

FLYING

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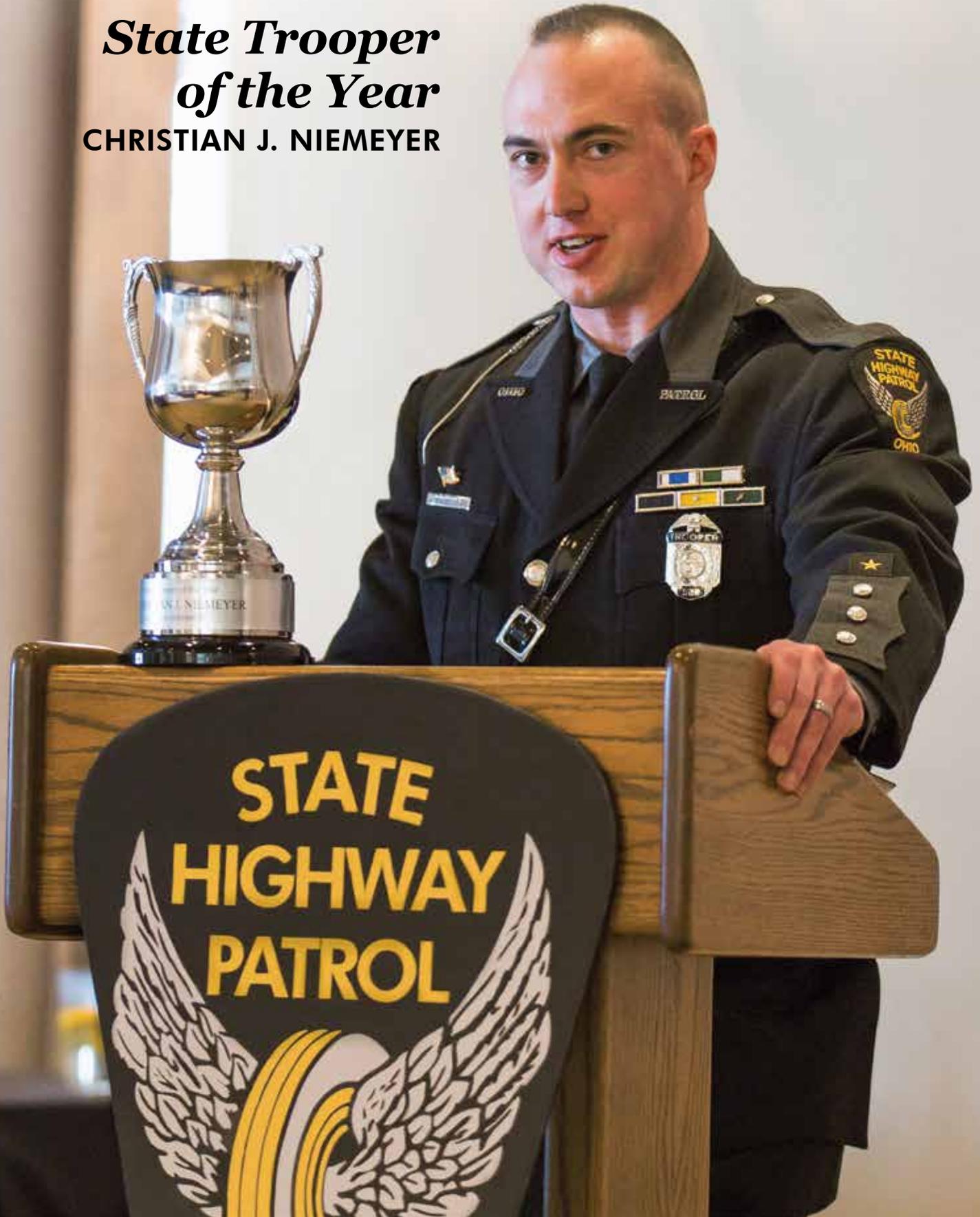


WHEEL

January - March 2014

State Trooper of the Year

CHRISTIAN J. NIEMEYER





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Competition and encouragement evident at Leadership Awards

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The "Flying Wheel" is published by the Ohio State Highway Patrol in the interest of the entire Patrol family.

On the Cover

2013 State Trooper of the Year Christian J. Niemeyer of the Columbus Metro Post:

- 186 OVI Arrests
- 35 felony cases, arresting 36 suspects
- Drug Recognition Expert
- MADD Award for superior achievement in OVI arrests



DRIVING TO ZERO HIGHWAY DEATHS – *Strategies to save lives continue to evolve*

As we move forward into 2014, we continue our mission to save lives and enforce Ohio's laws with compassion and unbiased professionalism. We continue to look for new and innovative ways to deter and apprehend impaired drivers, raise awareness about the importance of safety belt use and collaborate with our law enforcement and private sector partners to rid our state of drug traffickers who are committed to degrading the quality of life in our communities. We are committed to these issues and will continue to make them a priority.

The weather will be improving soon and before you know it we will be approaching the kick-off to summer over the Memorial Day weekend. Families across Ohio will be traveling on vacation, camping and gathering for family reunions. This will be a time when our high-visibility enforcement and diligence to accomplishing our core mission will undoubtedly save a life or perhaps deter an impaired motorist from getting behind the wheel.

I want to remind all of our personnel that the work you do on a daily basis saves lives and makes Ohio a safer place. At times our day-to-day tasks may get in the way of the big picture, but when I have an opportunity to read commendation letters from the public and hear about award recommendations for the wonderful work you are doing, I am re-energized to move forward and continue our Drive To Zero Highway Deaths in Ohio.

We are driving down highway deaths by employing various strategies and collaborating on many fronts. In 2014:

- We will be joining forces with state police and highway patrol agencies around the country to support the International Association of Chiefs of Police "Drive to Zero Highway Deaths" campaign. The campaign focuses on collaboration to reduce highway fatalities nationwide by 15 percent in 2014. Crash reduction efforts will be focused on safety belt enforcement and education, speed enforcement, OVI detection and apprehension, and motorcycle safety and enforcement.
- We will continue our increased focus on reducing the number of impaired driving-related fatal traffic crashes in urban areas. 2013 was the first full year for the three Metro Posts and their presence has proven to be very effective. In 2013, fatalities in Hamilton and Franklin counties experienced significant declines.
- Through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office, we will continue to enhance the Drug Recognition Expert program in Ohio. This program provides law enforcement officers with extensive training in recognizing the signs of drug impairment. Plans are to have more than 100 Ohio DRE of-

ficers certified by the end of the 2014 Federal Fiscal Year.

- Through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office we will continue to develop both private and public sector partnerships during quarterly information-sharing meetings. These meetings with safety partners help to identify problem areas, open the lines of communication and ensure that traffic safety grant dollars are being spent effectively and efficiently.
- In addition to these regional safety meetings, the Patrol will continue to partner with other law enforcement agencies in Shield Details that deploy resources and personnel to address traffic safety and criminal activity in a predetermined area. This includes enforcement initiatives that are part of the 6-State Trooper Project which includes the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Kentucky State Police, Indiana State Police, Pennsylvania State Police, West Virginia State Police and the Michigan State Police. This project is a multi-state law enforcement partnership aimed at providing combined and coordinated law enforcement and security services in the areas of highway safety, criminal patrol and intelligence-sharing
- The Ohio Investigative Unit will continue to enhance a statewide trace-back program where agents are dispatched to alcohol-involved fatal and serious injury crashes. Agents will interview suspects/witnesses to "trace back" where the alcohol was consumed or obtained prior to the crash. Agents will also investigate to determine if alcohol was served or consumed in violation of the law in an effort to hold establishments accountable for over-serving and/or selling to minors.

Our agency continues to evolve, learn and grow in our effort to make Ohio a safer place. Our highest honor is to serve the citizens of Ohio through the administration of professional traffic safety services.

I urge every employee of the Highway Patrol to recommit to the mission and as our first Superintendent, Colonel Lynn Black said when he addressed the Patrol's first training class in 1933, "Remember at all times, the promotion of true safety and welfare of the people of Ohio, should inspire and motivate your work."



Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent

Ohio Traffic Fatalities Less Than 1,000 Deaths in 2013

OVI and safety belt enforcement, partnerships key to saving lives

Fewer than 1,000 people lost their lives on Ohio’s roadways in 2013. This is the lowest number of people killed since the state began keeping records in 1936, when 2,389 people died. Roadway deaths have significantly declined since then and reached a previous low point in 2011 when 1,016 people died.

Public safety officials believe this decline is the result of factors including partnerships, enforcement, emergency care, education and engineering. The Patrol’s efforts to curb impaired driving has definitely made an impact, and Ohio’s 84.5 percent safety belt compliance rate has also led to fewer fatalities.

Beginning in 2011, the Patrol established a goal to *Contribute to a Safer Ohio* by reducing traffic-related fatalities and increasing criminal patrol efforts through high-visibility enforcement. The symbol of this effort, *Trooper Shield*, was developed to challenge all Patrol employees to measure progress one day at a time, one less fatality than the day before, and remove one more dangerous driver from Ohio roadways.

During 2013, troopers had more than 1.5 million contacts with the motoring public, with 62 percent of these being non-enforcement. Officers provided roadside assistance to nearly 300,000 motorists, investigated over 65,000 traffic crashes

and removed more than 24,000 impaired drivers from our roadways. Additionally, OVI-related fatal crashes were down significantly and safety belt enforcement was up six percent.

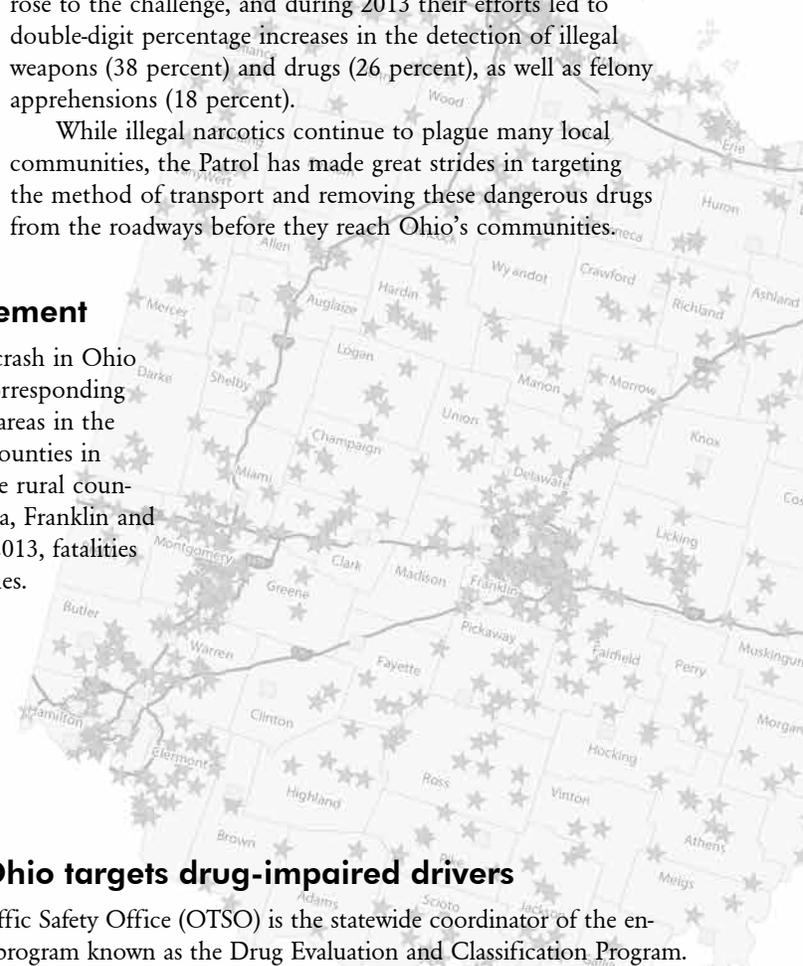
“There are people alive today—people not suffering from debilitating injuries—because a trooper removed a dangerous impaired driver from the roadway,” explained Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent. “Our troopers are slowing down during traffic stops to spend additional time with traffic violators. They do this so that they are able to look beyond the initial reason for the traffic stop to identify possible clues of illegal activity or impairment.”

Under the *Trooper Shield* program, criminal patrol efforts were given the same high priority as traffic safety. Troopers rose to the challenge, and during 2013 their efforts led to double-digit percentage increases in the detection of illegal weapons (38 percent) and drugs (26 percent), as well as felony apprehensions (18 percent).

While illegal narcotics continue to plague many local communities, the Patrol has made great strides in targeting the method of transport and removing these dangerous drugs from the roadways before they reach Ohio’s communities.

Data analysis ensures effective traffic enforcement

The Patrol’s Statistical Analysis Unit maps each fatal traffic crash in Ohio and analyzes the data to ensure that troopers are targeting the corresponding areas to ensure that resources are deployed to the most effective areas in the state. This data analysis has shown that the larger metropolitan counties in Ohio experience significantly more fatal traffic crashes than more rural counties. In response, the Patrol created and staffed posts in Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton counties in order to reduce urban traffic fatalities. In 2013, fatalities in Hamilton and Franklin counties experienced significant declines.



DRE Program in Ohio targets drug-impaired drivers

The Patrol’s Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) is the statewide coordinator of the enhanced OVI enforcement program known as the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. This traffic safety program focuses on the detection, apprehension and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. As part of this program, law enforcement officers, known as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), receive extensive training in recognizing the signs of drug-impairment.

In Ohio’s fourth year as a DRE state, plans are to have 112 DRE officers certified by the end of the federal FY 2014. The training and expenses associated with the DRE program are paid for through grants at no cost to the law enforcement agency or department.

“Ohio is fortunate to have the DRE program,” explained Director John Born, Ohio Department of Public Safety. “There is no doubt in my mind that these DREs across the state impacted the 2013 fatal crash picture in a positive way.”

Regional traffic safety meetings set tone for increased collaboration

The OTSO administers Section 402 State and Community grants, related National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) awards and initiatives and contracts for traffic safety activities. Funds are awarded to traffic safety projects that will have the greatest impact on reducing fatal crashes or that significantly improve traffic safety systems.

In 2013, the Patrol began hosting quarterly grant recipient information-sharing meetings with local and regional law enforcement and safety partners to identify problem areas, open the lines of communication and to ensure that grant dollars are spent effectively and efficiently. These meetings have paid dividends by translating into lowered traffic fatalities.



Shield details reveal the power of partnership

In addition to these regional safety meetings, the Patrol continues to partner with other law enforcement agencies in very successful Shield details that deploy resources and personnel to address traffic safety and criminal activity in a predetermined area.

During one such detail in Hamilton County in August 2013, the Patrol joined forces with the Ohio Investigative Unit and the Hamilton Police Department for a sustained enforcement initiative to address violent criminal drug activity and aggressive driving behaviors through coordinated high-visibility traffic enforcement. During the effort officers made 72 criminal arrests - of which 32 were felony arrests. They also initiated 61 drug cases and arrested six drivers for OVI.

Trace-back investigations are gaining momentum

The Ohio Investigative Unit will continue to implement a statewide trace-back program where agents will be called out to alcohol-involved fatal and serious injury crashes to interview suspects/witnesses to “trace back” where the alcohol was consumed prior to crash. Agents investigate to determine if alcohol was served or consumed in violation of the law in an effort to hold establishments accountable for over-serving and/or selling to minors. In 2013, the Ohio Investigative Unit conducted 122 trace-back investigations.

—please see Ohio Traffic Fatalities Less Than 1,000, continued on page 8



ODPS Presents MARCS Radios to Meigs County Sheriff's Office

In an effort to increase and provide statewide interoperability, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) presented the Meigs County Sheriff's Office with portable and mobile radios on December 19, 2013.

These radios are compatible with the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS).

MARCS helps first responders communicate clearly anytime from anywhere, increasing their capacity in normal and emergency operations and decreasing response times.

"We are pleased to be able to make this equipment available to the Meigs County Sheriff's Office in support of their efforts to provide a safer community, and ultimately contribute to a safer Ohio," said John Born, ODPS Director. "MARCS improves the availability, accessibility and quality of communications for first responders in the state."

The MARCS radios were purchased with a U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security grant, which are made available to states and are designed to enhance the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to prevent and respond to incidents. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of ODPS, serves as the state administering agency for homeland security funds.

MARCS is an 800 MHz radio and data network that utilizes state-of-the-art trunked technology to provide statewide interoperability. The MARCS Program Office is housed within the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

Junior Trooper Earns Commission



Capt. Dan Lay commissioned six-year-old Lucas Kerker as a junior trooper at a ceremony at Marysville's Mill Valley Elementary School in January. Judge Michael Grigsby, Marysville Municipal Court, administered the Oath of Office.

Lucas, who suffers from Ataxia-telangiectasia, wants to be a police officer when he grows up. In addition to his commission, Lucas received a Patrol t-shirt, junior trooper badge, a Patrol whistle and an official Ohio State Highway Patrol stetson. Teddy Trooper also presented Lucas a Teddy Trooper Teddy Bear.

6-State Trooper Project Meeting



A 6-State Trooper Project meeting was held December 4-5, 2013 to develop an inter-agency/state schedule for enforcement operations in 2014. Senior management representatives from Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio were on hand to discuss criminal patrol and drug interdiction, OVI and traffic enforcement, criminal intel and state fusion centers, funding challenges, recruitment and the hiring process.

155th Academy Class Graduation

43 new troopers join sworn ranks

The Patrol's 155th Academy Class graduated February 14 after 22 weeks of intense paramilitary training. The keynote address was provided by Director John Born, Ohio Department of Public Safety. Additional remarks were provided by Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent, and Captain Shawn Lee, Academy commandant. The Oath of Office was issued by Judge Peter B. Abele, Fourth Appellate District, Ohio Court of Appeals.

Courses completed by the 155th class included Core Values, crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, detection of impaired drivers, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense and emergency vehicle operations.

Tpr. William R. Clay, Toledo Post, was selected as class speaker and thanked the Academy and cadet family members for being supportive during their training.

Four graduates received special honors for top performance in various fields of study at the Training Academy. The honorees were:

- Overall performance and top performance in physical fitness - Tpr. Ryan A. Davenport, Mansfield Post
- Top performance in academics - Tpr. Justin J. Fleming, Sandusky Post
- Top performance in driving - Tpr. Daniel J. Harrison, Elyria Post
- Top performance in firearms - Tpr. Matthew R. Cook Jr., Findlay Post

Each of the graduates reported to their posts on Monday, February 17. The graduates' first 60 working days will be a field-training period under the guidance of a veteran officer. The new graduates are assigned to 27 of the Patrol's 58 posts.



Patrol and Credit Union team up for Special Olympics



From left: Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent; Paige Ludwig, marketing and development director at Special Olympics Ohio; Becky Landis, State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union chief executive officer; and Rebecca O'Brien State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union supervisor and marketing and member development coordinator.

In celebration of the Patrol's 80th Anniversary, the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union held a raffle for a basket full of 80th Anniversary merchandise. Proceeds of \$1,450 were donated on December 12, 2013, to the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Ohio.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest year-round fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics Ohio. Every year, troopers and police officers from all over Ohio carry the "Flame of Hope" through more than 150 communities, creating awareness of Special Olympics and raising funds for the program. The annual relay and its various fundraising projects raise money and awareness for the athletes who participate in Special Olympics Ohio.

Ohio Traffic Fatalities Less Than 1,000— continued from page 5

Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan addresses Ohio's most problematic traffic safety issues and relies on collaboration among the state's many safety partners to implement effective programs that impact motor vehicle crashes. The plan was developed in conjunction with various agencies and focuses on safety for all road users, including cars, trucks, trains, motorcycles, pedestrians and bikes. The plan's committee meets quarterly to review crash trends and discuss key strategies being implemented across agencies to reduce crashes.

Community partnerships also key

For FFY 2014, Ohio will fund 46 county-wide Safe Communities programs which will involve more than 1,370 communities and 78.64 percent of Ohio's population. Each program must include strategies focusing on seat belt use, impaired driving and motorcycle safety. Ohio's Safe Communities network uses local coalitions to deliver traffic safety mes-

Cleveland Cavs honor law enforcement



From left: Tpr. Michael Smith, Sgt. Matthew Dyer, Tpr. Steven Drew, Tpr. Mandi Rodriguez and Tpr. Evan Slates.

The Patrol Honor Guard presented the colors during the pregame ceremony at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Night with the Cleveland Cavaliers on January 28. As part of the fund's partnership with the Cavaliers, \$6 from each ticket sold on Law Enforcement Night benefits the upcoming National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, DC.

sages and programs throughout the year at the local level. Safe Communities provides the education/earned media portion of our enforcement campaigns while law enforcement agencies, including the Patrol, conduct the enforcement portion. Since Safe Communities are multi-jurisdictional with many different agencies and organizations within the county making up the coalitions, traffic safety will be addressed through partnerships with local businesses, law enforcement, engineering, hospitals, health care providers, schools, faith-based organizations, ethnic/non-English speaking communities, community groups and others that have a vested interest in traffic safety.

Looking into 2014 and beyond

With continued focus on enforcement, emergency care, education, engineering and partnerships, Ohio can realize even lower traffic fatalities. In 2014, the Patrol plans to continue to drive down fatal crashes through high-visibility enforcement, removing impaired drivers and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy regarding safety belt usage as well as working with local law enforcement.

A sampling of messages received on the Patrol's Facebook and Twitter pages:

 www.facebook.com/ohiostatehighwaypatol

I want to share how helpful Todd Bailey was to an acquaintance of mine. As I approached the intersection of Tylersville Road and Butler-Warren, I could see the accident, though still very dark. I can't tell you how impressed I was with Todd's thoroughness of documenting the accident, his care for my friend and ensuring that she was kept warm and comfortable. He let me stay in the car with her as he was finishing up his paperwork and talked her through the process of what would happen. I was overwhelmed by his thoughtfulness, care and concern and I wanted to ensure his leadership was aware. It is important to me that he knows how much his kindness is appreciated.

Special thanks to the officer who helped us out of a snow drift today! I didn't get his name, but definitely appreciate his help during this terrible weather. Keep up the good work.

I want to acknowledge and give a very "BIG" thank you to an outstanding officer, Tpr. Eric Stroud and his canine partner, Dark! I appreciate your help in that sticky, but serious situation last night! Not only did Tpr. Stroud show great professionalism but empathy toward my unfortunate luck on I-75.

Driving to work, just inside of Portage County, I witnessed an OSP officer helping a stranded motorist—a pick-up with a flat front tire and the officer's car was behind the truck as he assisted. The weather was bitter cold and he could have been in his warm car. Good to see there are still good guys out there.

Thanks to the patrolman who responded to the scene on December 15, when my dad passed away in Wellston. I didn't catch the officer's name, but he's the one who told me my dad was gone. I know that couldn't have been easy, especially when I was already in pieces. He was earnest and I'm so grateful. I hope he knows how much his kindness is appreciated.

This past summer my kids and I were in the car when my 4-year-old daughter started to choke. Of course, as mom, I FREAK OUT and pull the car off the road into the ditch. I pulled her from the seat to face her forward and perform the Heimlich maneuver. I was terrified! But as I looked up, there was a State

 www.twitter.com/oshp

Patrol officer running toward me to help me! I have never been happier in my life to see lights flashing behind my car! He was very comforting when I felt all alone out on a country road. Of course, my daughter was perfectly fine, but my heart was racing like I had gone sky diving. I never got his name, and I never got to thank him. I just hope he knows how he is appreciated!

I just wanted to say thank you for everything that you do for the public. I travel I-75 from Dayton to Cincinnati every day for work. I am completely amazed every day to see the troopers out helping. Lately I have noticed several troopers assisting people changing flat tires on the side of the road. That means a lot to know that they are out in force keeping us safe and willing to help, even if it is in the rain and snow.

This weekend I saw no less than four different troopers assisting stranded motorists with changing tires, getting a gallon of gas to get to the next exit/station and consoling a crying accident victim. In a near constant stream of police abuse/brutality stories in the media, the sight of these men in uniform helping my fellow Ohioans reminded me not only that there are excellent law enforcement personnel who do great jobs, these men are human beings and truly good people inside and it shows.

This afternoon, my car quit on me on Route 71. I made it over to the right shoulder not knowing what was wrong and still nearly 30 miles from my destination. About five minutes after pulling over, I had the hood popped. A trooper peeked around the side of my car and asked me if everything was all right. The officer stood on the side of the highway in the cold mist while I was trying to start my car and did not leave me until I assured him that I had someone on the way and would be fine. I have encountered quite a few police officers, but this trooper was the nicest and most polite of them all. He went above and beyond for me and in my frustration with my car, I didn't even think to ask for his name or badge number so he could be recognized for his good deed. I hope he knows he helped me feel a little better during my situation and I wanted to let you know that you have a very good officer patrolling Route 71.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! *Involvement & interaction with our retirees is a top priority!*

- **What we are doing:** We are trying to build the ranks of retirees we have contact with on a regular basis. This includes sworn, non-sworn and widows of retirees.
- **Retiree outreach:** During April, you will be hearing from your local post. It may be just a phone call or possibly an invitation for coffee. Please take the opportunity to build your relationship with your local post.
- **What we need you to do:** We want to hear from you! If you do not have regular contact with your local post, please contact them during April. If you know of retirees we are not reaching on a regular basis, please let us know so we can build a relationship with them.



Recent Criminal Patrol Successes

February 4: Troopers seize 56 pounds of marijuana



Troopers stopped a 1999 Ford for a marked lanes violation on Interstate 70 eastbound in Muskingum County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 56 pounds of marijuana worth an estimated \$127,000.

January 22: Troopers seize 32 pounds of marijuana



Troopers stopped a 1996 Mercedes for a failure to signal violation on the Ohio Turnpike in Lorain County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 32 pounds of marijuana worth approximately \$144,000 in the vehicle's trunk.

January 9: Troopers seize 2,421 Ecstasy pills

Troopers stopped a rented 2014 Ford for failing to display taillights on Interstate 75 in Hancock County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Findlay Police Department drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed the pills, worth approximately \$24,000, under the rear seat.



January 3: Troopers seize \$182,000 worth of heroin



Troopers stopped a 1999 Ford for a vehicle defect violation on State Route 39 in Tuscarawas County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed more than a pound of heroin underneath the passenger's seat, along with a marijuana smoking pipe.

December 18: Traffic stop leads to multi-agency seizure of drugs, guns and cash



Troopers initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 270 in Franklin County and ultimately seized two pounds of methamphetamine and a stolen pistol.

The next day, members of the Columbus Division of Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations special agents, and the Patrol conducted search warrants in Columbus. During the execution of these searches, authorities discovered one pound of methamphetamine, 20 pounds of marijuana, 12 vials of synthetic marijuana, an ounce of heroin, seven vials of bath salts, three firearms and \$24,000.

Recent Vehicle Theft Unit Successes

Findlay District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit



The Findlay Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit initiated a case in reference to individuals suspected of stealing aluminum semi-trailers, cutting them up and scrapping them for cash. The suspects were tracked for several months via covert surveillance techniques and the Aviation Unit was utilized to observe a stolen trailer behind a building not visible from the roadway. With the assistance of the local sheriff's office, the trailer was recovered prior to being scrapped. The suspects admitted to their crimes and had planned on cutting the trailer up the following day.

Columbus District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit



In two cases, advertisements for vehicles for sale were observed on a social media website. In one case, the ad said a 2007 Yamaha 600 sport bike was being sold without a title. Contact was made with the seller and investigators arranged to view the vehicle. The seller advised he traded a set of custom wheels and \$300 for the bike. A check of the VIN through LEADS revealed it was entered stolen through Columbus Police Department.

In the second case, the ad said the owner of the vehicle had sold the VIN plate and title to another buyer and was selling a 1988 Honda Civic as is with a "bill of sale". Investigators made arrangements to view the vehicle. Upon meeting, the suspect admitted removing the VIN plate and selling it with the

All troopers are encouraged to look closely at VIN plates and Federal Identification Decals as well as pay close attention for indicators of fraud. Troopers with questions are encouraged to contact their local VTFU.

title for \$500. In addition to the VIN Tampering, the title work was examined and it was determined the suspect had altered the selling price for the vehicle when he purchased it from the previous owner. Charges for VIN tampering, telecommunications fraud and tampering with records will be filed.

Cleveland District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit



Cleveland District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit Bait Car

The Canton Police Department asked the Cleveland Vehicle Theft Fraud Unit to help with a growing number of vehicle thefts in Canton—54 reported vehicle thefts in just over two months. A bait vehicle was deployed for two days during which officers made four arrests and recovered two stolen vehicles. The detail was considered successful by Canton Police, who issued a press release to local news media crediting the Highway Patrol Vehicle Theft Fraud Unit for their assistance.

Wilmington District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit



The Texas Department of Title Fraud contacted the Wilmington Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) about a California resident attempting to transfer a California title to Texas, but the vehicle was already titled in Texas. Texas investigators discovered the owner of the vehicle already titled in Texas was in the military and originally from Ohio. The Wilmington VTFU investigated and determined the vehicle owned and titled in Texas was a possible "clone".

Information was obtained on the vehicle's whereabouts and a search warrant was obtained. The Wilmington VTFU executed the search warrant and located the vehicle in a garage in Brown County. VTFU personnel examined the vehicle and verified its true identity and that the vehicle had been reported stolen to the Los Angeles Police Department in 1997. The vehicle was seized and is being held until the insurance company that paid the claim in 1997 collects it.

Recent Ohio Investigative Unit Successes

Food stamp fraud phone banks



The Ohio Investigative Unit along with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) recently took part in two food stamp fraud phone banks with members of the Ohio media.

On February 3, eight OIU and ODJFS personnel took 97 calls during the 5, 5:30 and 6 p.m. newscasts for WBNS in Columbus. Most of the calls reported recipients and retailers that were believed to be taking advantage of the food stamp system.

Then on February 4, OIU, ODJFS and Lucas County Job and Family Services representatives answered the phones during the 5, 5:30 and 6 p.m. newscasts at WTOL in Toledo and during the 6:30 p.m. newscast on their sister station WUPW. During the two-hour news cycle, the representatives answered 79 calls.

The calls were logged and will be distributed to the appropriate agencies for potential action.

Agents seize more than 5,700 packages of synthetic cannabinoids and \$51,000 from Toledo store



In December, Ohio Investigative Unit agents seized more than 5,700 packages of synthetic cannabinoids and \$51,000 cash from a Toledo convenience store after executing a search

warrant at the premise.

Agents investigated Omar of Ohio, Inc., also known as Airport Stop, 3326 Airport Highway, since late summer after receiving complaints of possible drug violations taking place at the liquor permit premise.

The liquor permit was cited with five counts each of drug possession and drug paraphernalia possession; four counts of drug sales; and three counts of drug paraphernalia sales.

Possible criminal charges will be presented to the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office for their consideration.

Administrative charges will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for their consideration. The commission has the authority to issue penalties against the liquor permit including possible fines, suspensions or revocation.

Agents train more than 1,700 during OIU ASK Courses



Agents completed 109 Alcohol Server Knowledge (ASK) programs to 1,767 attendees in 2013. The ASK program is designed for liquor permit holders and their employees, and is provided free of charge. Agents provide instruction on laws pertaining to the sale and/or consumption of alcohol and tobacco, false identification, employment of minors, penalties for those found in violation, and other topics as requested.

For more information, visit: www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/ask.stm.

More than 11,500 students attended Sober Truth in 2013

Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit completed 325 Sober Truth presentations to 11,613 attendees in 2013.

The Sober Truth program is presented in schools and to civic groups throughout Ohio and stresses the dangers and consequences of underage drinking, including laws and penalties for breaking the law. The program is free and is targeted towards junior and senior high school-aged students.

For more information, visit: www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/sobertruth.stm.



Recent Police Officer Successes

Officers Save Overdose Victim

On November 22, 2013, Shipley Post 98 received a report of an unknown female hitting a parked car located in the parking lot on West Broad Street. Police Officer 2 Norma J. Scott located the female on the security camera and also noticed a male subject slumped over in the vehicle.

Officer Scott responded and made contact with the female who stated she and her son were arguing. When she exited the vehicle, her son locked the car doors and injected

heroin, seemingly overdosing.

Officer Scott attempted to gain the man's attention, and she noticed his skin tone was changing to bluish-gray. She called for emergency medical response, and then, with the assistance of Sgt. Shawn D. Cook, who happened to be in the area, they broke the rear passenger window.

Officer Scott entered the vehicle, laid the man back in his seat to open his airway and worked to maintain his consciousness until medics arrived.



Norma J. Scott



Shawn D. Cook

The man was transported to Mount Carmel West Hospital for additional treatment.

Officers' Investigation Identifies Hit-skip Suspect

On November 23, 2013, Police Officers Stacy S. Rainey and David J. Mink were on duty at the Statehouse. They were advised that a Patrol vehicle had been struck while parked and unattended near the Statehouse. Both officers responded to the scene to find a taxi cab with four occupants and the heavily-damaged patrol car blocking two lanes of traffic.

Officers Rainey and Mink first determined no one was injured, and then secured the crash scene. They called for assistance and began gathering information for the crash report.

When Columbus Police arrived, they advised they would handle the crash report. Officer Rainey realized the entire crash was captured on video from one of various cameras surrounding the Statehouse. She and a Columbus officer watched the crash on video several times but could only make out the vehicle's colors and most of how the crash took place. A light-colored sedan had slid out of control, struck a curb and the taxi cab before fleeing the scene. As a result, the taxi was forced out of control and struck the rear of the patrol car.

It was not possible to obtain a license plate number or the make or model of the at-fault vehicle in the Statehouse video. The Columbus officer completed his report and left the scene. The patrol car was towed to the Alum Creek facility, where it was eventually totaled.

Not content with the outcome, Officers Rainey and Mink began to contact surrounding businesses and inquired on the possibility of there being additional video of the crash. Luckily, they found the video they were looking for and could



Stacy S. Rainey



David J. Mink

see the sedan proceeded only a block after fleeing the crash scene and turned into a parking garage.

The officers made contact with security at that parking garage and began asking about the night of the crash and any damaged vehicles that may have entered the garage. Eventually, they were told about a heavily damaged silver Toyota Camry that entered the garage on the night of the crash. A security officer remembered seeing it sitting in the employee parking area, in a distant corner, and recalled wondering about the damage.

Again, Officers Rainey and Mink went the extra distance to inquire on and watch several hours of video until they observed the vehicle in question entering the parking garage. They were able to obtain the license number, and with that, the owner's name.

The video also showed the Toyota being towed out of the parking garage by a local wrecker service. The wrecker service's name was on the side of the truck and they were contacted about the tow. Officers Rainey and Mink interviewed the wrecker driver and he provided a written statement as to the events leading up to the tow. He also described the person he contacted as the owner of the vehicle. The officers were also able to contact the owner of the vehicle and discovered that not only was his license suspended but he was also uninsured. He agreed to meet with the officers and provide a written statement. When the time came to provide the statement, he decided to consult his attorney. All evidence, statements and video were provided to the Columbus Police Department and are awaiting charges.

Without Officers Rainey and Mink going above and beyond to investigate and track down the driver of the hit-skip vehicle, the state of Ohio would be left to replace the patrol car without the chance of recouping any losses. Officers Rainey and Mink showed professionalism and determination in their investigation by providing Columbus detectives with all the information needed to hold the driver accountable for this violation.

2013 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Christian Niemeyer, Columbus Metro, is State Trooper of the Year

Tpr. Christian J. Niemeyer of the Columbus Metro Post realized the Patrol's highest honor when he was named 2013 State Trooper of the Year.

The award was presented at the Patrol's annual Leadership Awards in Columbus on February 7, 2014. The Division's district troopers of the year and other employees were recognized for efforts to contribute to a safer Ohio.

In 2013, Trooper Niemeyer earned the Criminal Patrol Award with more than 35 felony cases. He also earned the Ace Award for stolen vehicle recoveries.

He led his post with more than 190 OVI arrests and also recorded 39 aggressive driving violations.

Tpr. Niemeyer's supervisors praised him for his work to contribute to a safer Ohio through his activity as well as through his willingness to help develop the younger troopers on his shift.

Tpr. Niemeyer offered praise of his

own to his supervisors and coworkers at the Columbus Metro Post and also to the troopers at the Wilmington Post where he served after graduating from the Academy.

"I am fortunate enough to work with some truly talented and hard working people," Niemeyer said. "This agency has some of the very best men and women in the law enforcement community. I am blessed to call myself an Ohio State Trooper."

As State Trooper of the Year, Tpr. Niemeyer will receive the Colonel Jack Walsh IACP Scholarship to attend the IACP Annual Conference with Colonel Paul A. Pride. This privately-funded scholarship honors retired Colonel Jack Walsh, who is the only Patrol Superintendent to have served as chair the IACP/State and Provincial Division.

Tpr. Niemeyer joined the Patrol in November 2006 as a member of the



Christian J. Niemeyer

147th Academy Class. He transferred to Granville in 2011 and to the Columbus Metro Post in 2012.

Hodge earns Blue Max Award



Jason L. Hodge

The Blue Max Award goes to the officer who recovers the most stolen vehicles with apprehensions during the year. Tpr. Jason L. Hodge, Springfield, is the 2013 Blue Max Award winner.

In 2013, Tpr. Hodge recovered 22 stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$153,400 and apprehended 22 suspects. Tpr. Hodge also earned this award in 2007.

Tpr. Hodge joined the Patrol as a member of the 127th Academy

Class. He earned his commission in November 1995. He has served at Springfield throughout his career and has been voted Post Trooper of the Year three times.

Lewis wins Criminal Patrol



Nicholas L. Lewis

The Criminal Patrol Award goes to the officer with the most investigations of felony cases that lead to felony arrests.

The winner for 2013 is Tpr. Nicholas L. Lewis, of the Portsmouth Post. He finished the year with 55 criminal patrol points and 82 felony arrests. Most of his cases involved felony drug violations, while two resulted in the seizure of illegal firearms. Collectively, Tpr. Lewis' investigations resulted in the

seizure of more than two pounds of heroin, two pounds of cocaine and 3,735 prescription pills.

Tpr. Lewis graduated with the 144th Academy Class in October 2005. He transferred to Portsmouth in February 2007.

Gebhart's efforts earn Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award



Joseph A. Gebhart

Lt. Joseph A. Gebhart of the Piqua Post earned the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award.

The Chiaramonte Award recognizes troopers' dedication to humanitarian efforts, both professionally and personally.

In his 24-year career, Lt. Gebhart has been a tireless crusader, carrying the Patrol's traffic safety messages into our communities through hundreds of speech details at schools, hospitals, businesses, community

organizations and other events.

As a sergeant at Piqua, Gebhart developed numerous beneficial safety partnerships, often on his own time. He was named Piqua's post commander with his promotion to lieutenant on January 29.

Lt. Gebhart is a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June 1990 and has served in the Piqua District for most of his career.

Chiaramonte Award Nominees

- FindlaySgt. Jeffrey A. Conley
- Bucyrus Sgt. Angel R. Burgos
- WarrenTpr. Jeffrey K. Hirsch
- PiquaLt. Joseph A. Gebhart
- Columbus.....Sgt. Steven K. Herron Jr.
- Cambridge.....Tpr. Timothy R. Cunningham
- Wilmington Tpr. Sidney M. Steele
- Jackson..... Sgt. Christopher S. Kelley

Wells wins Trooper Recognition



Sherri E. Wells

Tpr. Sherri E. Wells, Jackson District, was selected as the State Trooper Recognition Award winner from nine regional recipients.

In 2013, Trooper Wells was actively involved in the successful resolution of numerous diverse cases.

She was instrumental in the apprehension of a hit-skip suspect wanted in connection with a double-fatal crash in Pike County, and also initiated a plan to identify and apprehend suspects wanted for multiple thefts of

copper wire from a MARCS tower in Ross County.

Tpr. Wells is a member of the 120th Academy Class.

Maughmer earns Rice Award



Michael V. Maughmer

Sgt. Michael V. Maughmer, Jackson District Investigative Services, won the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award to honor a sworn supervisory officer for outstanding leadership. The award is sponsored by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association.

Sgt. Maughmer is a member of the 125th Academy Class and earned his commission in 1993. He was promoted to sergeant in 2009 and transferred to his present assignment in 2011. As a leader, he has created a work environment that focuses on performance and goals, while encouraging continuous learning. His investigators work closely with the Criminal Patrol section and are encouraged to be accessible to assist road troopers with their cases.

District Trooper Recognition Awards

- Findlay..... Tpr. Kent J. Stambaugh, *plainclothes investigator*
- Bucyrus Tpr. Matthew A. Ruth, *canine handler*
- Warren..... Tpr. Michael W. Gurlea *plainclothes investigator*
- Piqua.....Tpr. James R. Bennett II, *CMV trooper*
- Columbus..... Tpr. Brian P. Alloy, *CMV trooper*
- Cambridge Tpr. Gordon R. McDonald, *CMV trooper*
- Wilmington..Tpr. Jennifer Soderquist, *crash reconstructionist*
- Jackson..... Tpr. Sherri E. Wells, *plainclothes investigator*
- GHQ..... Tpr. Dustin D. Neely, *plainclothes investigator*

Rice Award Nominees

- FindlaySgt. Nathan L. Henn
- BucyrusSgt. Richard P. Reeder
- Warren Sgt. Eleazar E. Rivera
- Piqua Sgt. Steven V. Duteil
- Columbus.....Sgt. Mark A. Leach
- Cambridge.....Sgt. James M. Faunda
- Wilmington Sgt. Thomas M. Bloomberg
- Jackson.....Sgt. Michael V. Maughmer

Stine is Dispatcher of Year



Lori D. Stine

Lori D. Stine of the New Philadelphia Dispatch Center was selected 2013 State Dispatcher of the Year from nine district and GHQ candidates.

Stine has been praised for her consistent professionalism and for fostering teamwork among her fellow dispatchers. She is forward-thinking and seeks out ways to improve operations.

In December, she transferred to a new position as the Cambridge

District's CAD specialist. Stine joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a dispatcher at Steubenville and has served at the New Philadelphia Dispatch Center since 2011.

Rhodes wins Employee Recognition



Sandra M. Rhodes

Sandra M. Rhodes, an administrative professional at the Batavia Post, received the award presented annually to recognize excellence by a civilian employee.

Rhodes began her Patrol career as a dispatcher in 1985 and has served in her current position since 1994. In 2013, she helped the Batavia Post immensely, including managing almost 700 off-duty details. She also assisted the Georgetown Post in the absence of their

administrative professional.

Employee Recognition Awards

- FindlayJacob E. Wagner
- Bucyrus Michelle A. Hall
- WarrenPatricia A. Hughes
- PiquaShannon E. Tackett
- Columbus.....Christina L. McGinnis
- Cambridge..... Thomas S. Tonnoos
- Wilmington Sandra M. Rhodes
- Jackson.....Jennifer J. Gompf
- Criminal Investigations..... Jaclyn D. Snyder
- Field Operations.....Lisa R. Fulk
- Personnel.Judith A. Celnicker
- Special Operations Matthew L. Roaden
- Strategic Services..... Todd D. Wallace

Oldham is Technician of the Year



Brian W. Oldham

ET2 Brian W. Oldham of the Piqua District was selected Electronic Technician of the Year from eight district and GHQ candidates.

Oldham's top priority is officer safety and he embraces the important role electronic technicians play in making a positive difference for troopers on the road and dispatchers at the posts. Oldham started with the Patrol in 2011 and has served with the Piqua Team throughout his career.

District ET Award Winners

- Findlay ET3 Kraig A. Kent
- BucyrusET3 Frederick R. Lust
- WarrenET2 James D. Rudibaugh
- Piqua ET2 Brian W. Oldham
- ColumbusET3 Dana A. Reasoner
- CambridgeET2 Michael C. Cover
- Wilmington..... ET2 Brian E. Shepherd
- Jackson..... ET2 Roger D. Starnier
- GHQ..... ET3 Eric T. Devoe

Allen wins MCEI of the Year



Albert J. Allen

Albert J. Allen, Bucyrus District, won the 2013 State Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year Award. Commercial motor vehicle troopers, load limit inspector troopers and motor carrier enforcement inspectors are eligible for the award.

Allen began his career with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and transferred to the Patrol in 1995. He is well respected by both his fellow employees and the trucking industry.

District MCEI Award Winners

- Findlay MCEI Melanie B. Kurtz
- Bucyrus MCEI Albert J. Allen
- WarrenMCEI Edward S. Wiklinski Jr.
- Piqua..... MCEI Brandon M. Evans
- Columbus..... MCEI Bob G. Walker Jr.
- Cambridge MCEI Michael R. Frye
- Wilmington..... Tpr. John W. Asbrock
- Jackson..... MCEI Anthony R. Lester

Chamberlain is Agent of the Year

Agent Joseph C. Chamberlain, Canton District, is the Ohio Investigative Unit Agent of the Year, which recognizes the agents who enforce state, federal and local laws with emphasis on liquor, food stamp and tobacco offenses.

In 2013, Agent Chamberlain assisted with two successful nuisance abatements: an after-hours, illegal sales location, which resulted in 17 criminal charges, and a nuisance abatement, which led to the closure of an establishment with a long history of violations. He also completed six trace-back investigations, with three resulting in enforcement action.

OIU District Award Winners

Athens Agent Byron R. Guinther
 Canton Agent Joseph C. Chamberlain
 Cincinnati Agent Diane M. Corey
 Cleveland Agent Kimberly Bartholomew
 Columbus Agent Richard A. Hupp
 Toledo Agent David A. Garcia

Statewide Auxiliary award winners honored at Patrol ceremony

Earl Ulmer Meritorious Service Award

The Ulmer Award is the highest honor bestowed upon an Auxiliary officer for outstanding service, courage, valor or heroism. Aux. Ofc. Christopher T. Scarberry, Zanesville, earned the Ulmer Award for his life-saving efforts on August 20, 2013.

On that date, Aux. Ofc. Scarberry and Tpr. Joshua A. Weaver were on patrol in Muskingum County when they attempted to initiate a traffic stop for a speed violation, but the suspect vehicle continued on at a high rate of speed to the Newton Township Volunteer Fire Department. When the vehicle stopped, Tpr. Weaver quickly learned that an infant in the vehicle was not breathing.

While Tpr. Weaver called for the emergency medical services, Aux. Ofc. Scarberry, who is an emergency medical technician, began treating the baby boy. He removed the boy's clothing to lower his body temperature, cleared his airway and administered breathing assistance until the child began breathing on his own. He then continued first aid until EMS arrived on the scene to transport the boy to Good Samaritan Hospital where he was treated and released.

Aux. Ofc. Scarberry also received a Certificate of Recognition from the Patrol for this incident.



Christopher T. Scarberry

William J. Duffy Award of Excellence

Aux. Lt. Bryon M. Doty, Delaware, received the 2013 Duffy Award. He joined the Auxiliary in 2011.

The Duffy Award is named for the late Aux. Lt. Colonel William Duffy. To be eligible for the award, members of the Auxiliary must have a minimum of 300 volunteer hours per year over three consecutive years, maintain physical fitness and respond to emergency calls and special details when needed.



Bryon M. Doty

Auxiliary of the Year

Aux. Lt. Col. Denis M. Hite, Chardon, won the State Auxiliary Officer of the Year Award for his excellence and dedication as a volunteer.

The Auxiliary Officer of the Year Award is presented to the officer who volunteers the most hours in a given year while demonstrating the core values of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary.

Aux. Lt. Col. Hite joined the Auxiliary in 1993 and is assigned to the Chardon Post, where he also works as a part-time maintenance repair worker. He volunteered 535 hours in 2013, covering a variety of details and assignments.



Denis M. Hite

District Auxiliary Award Winners

Findlay Aux. Maj. Cynthia A. Drake
 Bucyrus Aux. Maj. Lois J. Lust
 Warren Aux. Lt. Col. Denis M. Hite
 Piqua Aux. Ofc. Jason L. Kidder

Columbus Aux. Lt. Bryon M. Doty
 Cambridge Aux. Ofc. Christopher T. Scarberry
 Wilmington Aux. Sgt. Thomas S. Goodwin
 Jackson Aux. Capt. Timothy S. Massie

Post Troopers and Dispatchers of the Year **2013**

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Findlay District | | |
| Lima | Justin N. Slusser | N/A |
| Defiance | James D. Foltz | N/A |
| Findlay | Philip R. Mohre | Denise S. Blue* |
| Toledo | Jacob M. Teal | N/A |
| Van Wert | Sean P. Williams | Steven B. Numbers |
| Bowling Green | Evan M. Slates* | James R. Barlow |
| Swanton | Gregory A. Harkey | |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bucyrus District | | |
| Ashland | James K. Speicher | N/A |
| Bucyrus | Craig B. Overly | Pamela J. Hershberger |
| Sandusky | John F. McGlashan | Brian A. Flahiff* |
| Norwalk | Edwin Lopez Jr. | N/A |
| Elyria | Juan R. Santiago Jr. | N/A |
| Marion | John R. Banta | N/A |
| Mansfield | Stephen D. Gillum | Jacquelyn S. Martin |
| Fremont | Garry M. Odom | N/A |
| Wooster | Brandon J. Richardson* | Elza E. Lloyd |
| Milan | Bryan A. Holden | N/A |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Warren District | | |
| Ashtabula | Scotty J. Balcomb | N/A |
| Clev. Metro | Timothy J. Kay | N/A |
| Chardon | John R. Nemastil | N/A |
| Canfield | Charles E. Hoskin | Tamara A. Scheetz* |
| Medina | Jared L. Haslar | Jennifer J. Pakish |
| Ravenna | John L. Lamm* | Angela L. Harmon |
| Canton | Mark D. Starnes | Trevor L. Heavlin |
| Warren | Kristopher J. Conaway | Amy M. Zatvarnicky |
| Hiram | Charles E. Ivory | N/A |
| Berea | N/A | Brittney N. Horning |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Piqua District | | |
| Wapakoneta | Steven G. Posada | N/A |
| Springfield | David G. Slanker | Cynthia J. Bentley |
| Xenia | Jaysen P. Kelly | N/A |
| Piqua | Joseph M. Weeks* | Jennifer M. Dodd |
| Dayton | Christopher L. Ellison | Katherine E. Welbaum* |
| Marysville | Jeremy D. Allen | N/A |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Columbus District | | |
| Delaware | Nicholas R. Shaw | Michelle R. Thrash |
| Lancaster | Kaitlin D. Fuller | Rhonda L. Moore |
| Cols. Metro | Christian J. Niemeyer** | N/A |
| Granville | Jermaine D. Thaxton | N/A |
| West Jeff. | Timothy L. Ehrenborg | Adam E. Quinn* |
| Mt. Gilead | Joshua G. Stryker | N/A |
| Circleville | Kyle L. Mackie | N/A |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Cambridge District | | |
| St. Clairsville | Donald J. Herink | David L. Snyder |
| Lisbon | Jodi E. Bowlen | Geraldo Muniz Jr. |
| Cambridge | Scott E. Buxton* | Amy E. Tiongo |
| Steubenville | Darren R. Johnson | N/A |
| Zanesville | Keith A. Roe | N/A |
| New Phila. | Christopher C. DeMuth | Lori D. Stine** |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Wilmington District | | |
| Georgetown | Kyle D. Chamblin | N/A |
| Hamilton | Matthew R. Beccaccio* | N/A |
| Batavia | Drew A. Untied | Neil E. Yockey |
| Wilmington | Jeremy B. Priest | Susan E. Hamilton |
| Cin. Metro | Kyle E. Doebrich | N/A |
| Lebanon | Jeffrey E. Staples | Deborah K. Griffith* |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Jackson District | | |
| Athens | Coy D. Lehman II | Brandon M. Oliver |
| Gallipolis | Charles W. Fourspring | N/A |
| Jackson | Daniel H. Saultz | John W. Young* |
| Ironton | Joshua C. Craft | N/A |
| Chillicothe | Bobby D. Brown | N/A |
| Portsmouth | Nathan E. Lawson | Scott N. Caudill |
| Marietta | Dustin R. Payne* | N/A |

| | Troopers | Dispatchers |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| GHQ | | |
| Statehouse | | Betty A. Tatum |
| Cols. Comm. Center | | Ian M. Miller* |

* District Winners **State Winners

2013 Criminal Patrol Awards

12 Points

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tpr. Colin B. Acciavatti | Sgt. Kevin D. Dillard | Tpr. Nicholas L. Lewis | Tpr. Shawn M. Simms |
| Tpr. Jason N. Archer | Tpr. Timothy S. Dobbins | Tpr. Johnnie H. Maier | Tpr. David G. Slanker |
| Tpr. James M. Baker | Tpr. Kyle E. Doebrich | Tpr. Ann M. Malone | Tpr. Evan M. Slates |
| Tpr. Jason A. Barhorst | Tpr. Darrell M. Dowler | Tpr. Ryan G. Mann | Tpr. Justin N. Slusser |
| Tpr. Scott W. Bayless | Sgt. Steven V. Duteil | Tpr. Jerrold T. March | Tpr. James D. Sparkman |
| Sgt. Kurt D. Beidelschies | Tpr. Donald S. Edgington | Tpr. Brian M. McGill | Tpr. James K. Speicher |
| Tpr. Landon T. Berger | Tpr. Timothy L. Ehrenborg | Tpr. Chad M. McMunn | Tpr. Ryan F. Stewart |
| Tpr. Christopher H. Beyer | Tpr. Christopher L. Ellison | Tpr. Brandon M. Miller | Tpr. Eric M. Stroud |
| Tpr. Joshua M. Beynon | Sgt. Erika A. Englund | Tpr. Hiram Morales | Tpr. Jacob M. Teal |
| Tpr. Charles R. Bower III | Tpr. Michael K. Ervin | Tpr. Shane M. Morrow | Tpr. David E. Theobald Jr. |
| Tpr. Robert C. Bradley Jr. | Tpr. Byron D. Foxx | Tpr. Kyle D. Neidich | Sgt. Timothy J. Timberlake |
| Tpr. David M. Brown | Tpr. Kaitlin D. Fuller | Tpr. Christian J. Niemeyer | Tpr. Michael S. Trader |
| Tpr. Bobby D. Brown | Tpr. Matthew N. Geer | Tpr. David A. Norman | Tpr. Terrence D. Vollmer |
| Tpr. Colt W. Browne | Tpr. Erik A. Golias | Tpr. Cristian A. Perrin | Tpr. Casimir A. VonSacken |
| Tpr. James W. Bryner | Tpr. Thomas P. Halko | Tpr. Thurman D. Peterson | Tpr. Benjamin J. Wallace |
| Tpr. Joshua B. Bumgardner | Tpr. Jared L. Haslar | Tpr. Ryan W. Pickett | Tpr. Joseph M. Weeks |
| Sgt. Shad E. Caplinger | Tpr. Matthew D. Himes | Tpr. Kyle E. Pohlable | Tpr. Timothy B. Williamson |
| Tpr. Ricky T. Caraway | Tpr. Bryan A. Holden | Tpr. Stephen W. Roe | Tpr. Michael R. Wilson |
| Tpr. Thomas G. Cassity | Tpr. Jessie D. Johnson | Tpr. Michael D. Rucker | Sgt. Scott M. Wyckhouse |
| Tpr. Kristopher J. Conaway | Sgt. Nicholas S. Johnson II | Tpr. Matthew A. Ruth | Tpr. Tawanna L. Young |
| Tpr. Joshua C. Craft | Tpr. Timothy J. Kay | Tpr. Juan R. Santiago Jr. | |
| Tpr. Steven P. Daugherty | Tpr. John L. Lamm | Tpr. Rustun K. Schack | |
| Tpr. William S. Davis | Sgt. Neil D. Laughlin | Tpr. Benjamin R. Seabolt | |

5 Points

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tpr. Matthew R. Abbey | Tpr. Nickolas B. Goodnite | Tpr. Anthony L. Kuhn | Tpr. Melanie L. Provenzano |
| Tpr. Benjamin R. Addy | Sgt. Christopher B. Goss | Tpr. T. Wade Lewis | Tpr. Patrick J. Reagan |
| Sgt. Stacey L. Arnold | Tpr. Timothy M. Gossett | Sgt. Joseph J. Luebbbers | Tpr. Brandon J. Richardson |
| Tpr. Tara J. Barnhart | Tpr. Troy R. Gray | Tpr. Bruce A. Mac Laine | Sgt. Lawrence Roberts Jr. |
| PO2 William H. Baron | Tpr. Kaitlyn M. Griffiths | Tpr. Kyle L. Mackie | Tpr. Ryan E. Robirds |
| Sgt. Jeffery L. Bernard | Tpr. Timothy A. Grimm | Tpr. Craig A. Malone | Tpr. Alejo Romero |
| Tpr. Jeremy S. Bice | Tpr. David A. Grooms | Tpr. Gregory A. Mamula | Tpr. Michael J. Ross |
| Tpr. Stanley R. Bittinger II | Tpr. Jason W. Halstead | Tpr. Anthony D. Martin | Tpr. Phillip M. Rutherford |
| Tpr. Nicholas R. Boes | Tpr. Adam J. Hartford | Tpr. Ryan O. Maynard | Tpr. Michael D. Smith |
| Tpr. Kevin M. Brown | Tpr. Joseph S. Heavener | Sgt. Todd D. McDonald | Tpr. Tammy D. Soto |
| Tpr. Jordan T. Butler | Tpr. Samuel K. Hendricks | Tpr. Mark A. McFann | Tpr. Heath G. Strawser |
| Tpr. Scott E. Buxton | Sgt. Nathan L. Henn | Tpr. Brian R. McFarland | Sgt. Jermaine D. Thaxton |
| Tpr. DeMarques L. Camper | Tpr. Bradley A. Hess | Tpr. Sean T. McLaughlin | Tpr. Troy L. Thompson |
| Tpr. Brian A. Cannon | Tpr. Rocky J. Hise | Tpr. Jeff R. McNamara | Tpr. Ryan S. Tysinger |
| Tpr. Kristi J. Comstock | Tpr. Jason R. Hofmann | Tpr. Mark A. Menendez | Tpr. Drew A. Untied |
| Sgt. Chris A. Coverstone | Tpr. Eric D. Holbrook | Tpr. Scott B. Mershaman | Tpr. Stephen B. Vanderford |
| Tpr. Evan A. Cox | Tpr. Michael F. Hounshell | Tpr. Jason R. Metzger | Tpr. Robert V. VanDyke |
| Tpr. Samuel L. Davis | Sgt. Delmer K. Hurd | Tpr. Shawn F. Milburn | Sgt. Ricky L. Vitte Jr. |
| Tpr. Anthony R. Day | Tpr. Jason R. Hutchison | Tpr. Chadwick W. Miller | Tpr. Christopher A. Ward |
| Tpr. Justin D. Dement | Tpr. Jacques A. Illanz | Tpr. Jeremy L. Morris | Tpr. Robert N. Webb |
| Tpr. Benjamin C. Dennison | Tpr. Steven R. Ilo | Tpr. Daniel W. Morrison | Tpr. Jonathan R. Werner |
| Tpr. Daniel J. Dubelko | Tpr. Charles M. Jackson | Tpr. Matthew L. Mossor | Tpr. Sean P. Williams |
| Tpr. Andrew T. Dunn | Tpr. Tieara M. Jones | Sgt. Jason P. Murfield | Tpr. Robert J. Wilson |
| Tpr. Daniel J. Edelbrock | Tpr. Matthew R. Keener | Tpr. John R. Nemastil | Tpr. Adrian E. Wilson |
| Tpr. Sean L. Eitel | Tpr. Kurt A. Kelley | Tpr. Christopher M. Newman | Tpr. Vic L. Wolfe |
| Lt. Lawrence V. Firmi | Tpr. Griffin P. Kelley | Tpr. Craig B. Overly | Sgt. Andrew R. Worcester |
| Tpr. David S. Francway | Tpr. Logan M. Kirkendall | Tpr. Joshua L. Patrick | Tpr. Zachary J. Yoder |
| Tpr. Andrew P. Geer | Tpr. LaDonna M. Klocinski | Tpr. Michael S. Phipps | |
| Tpr. Joseph R. Glascox | Tpr. Trevor L. Koontz | Tpr. Thomas R. Podulka | |
| Tpr. Scott A. Gonzales | Tpr. Drew W. Kuehne | Sgt. Craig M. Polasky | |

2013 Auto Larceny Enforcement Awards

Ace Award

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tpr. Matthew R. Abbey | Tpr. Matthew M. Manly Jr. |
| Tpr. Benjamin R. Addy | Tpr. Ryan G. Mann |
| Tpr. David M. Brown | Tpr. Allen C. Marcum |
| Tpr. Bobby D. Brown | Tpr. Matthew A. Murphy |
| Tpr. Timothy K. Bullock | Tpr. Christian J. Niemeyer |
| Sgt. Robert L. Burd | Tpr. Dustin R. Payne |
| Tpr. Timothy S. Dobbins | Tpr. Thurman D. Peterson |
| Tpr. Darrell M. Dowler | Tpr. Steven G. Posada |
| Tpr. Donald S. Edgington | Tpr. Lawrence Roberts Jr. |
| Tpr. Christopher L. Ellison | Sgt. Matthew R. Schmenk |
| Tpr. Byron D. Foxx | Tpr. David G. Slanker |
| Tpr. Samuel K. Hendricks | Tpr. Justin N. Slusser |
| Tpr. Jason L. Hodge | Tpr. Jacob M. Teal |
| Tpr. Daniel H. Jesse | Sgt. Timothy J. Timberlake |
| Tpr. Craig A. Malone | Tpr. Ryan S. Tysinger |
| Tpr. Gregory A. Mamula | |

Four Bolts

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tpr. James W. Bryner | Tpr. Evan A. Williams |
| Tpr. Gary L. Griffeth | Tpr. Adrian E. Wilson |

Three Bolts

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tpr. Clinton D. Armstrong | Tpr. Daniel J. Edelbrock |
| Tpr. Russell A. Davis | Tpr. Matthew D. Himes |
| Tpr. Gregory L. Cunningham | Sgt. Ricky L. Vitte |

Award Of Excellence

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Tpr. William R. Bowers | Tpr. Jack M. Reno |
| Tpr. Daniel R. Brown | Tpr. Larry A. Skaggs |
| Tpr. Michael R. McCarthy | |

Certificate of Recognition

Tpr. David E. Theobald, Cincinnati Metro, received a Certificate of Recognition for lifesaving actions.

On November 21, 2013, Tpr. Theobald was conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 71 when another motorist stopped and told Tpr. Theobald that one of his passengers was not breathing. Tpr. Theobald called for emergency medical response and then ran to the vehicle to assist. He found a female passenger slumped over in the rear seat. He was unable to locate the woman's pulse and determined she was not breathing.

When Tpr. Theobald tilted the victim's head back and lifted her chin to clear her airway, the woman suddenly gasped and began breathing again. Tpr. Theobald continued to provide aid until emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene. The victim was transported to a local hospital where she was treated for a suspected drug overdose.

Tpr. Daniel J. Dubelko, Warren, received a Certificate of Recognition for his skilled handling of a dangerous situation.

On December 27, 2013, the Warren Post received a BOLO for a suicidal male driving a gold Ford Escape on State Route 46. Tpr. Dubelko observed the vehicle traveling northbound and followed it as the driver pulled into the parking lot of a hotel. As the driver exited the vehicle, Tpr. Dubelko



David E. Theobald

made contact with him. The driver consented to a pat down, but started to reach into his right coat pocket.

Tpr. Dubelko removed his hand from the pocket and told him to stop moving. Instead, the driver put his hand in his left coat pocket. Tpr. Dubelko took him to the ground and handcuffed him without incident. When Tpr. Dubelko found a loaded pistol in the driver's left coat pocket, the driver stated he had intended to check in to the hotel and commit suicide.

When asked about reaching for the weapon, the man said he did not want to go back to the hospital and he was going to shoot himself or make the trooper do it to avoid going back. The driver was subsequently transported to Trumbull Memorial Hospital for evaluation.

Tpr. Shane R. Zehnder, Sandusky, received a Certificate of Recognition for his skilled handling of a dangerous situation.

On January 23, Tpr. Zehnder was completing a crash investigation in Erie County when an out-of-control vehicle crashed into the tow wrecker and its operator at the scene, dragging and seriously injuring the operator.

Tpr. Zehnder and Erie County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hammersmith rendered aid to the tow operator, using a tourniquet to control extensive bleeding from the victim's leg. Although the man ultimately had to have his lower right leg amputated, the actions of Tpr. Zehnder and Sgt. Hammersmith saved the victim from a potentially life-threatening situation.



Shane R. Zehnder



Daniel J. Dubelko

Jackson District



From left: Lt. Max Norris, Gallipolis; Lt. Michael Gore, Portsmouth; and Lt. Barry Call, Ironton.

The Chillicothe and Portsmouth posts were honored with AAA’s Platinum Community Traffic Safety Award for their safety efforts and enforcement activities geared towards making communities safer. The Athens, Gallipolis and Ironton posts earned AAA’s Gold Award, the second highest recognition to be given. To be eligible for the annual awards, agencies must conduct traffic safety promotions and educate the public on safety topics. Local law enforcement agencies also received recognition.

“We are proud of all these departments for their achievement and participation in the Community Traffic Safety Program,” said JJ Miller, AAA East Central Safety Advisor. “They went above and beyond the call of duty by organizing projects to make their communities safer places for motorists and residents.”

Bowling Green



Bowling Green Post Commander Lt. Jerrod Savidge explains the collaborative Wood County Safe Communities program, *Swallow Your Pride, Call For a Ride*, which offered free rides over the New Year holiday.

In a collaborative effort with Wood County Safe Communities, from 6 p.m. on New Year’s Eve to 6 a.m. on New Year’s Day, the Bowling Green Post, Bowling Green Police Department, BGSU Police Department, Downtown Bowling Green Association and local wrecker and bar owners provided free rides to citizens who may have had too much to drink and no safe means of transportation.

The effort provided 124 safe rides to people in Bowling Green. The first call came in at 5:40 p.m. and the last call was at 5:10 a.m. The busiest time was from midnight through 3:15 a.m. (45 calls).

Sandusky



On January 23, Tpr. Carl Gutman and Lt. Anthony DeChoudens participated in a *5 Minutes for Life* presentation to the varsity boys and girls basketball teams and varsity cheerleaders at Oak Harbor High School.

Posts work to make holiday season brighter

Patrol employees around the state celebrated the holiday season by donating their time and efforts to help others. In what is an annual tradition, posts hosted holiday parties, groups of employees visited hospitals and nursing homes to deliver gifts and good cheer, troopers participated in Shop with a Cop and Ohio Troopers Caring, and numerous facilities collected food, clothing and toys for those in need.

Portsmouth



The Portsmouth Post hosted a Shop with Teddy Trooper event.

Canfield



Tpr. Charles Hoskin at a Summit County event.

Bowling Green



Sgt. Robert Ashenfelter helped at the Wood County Shop with a Cop event.

Cambridge



Tpr. Brian Neff helps out at an event at WalMart in Cambridge.

Wapakoneta



Tpr. Mike Mahaffey made a few friends at Auglaize County's Shop with a Cop.

Fremont



Tpr. Mark Sorg at Sundusky County's Shop with a Cop.

Gallipolis



Gallipolis Post personnel visited the Overbrook Center in Middleport.

Columbus District



Aux. Ofc. Eric Dill at one of several events hosted by Columbus District personnel.

Marysville



Sgt. Darrell Harris (above) and Lt. Molly Clemens also helped out at the Columbus events.

Ironton



Tpr. Matt Lloyd and his wife Sarah helped a shopper at one of Ironton's events. The post also collected 2,500 cans of food for local food banks.

Cleveland



Sgt. Kevin Harris was one of the Cleveland units at a multi-agency event in Cuyahoga County.

Wilmington District



Lebanon and Batavia personnel assisted the Cincinnati Bengals with a holiday food drive at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati.

Summit County



Hiram, Elyria and Canton personnel at a Summit County event.

West Jefferson



Lt. Marty Fellure and a small friend were part of the West Jefferson contingent helping at a Shop with Cop event in London.

Springfield



Tpr. William Ward hosted Cub Scouts from Pack 23 at the Springfield Post. Tpr. Ward spoke to the scouts about responsibility to help them earn their core values badge.

Strategic Services



Cub Scouts and families from Pack 284 (Bellepoint) toured the Ohio Statehouse with Lt. Rudy and Lani Zupanc on November 9, 2013. Tpr. Anthony Kovach, Capitol Operations, provided some great historical facts and by the end of the evening, the boys had learned a great deal about Ohio history and government while working on part of their citizenship pin requirements.

Georgetown/Batavia



On November 26, 2013, units from Batavia and Georgetown participated in a TESTS (Troopers Educating Students Through Sports) basketball game against the faculty of Felicity-Franklin High School in Clermont County. Students donated canned goods for admission to the game and more than 2,800 canned items were donated to a local food shelter. At halftime, Tpr. Corey Wright spoke to the students about traffic safety.

Back row, from left: referee/varsity player Jordan Utter, Tpr. Derek Disbennett, Tpr. Kyle Klontz, Tpr. Kole Wheeler, Ofc. Chris Shouse (Clermont County S.O.), Tpr. Scott Marshall, referee/varsity player Louis Quilles. Bottom row: Lt. Randy McElfresh, Sgt. Elmer Arguelles (U.S. Army), Disp. Chris Phelps, Jake Jones.

Marine Corps Marathon



On October 27, 2013, Patrol employees from around the state competed in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC.

From left: Tpr. Brian Cowles and Sgt. Brad Bucey, Canfield; S/Lt. Mike Marucci, Field Operations; Tpr. Mike Landers, SRT; and Lt. Jerad Sutton, Ashtabula.

Gordon E. Jackson III

Lieutenant Gordon E. Jackson III, Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on December 27, 2013. He joined the Patrol in September 1985 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Cambridge Post. He became a member of the 116th Academy Class in April 1987. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Dayton Post, where he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. In 1996, he transferred to the Piqua District Headquarters Commercial Enforcement Unit and earned a Certificate of Recognition. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and remained at the Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

He completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2007.



Jeffrey D. LaRoche

Lieutenant Jeffrey D. LaRoche, St. Clairsville Post, retired on February 20, 2014. He joined the Patrol in April 1984 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Marietta Post. He became a member of the 114th Academy Class in April 1985. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Wooster Post. In 1987, he transferred to the St. Clairsville Post, where he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year in 1991. In 1993, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Steubenville Post. In 1994, he returned to the St. Clairsville Post. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Cambridge Post to serve as post commander. In 2010, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the St. Clairsville Post.

He completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command in 2010.



Keith D. Palmer Jr.

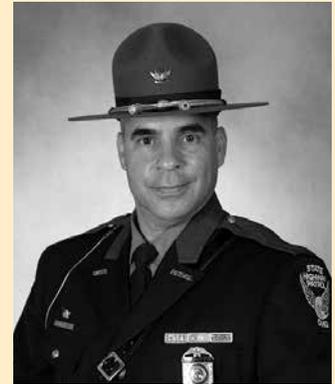
Sergeant Keith D. Palmer Jr., Ashtabula Post, retired on February 21, 2014, after more than 31 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1982 as a member of the 112th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Ashtabula Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1992 and 1999. In 2000, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Chardon Post. In 2003, he transferred to the Warren Post, before returning to the Ashtabula Post 2007.



Eliezer Fontanez

Trooper Eliezer Fontanez, Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on December 6, 2013, after more than 28 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in 1985 as a member of the 115th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Norwalk Post.

In 1991 he transferred to the Elyria Post where he was named Post Trooper of the Year in 1991, 1992 and 1994 by his peers. In 1994 he went on to earn District and State Trooper of the Year honors. In November 2007 he transferred to his most recent assignment in commercial enforcement.



Steve Schemine

Trooper Steven M. Schemine, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on January 10, 2014, after nearly 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1990 as a member of the 120th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Delaware Post, where in 1992 he received the Superintendent's Citation of Merit Award. During his career he also served at the Zanesville and Mt. Gilead Posts, before transferring to his most recent assignment at the Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit in 2013.



Jeffrey J. Shane

Trooper Jeffrey J. Shane, Chillicothe Post, retired on January 16, 2014, after nearly 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1984 as a member of the 113th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Circleville Post. As a trooper, he also served at the West Jefferson and Springfield posts. He has earned the Certificate of Recognition in 1988 and 1990, and he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year in 1993 and 1994.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology from Ohio University in 1982.



Shirley L. Szumlic

Dispatcher Shirley L. Szumlic, Capital Operations at the Statehouse, retired on December 13, 2013, after 39 years with the Patrol. She began her Patrol career in 1974 as a dispatcher assigned to the Wooster Post. As a dispatcher, she has served at the Granville Post, Columbus Communications Center, General Headquarters and at Capitol Operations at the Statehouse. She was selected as Dispatcher of the Year four times during her career.



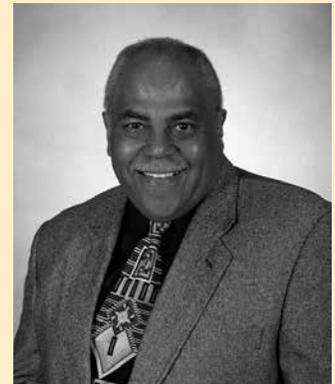
Raymond L. Cottrill

Stationary Load Limit Inspector Raymond L. Cottrill, Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on January 3, 2014, after more than 13 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 2000 as a maintenance repair worker 2 assigned to the Warren Post. In 2006, he was promoted to a stationary load limit inspector and transferred to his most recent assignment at the Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Clifford Banks

Storekeeper 2 Clifford Banks retired on January 3, 2014, after more than 25 years with the Patrol, serving at the Tailor Shop throughout his career. He joined the Patrol in August 1988 as a storekeeper 1, and he was promoted to a storekeeper 2 in 2004.



Joel R. Hopwood

External Auditor 2 Joel R. Hopwood, LEADS, retired on February 1, 2014, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1984 as a radio dispatcher at the Columbus Communications Center. He was promoted to data systems coordinator and transferred to LEADS Control in 1990. In 1992, he was promoted to data security specialist in the former Office of Telecommunications and Computer Services. He was promoted to an external auditor 2 in 2010 in the Office of Strategic Services. He was the Columbus District Dispatcher of the Year in 1986 and was named Dispatcher of the Year for the Columbus Communications Center in 1987 and 1988. He also earned a Certificate of Recognition in 1988. He received an Employee Recognition Award as a data security specialist in 1992.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from The Ohio State University in 1978.



Cynthia J. Bentley

Dispatcher Cynthia J. Bentley, Springfield Dispatch Center, retired February 28, 2014, after 23 years with the Patrol. She began her Patrol career in 1991 as a dispatcher assigned to the Springfield Post. As a dispatcher, she also served at the former Bellefontaine Post, General Headquarters, and the Bowling Green Dispatch Center. She was the Post Dispatcher of the Year in 1992, 1994, 1995, 2004, 2005, and 2013 and District Dispatcher of the Year in 2005.



The inspiration for this communication comes from my attendance at the annual Leadership Awards and my brief observation of some of the Winter Olympics.

What I experienced at the banquet and observed taking place at the Olympics when the awards were presented could be summarized in two words: *competition and encouragement*. Individuals were encouraged in their competition and they did not gloat when they won, but sent a word of encouragement to the ones who did not receive the award or win the race. Competition should increase the efforts of everyone to do his or her best. But it should not separate us from working effectively with each other.

In First Corinthians 9:24 we read: "Do you not know that in a race all runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." Life itself calls for us to compete—against ourselves as we attempt to accomplish more and do things more efficiently today than we did yesterday, and tomorrow better than today.

Encouraged by what can be accomplished if everyone seeks to become more effective there is healthy competition as one measures what she or he is doing compared to what someone else is accomplishing. Of course consideration needs to be given as to how we might be competing. There is no credit to be

given to one on a motorcycle racing someone who is on a bicycle. What brings out the best in a person is when the playing field is level or even tipped slightly in favor of the one with whom an individual is competing.

One may have more experience but that might be overcome by a strong determination to excel. Not everyone can win but everyone can—and should—give it his or her best every day.

But encouragement is an important ingredient for quality competition. In Romans 15:5 we read: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity."

Not everyone can win the gold. Not every trooper can be the Trooper of the Year. Not every dispatcher can be the Dispatcher of the Year. But at the banquet it was great to see the congratulations and encouragement being given to one another regardless of what award was received. As I experienced that spirit at the banquet so I have seen it displayed at the Olympics.

Yes, there is the disappointment but there is not the sense of defeat or failure. Instead there is mutual encouragement which leads to unity. This, at least for the Patrol, means a more effective fulfillment of the mission to make Ohio safer every day.

Competition is healthy when it is accomplished not by blowing out the competitor's candle but by making



your own candle burn more brightly. Then when all the candles are burning more brightly the Patrol is fulfilling its mission more efficiently and effectively every day.

Be assured that all three of us who are honored to be your chaplains are not prepared to compete with you in what you are called upon to accomplish every day. But we are eager to encourage you with the blessings of our Heavenly Father every day.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Ellsworth

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain

