enforcement experience among the members of the 119th Recruit Class. Their experience meant they brought with them an understanding of time management and efficiency, and a sense of urgency. These shared characteristics enabled them to evolve into a team quickly and move forward as a single unit around the end of their second week of training.

Having been through an academy previously, they had some idea of what to expect; yet the Patrol Academy still surprised them. Some surprises were related to recruit life, like the time allowed to eat their meals and the expectation the recruits would use mealtime to converse and get to know one another. The class appreciated the amount of study time scheduled in the evenings. The class also acknowledged the expertise of their instructors and recognized the amount of time the Patrol invests in molding recruits into troopers.

The 119th Recruit Class described their training as more in-depth compared to their previous academies. They recognized the level of professionalism being instilled throughout the training. The recruits found the training detail oriented and disciplined with significantly more time for "each student to have plenty of repetitions."

"This Academy is much more in tune with what is going on in the law enforcement world. The Patrol caters their Academy to show you how you will do these things as a trooper, and how the training received will translate to the job," said Trooper Samuel J. Crosson.

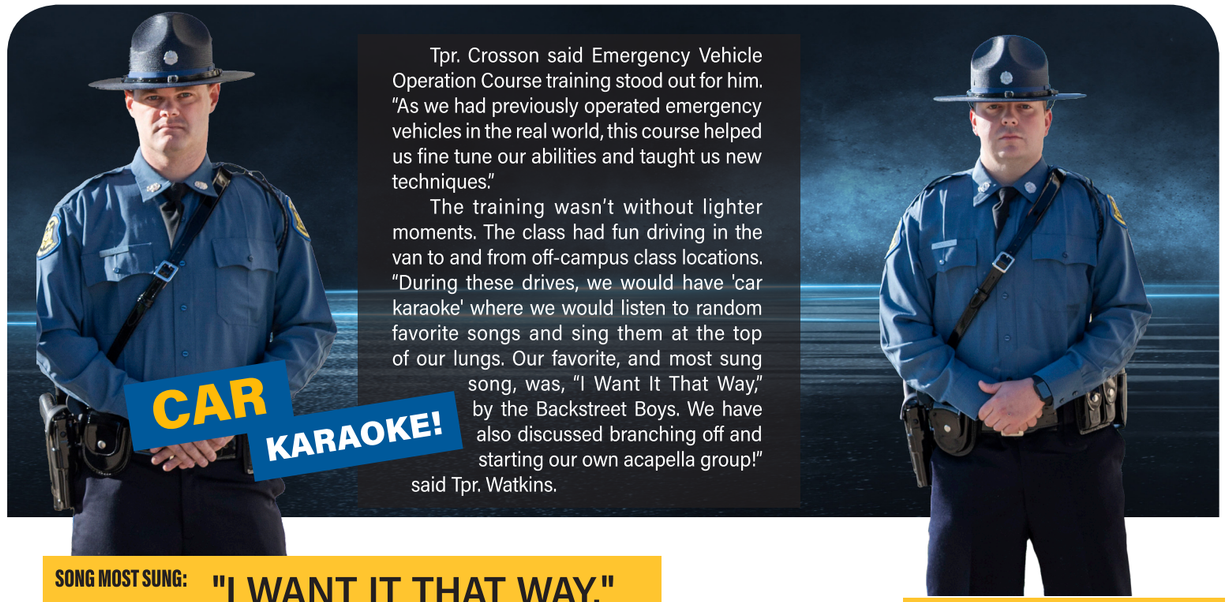
"The Patrol Academy utilizes instructors or field help. This allows the student to learn directly from either an 'expert in the field' or someone with extensive knowledge/experience who is current in policies and laws," said Trooper Robert G. Watkins.

Being experienced law enforcement officers, did the 119th Recruit Class learn a lot? Yes. Each of them complimented their instructors and the depth of training in every area of law enforcement. Emergency Vehicles Operations Course, defensive tactics, active threat, and crash investigation all received high marks.

For Trooper Ryan T. McFatrich, the building searches/active threat training stood out. "These are extremely important and very dangerous. I had very little training at my last academy and last agency. Going through these courses again I realized I was lacking in my knowledge. The instructors took time to explain to us how and why it was beneficial and why their methods worked."



STANDOUT TRAINING: BUILDING SEARCHES AND ACTIVE THREAT
– Tpr. Ryan T. McFatrich



Tpr. Crosson said Emergency Vehicle Operation Course training stood out for him. "As we had previously operated emergency vehicles in the real world, this course helped us fine tune our abilities and taught us new techniques."

The training wasn't without lighter moments. The class had fun driving in the van to and from off-campus class locations. "During these drives, we would have 'car karaoke' where we would listen to random favorite songs and sing them at the top of our lungs. Our favorite, and most sung song, was, "I Want It That Way," by the Backstreet Boys. We have also discussed branching off and starting our own acapella group!" said Tpr. Watkins.

SONG MOST SUNG: "I WANT IT THAT WAY."
– Tpr Robert G. Watkins.

(The readers might find it interesting to note there is a sign in the classroom stating, "You will conform to the M.S.H.P. The M.S.H.P will not conform to you.")

The members of the 119th Recruit Class came to the Patrol after much thought. So, what made them decide to take the leap?

"I worked closely with troopers while employed at my previous agency and I was always impressed with their professionalism. They always seemed to be happy working for the Patrol," said Trooper Matthew T. Tucker. "Eventually, I was convinced by a friend who worked for the Patrol to apply."

"My wife and I decided to move back to Missouri from Jonesboro, AR," said Trooper Trevor C. Sutton. "The Patrol was the best option for me and my family in terms of professional standards, pay, and benefits."

Do they have any advice for current law enforcement officers who are considering applying for the Patrol?

"Don't wait. The older you get the harder the Academy will be," said Tpr. Sutton.

"Trooper [Matthew] Morice gave all the recruits a Physical Fitness Plan. Do exactly what the plan says, and your Physical Fitness will be amazing. Also, you will be stressed and mentally drained, but prior LEO have been through it, so just push through to the light at the end of the tunnel," said Tpr. McFatrich.

"Don't underestimate the difficulty of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy," said Tpr. Tucker. "They hold their recruits to a higher standard in physical training and class work. Leave your ego at home. Come to the Academy ready to learn and conform to MSHP."



"This Academy is much more in tune with what is going on in the law enforcement world."
– Tpr. Samuel J. Crosson

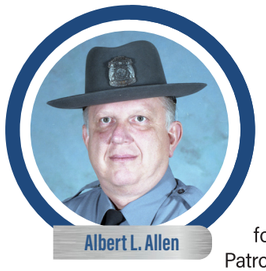
Obituaries



Andrew L. Stratman

ANDREW L. STRATMAN

Andrew L. Stratman, 78, of Lee's Summit, MO, died March 7, 2024, at his home. He was appointed to the Patrol as a member of the 31st Recruit Class on July 1, 1966. He served in the Troop A area his entire career and retired as a sergeant on May 1, 2000. Andrew is survived by two sons, three brothers, four sisters, five grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife. The family suggests expressions of sympathy be made to CHD Families of Kansas City or the charity of the donor's choice. To learn more about Andrew, visit the Morton Chapel website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Stratman family.



Albert L. Allen

ALBERT L. ALLEN

Albert L. Allen, 82, died April 18, 2024, in Piedmont, MO. Albert resided in Van Buren, MO, for most of his life. He proudly served in the United States Navy for four years. Albert went to work for the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1966 and retired in 1994, after 28 years as a radio and telecommunications technician first class assigned to Troop E. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Becky, of Van Buren, MO, two children, eight grandchildren, one sister, and many nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends who mourn his passing. To learn more about Albert, visit the McSpadden Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Allen family.



John C. Norman

JOHN C. NORMAN

John C. Norman, 76, of Jackson, MO, died Thursday, April 4, 2024, at his home. John was a 1966 graduate of Senath-Hornersville High School in Senath, MO. He graduated in 1970 from Arkansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in agronomy. John worked as a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper from 1971 to 2004 in Troop E and retired as a sergeant. Loving survivors include his wife of 56 years, Linda, three sons, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one sister. The family suggests memorial donations be made to New McKendree United Methodist Church. To learn more about John, visit the McCombs Funeral Home website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Norman family.



Wanda F. Woodruff

WANDA F. WOODRUFF

Wanda Woodruff, 69, of St. Clair, died at her home Thursday, April 18, 2024. She was employed as a Missouri State Highway Patrol driver examiner for over 25 years in the Troop C area. Wanda is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Larry Woodruff Sr., of St. Clair, two sons, one brother and sister-in-law, two granddaughters, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the family. To learn more about Wanda, visit the Midlawn Memorial Gardens Inc. website. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Woodruff family.

and the Award goes to . . .

PATROL HONORS 29 EMPLOYEES



Sgt. Shayne Talburt (E) sang the national anthem at the awards banquet accompanied by his daughter, Braidy, who played the violin.

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

Imagine an evening where you're greeted warmly, waited on, and surrounded by a room full of supporters. The group is there to celebrate you, to recognize who you are and something you've done. That's what the annual Patrol Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet is all about. This year, 250 people attended the event where 31 awards were presented, recognizing 29 employees.

"The retirees and The MASTERS members seemed to enjoy talking to each other catching up, and reminiscing," said Desig. Prin. Asst. Mary A. Redel, Q/SO. "The award recipients had some zone mates and classmates in attendance, and that was a big show of support from my perspective. And, the banquet staff was amazing."



Comm. Oper. III Kate H. McCormick (A) accepted the Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Public Service from Col. Eric Olson. "The event was truly an honor to attend," said Comm. Oper. III McCormick. "The mingling ahead of time allowed us to see quite a few retirees that we might not have had a chance to catch up with during the dinner. We very much enjoyed the food choices, the hotel was very pleasant to stay at, and the staff at the hotel were very welcoming! During the mingling and the dinner, we got a chance to hear quite a few stories told, which doesn't often happen while you're at work. This gave me a very unique chance to meet and chat with people I'd most likely never have met any other time. I was so grateful to have gone to this!"



Nine Meritorious Service Awards were accepted. Pictured are (l t r, front row) Cpl. Johnathan Roberts (G), Sgt. Adam Johnson (G), Tpr. Austin Royster (D), Cpl. W. Sean Lashmet (D), Tpr. Jacob Schwartz (D), (back row, l to r) Tpr. Andrew Gordon (F), Cpl. Daniel Dalton (F), Sgt. David Fouch (F), and Tpr. Christopher Kottwitz (B). "This was my first year attending the awards ceremony, and my family and I had a great time," said Tpr. Jacob Schwartz. "Great people. Great food. After the award ceremony, Major Paul D. Kerperin, who was sitting near my table, stopped me to congratulate me. He also told me when I accepted my award on stage, he looked over at my 12-year-old son and noticed he was grinning ear to ear, bursting with pride. There are obviously various perquisites for receiving an award, but I can tell you, making my son proud is at the very top of the list."



Sgt. Tim Barrett (D) accepted the Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year from (l) Col. Eric Olson. "I was honored to attend The MASTERS banquet with my wife and three kids to accept the award for Officer of the Year," Sgt. Barrett said. "I am grateful to have the support of Troop D staff, and I am thankful for their nomination. I have always heard of the support The MASTERS provides our organization, and I was humbled to witness it firsthand. From honoring our fallen troopers to showing appreciation for our exceptional employees across Missouri, it was an awesome event to be a part of."

Col. Eric Olson presented the Matilda "Tillie" Sonnen Civilian Of The Year award to Technical Support Manager Lindsey Holtmeyer, Q/CJIS.

"I enjoyed the ceremony and learned some new history about when the Patrol started from the guest speaker," said Tech. Support Mgr. Lindsey Holtmeyer. "I was honored to receive this award, to know that hard work doesn't go unnoticed. I know it takes a good team under and above me to ensure our officers and civilian staff have what they need to do their job."



Mrs. Sandy Mills presented the Fred M. Mills MASTERS Public Service Award to recently retired Lt. Nathan C. Ahern on behalf of The MASTERS.





Three officers accepted Valor Awards. Pictured (l to r) are Tpr. Richard Waite (C), Tpr. James Sauer (Q/GD), and Sgt. Lance DeClue (I).

congratulations

to all of the award recipients!

Fifteen Lifesaving Awards were presented. Pictured (l to r) are (front row): Cpl. Jacob McKinney (F), Tpr. Kalen Linneman (F), Tpr. Easton Corcoran (F), Cpl. Blake Groves (C), Tpr. Dylan Bert (C), Tpr. Eric Sikes (C), (back row) Tpr. Devan Harms (A), Tpr. Tyler Fuller (B), Tpr. Patrick Harms (Q/GD) - two awards, Sgt. Todd Barthelmass (Q/GD) - two awards, Sgt. Samuel Buchheit (Q/GD), Tpr. Orrin Hawkins (E). [Not pictured: Sgt. James Campbell (C)]

"I am honored to have accepted an award alongside 28 colleagues," said Tpr. Orrin Hawkins (E). "I believe I speak for not only myself, but each one of them, when I say that we sincerely appreciate the recognition. However, we do not do this job for that recognition. We do what we must in the face of dangerous, and sometimes, impossible odds. Each of us chose long ago to devote our lives to a profession that sometimes requires selfless acts to protect innocent life. Delivering the highest level of professionalism to our communities, armed with the core values and discipline demanded by our agency, we choose daily to set out and be the force between peace and chaos."



Pictured after the ceremony are (l to r) Capt. Gara Howard (Q/CJIS), Major Chris Jolly (Q/TSB), Director Corey Chaney (Q/CommD), Section Chief Brad Coffey (Q/CommD), Section Chief James Parks (Q/CommD), Col. Eric Olson, and DPS Director Sandra Karsten. (Not available for photo: Tech. Support Mgr. Chris Wilde (Q/CJIS).)

Parks, Coffey, Wilde Named Non-Sworn Team Members of the Month

By Zach M. Dykes (Q/CommD)
Asst. Chief Oper.

During a ceremony Wednesday, March 27, 2024, DPS recognized the work of Operations and Training Section Chief James M. Parks and Infrastructure Unit Section Chief Brad W. Coffey (both Q/CommD), and Technical Support Manager Chris S. Wilde (Q/CJISD) by naming them March 2024 Department of Public Safety Non-Sworn Team Members of the Month. This award is the result of their dedication and commitment to improving the Patrol's emergency communications infrastructure through researching, planning, and implementing the new Vesta call handling solution. This new system will enable communications operators across the state to receive caller and location information when 9-1-1 calls are transferred to the Patrol. This potentially reduces the time it takes to gather critical information to provide to troopers and partner agencies.

Each of these employees led a team and ensured a smooth implementation and transition from the Patrol's current network to the new 9-1-1 capable system. This included open communication with and training of communications operators around the state; research, procurement, and installation of new technologies; and the integration of these technologies into the current phone system.

"I think people take for granted all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make these systems happen," said Major Christopher S. Jolly, commander of the Technical Services Bureau.

When presenting the three with a superintendent's challenge coin, Colonel Eric T. Olson spoke about how this project displayed the Patrol's core values. "The one that comes to mind for me is commitment. I know between appropriations and vendors and getting things done in a timely manner, it has been a challenge. But, I appreciate everyone seeing the project through."

Department of Public Safety Director Sandra K. Karsten presented the awards to Section Chief Parks and Infrastructure Unit Section Chief Coffey in the second floor conference room of the Waggoner building. (Technical Support Manager Wilde was unable to attend the ceremony as he had recently welcomed twin sons into the world and was needed at home.)

"When we received the appropriation for this, we knew you guys were going to have your hands full trying to carry out the project," she said. She continued by saying she was proud of the teamwork involved throughout the process.

When asked if he wanted to say a few words, Section Chief Parks highlighted the dedication of employees involved from multiple components, including CJIS and the field technicians who were instrumental in the installation of the hardware and software at all nine troops. "I also want to thank all the communications personnel at the troops for their patience and willingness to learn a new way of conducting business," said Section Chief Parks. "They've seen a lot of change in the last eight months with the addition of this new call handling system and other new equipment. While we hope this makes the job easier, it hasn't been without growing pains, and I appreciate everything they do every day, and their input to make this work."

Section Chief Coffey reiterated that this was a team effort and stated that he couldn't have done it without his team. He also thanked Director Chaney for his willingness to push the boundaries and allow for needed upgrades to be made, such as the inclusion of the KM switch that allows operators to seamlessly switch between the Computer-Aided Dispatch, radio, and call handling computers simply by moving the mouse.

"This is a fundamental shift [of how] Patrol centers are going to work in the future. This is a big change for all these troops," said Director Chaney. He credits this team with their ability to think through the project and ensure that it was accomplished and done correctly. "It really came down to these three guys and the people that work for them."

"I think CJIS and the Communications divisions work well together and have a history of working well together," said Captain Gara N. Howard (Q/CJISD). "We continue to push forward."

Congratulations Brad, James, and Chris!



Director Sandra Karsten presented certificates to (l to r) Section Chiefs Brad Coffey and James Parks.



Col. Eric Olson presents a superintendent's challenge coin to (l to r) Section Chiefs Brad Coffey and James Parks.

50 YEARS AGO

MAY 1974 - A bill passed by the legislature created three classes of Patrol troopers and allowed for salary increases for uniformed members. Salaries would increase to $9,900 for probationary troopers, $10,200 for a trooper, and $10,500 for a trooper first-class. All other uniformed officers received a $1,500 pay increase. Governor Kit Bond signed the bill, and it took effect in August 1974.

40 YEARS AGO

JUNE 1984 - The cover of this issue featured two photos of the Olympic Torch traveling through Missouri on its way to Los Angeles, CA, for the 1984 Summer Olympics. The torch traveled through Troops E, C, F, and A, and officers in patrol cars preceded and followed the torch across the state. Troopers also provided security and crowd control when Governor Kit Bond greeted the runner at the capitol.

30 YEARS AGO

MAY 1994 - The May 1994 *Patrol News* featured a story of Troop C offering a "Weapons Familiarization and Safety Class" for the wives of Troop C members. The class included instruction on weapon familiarization, safe handling of weapons, home storage, and removing the Glock from the holster. After the classroom instruction, the class moved to the range, and the article said, "The scores were so good, everyone asked if they could have their targets." The class instructors were Sgt. F. Bob Gehner, Sgt. Don R. Frey, Sgt. Ron E. Rudder, and Cpl. Andy J. Ley.

20 YEARS AGO

MAY 2004 - This edition featured a story about the annual DDCC recognition of employees for outstanding accomplishments in the field of criminal investigation. Comp. Info. Tech. Spec. II Nancy J. Struemph was awarded the "Civilian Employee of the Year" for her work in designing many databases used by the Patrol and her work in training personnel throughout the state in the use of these databases. The "DDCC Officer of the Year" was Sergeant Roger L. Renken. He was recognized "for his outstanding investigative ability, cooperative work ethic, attitude, and daily interactions with others."

Looking Back IN THE PATROL NEWS

10 YEARS AGO

MAY/JUNE 2014 - This edition of the *Patrol News* featured an article titled, "Fire Destroys GHQ Garage." The garage was destroyed by fire on April 8, 2014, which caused an estimated $5 million in damage. Service and repair operations were moved to temporary facilities provided by MoDOT behind its central office on Missouri Boulevard in Jefferson City, MO. Although most of the hand tools were salvaged, the GHQ garage was considered a complete loss, and eight vehicles burned.

LOOKING BEYOND

THE INITIAL STOP



On April 2, 2024, Cpl. Beau Ryun (A) stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. The conversation with the driver led him to request a K-9 respond. Lafayette County Sheriff's Office brought their K-9 to the scene, and the K-9 alerted to narcotics inside the vehicle. A vehicle search resulted in 88 pounds of cocaine being taken off the streets.

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Photographer David Kurtovich gave Cpl. Greg Ulm the opportunity to see the eclipse through his amazing camera.

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