

FLYING

Vol. 53 No. 1

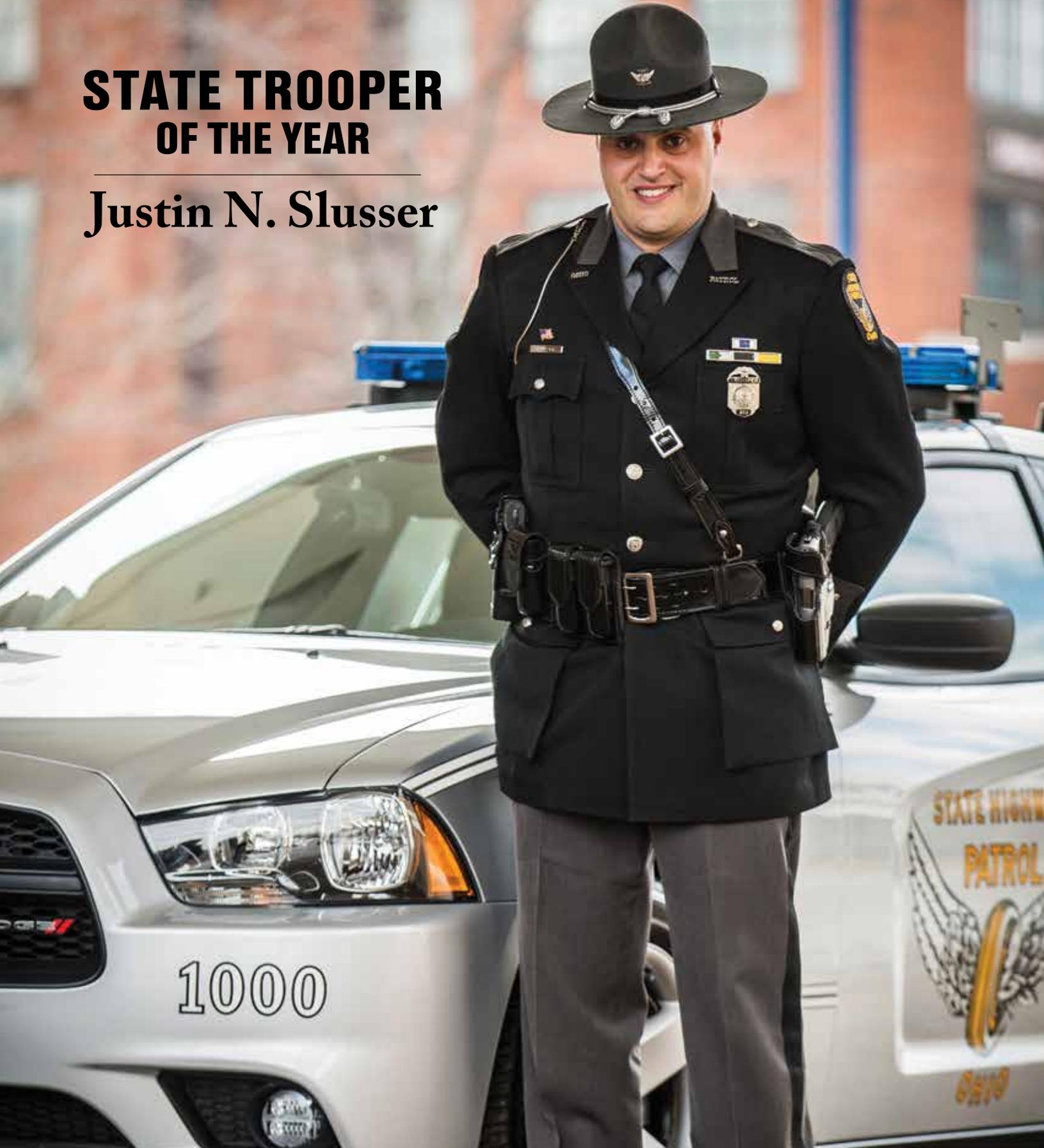


WHEEL

January - March 2015

STATE TROOPER OF THE YEAR

Justin N. Slusser



4



4. A YEAR OF RESULTS

In the second half of 2014, OSHP functional activity increased significantly in several key categories, compared to 5-year averages for the same time period. This has allowed the Patrol to make major progress in deterring criminal activity in the state.

5. STRATEGIC THINKING

One of this year's efforts to focus on an excellent future is the creation of the Office of Planning and Analysis, which will oversee several critical support service functions within the Division.

6. HISTORY UNIT

There are significant changes to the patrol's History Unit located in the Shipley building's lower level.

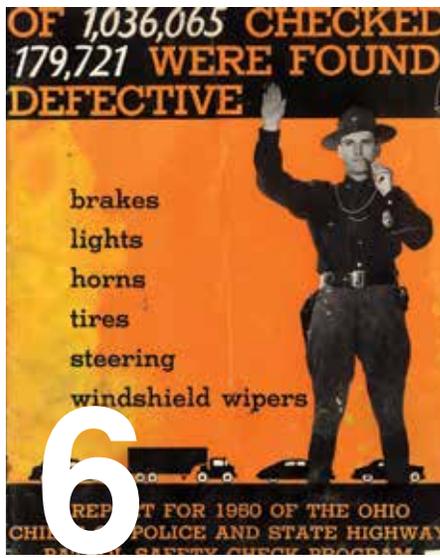
10. LEADERSHIP AWARDS

At a ceremony that honored many individuals for their hard work over the past year, the 2014 Ohio State Highway Patrol Leadership Awards concluded with the Tpr. Justin N. Slusser's selection as the 2014 State Trooper of the Year.

22. AROUND THE STATE

Traffic safety partnerships, charitable activities, speech details, special events and more: see what's happening in your area of the state.

5



6

10



22



ON THE COVER

Trooper Justin N. Slusser is this year's Trooper of the Year. Please see story on page 10.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Colonel's Letter



Good leaders can be many things.

They demonstrate positive attitudes, delegate well or inspire others to do their best. They are committed and confident. They do the right thing, for the right reason, all the time, even when no one is watching.

The annual Leadership Awards Ceremony, which we held in February, is an opportunity to recognize a handful of leaders for their contributions. They are the cream of the crop. But in the Ohio State Highway Patrol, we are fortunate to find those qualities everywhere we look, from our uniformed officers to our civilian employees.

There are leadership opportunities for every single one of us, no matter our role. A leader is not defined by his or her position in an organization, and a position does not automatically make someone a leader.

A leader is someone who steps up and gets others to willingly work towards the achievement of a goal. They lead an agency to achieve things that others might find impossible. Without leaders, we could not do what we do.

It's important to show recognition to these leaders not just once a year, but every day. I thank all of you who embody the characteristics of great leaders, who do it not for the recognition, but because of who you are and because you care.

I'm proud of our efforts in 2014, and we have a lot of exciting plans for 2015. And as we move forward, it is imperative to remember the need for professionalism and a focus on officer safety. Law enforcement officers nationwide are facing challenging times. The public continues to express concerns about our profession. Remember that in many instances your traffic stop is the only individual contact a person will have with law enforcement, which means you have an incredible amount of influence over the public's perception of both the Patrol and law enforcement as a whole. We should use these opportunities to demonstrate true professionalism, treating others with dignity and respect!

I'm confident in the great leadership that runs throughout the Division, and equally confident that Ohio will be a safer place because of your hard work!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Paul A. Pride".

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent



BY THE NUMBERS:

• A YEAR OF RESULTS •

IN THE SECOND HALF of 2014, OSHP functional activity increased significantly in several key categories, compared to 5-year averages for the same time period. This has allowed the Patrol to make major progress in deterring criminal activity in the state.

Our balanced approach of focusing on traffic safety, while increasing criminal patrol operations, is paying off. We are making it difficult for drug couriers to move their product into and out of our state (see successes on page 18).

Ties with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies continue to strengthen. Many troopers actively participated in joint drug task force operations, shield details and OVI checkpoints. The year also saw several successful 6-State Trooper Project enforcements and I-75 Challenges, as well as one I-90/94 Challenge. These events help solidify our partnerships with other state law enforcement agencies, helping reduce crash-causing violations that lead to traffic fatalities.

The start of the school year in September marked the second anniversary of the 5 Minutes for Life program. It focuses on teaching high school students about responsible decision making and encourages them to live drug-free lifestyles.

Two academy classes graduated during 2014, putting dozens of fresh new faces out on the roadways.

Social media accounts of the Patrol grew tremendously during the year; our Facebook began 2014 with 25,007 likes and ended with 99,406.

16% ↑ Enforcement contacts

23% ↑ Safety belt citations

23% ↑ DUS citations

6% ↑ OVI arrests citations

16% ↑ Speed violations

7 6-State Trooper Project enforcements, focused on distracted driving, criminal patrol, speed, safety belts and OVI.

3 I-75 Challenges, in which OSHP teams up with law enforcement from Florida to Michigan to reduce crash fatalities.

27,000 Students reached by the 5 Minutes for Life program.

81 New troopers graduated from the Academy.

296% Increase Facebook likes.



STRATEGIC THINKING FOR A BRIGHT 2015

One of this year's efforts to focus on an excellent future is the creation of the Office of Planning and Analysis, which will oversee several critical support service functions within the Division.

Troopers want to focus efforts on areas most valued by our organization: fatal crash reduction, criminal patrol enforcement and training. The goal of the Planning and Analysis unit is to make that possible. Under the command of Major Rick Fambro, the unit will work to eliminate or reduce administrative hurdles that lead to inefficiencies, as well as develop plans for the future.

"I'm very excited about the recreation of this section, as is every member assigned to it," Major

Fambro said. "Through Colonel Pride's alignment of the units assigned to Planning, our primary objective is to create opportunities for other sections to more clearly focus on their operational or administrative missions."

So far in 2015, the unit has revamped the Biennial Inspection process. The new procedure, called an Administrative Audit, will only focus on administrative items and last just one day. The only operational component is a review of crash investigation quality; otherwise, post commanders no longer need to complete the former Biennial Inspection Overview Template, leaving them with more time to focus on critical areas. Operational aspects will

be addressed separately, once per quarter, in meetings conducted by the majors of Criminal Investigation and Field Operations.

Planning and Analysis has also developed a long-range strategic plan for the next five years consisting of themes, goals and objectives in the near future. It is currently conducting a study on retention issues involving patrol cadets to identify potential areas for improvement in the Patrol recruiting and training process. This study is part of the effort to develop and maintain a professional workforce as outlined in the 2015–2019 Strategic Plan and is scheduled to be completed by June 2015.



RESTRUCTURING: Several units have been reassigned under the Office of Planning and Analysis.

The Office of Planning and Analysis



Column:

Renovation of the Patrol's History Unit



By Barb Miller, Historian

There are significant changes to the patrol's History Unit located in the Shipley building's lower level. The exceptional amount of historic artifacts the patrol has accumulated, plus the generous donations by patrol retirees, necessitated having more room. The patrol's Portrait Studio has been relocated inside of Photographic Services. This section is also located in the Shipley building's lower level.

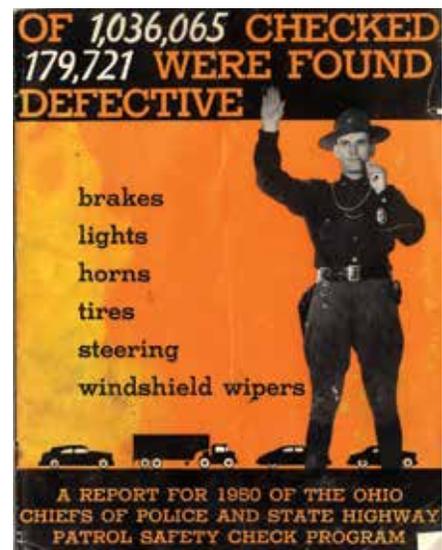
Two new donations I'm particularly pleased with are K-9

business cards of Rex and Fox. Both dogs were on the Patrol's six narcotics detection teams purchased in 1990. I'd like to receive business cards for all of our canines.

Once the renovation is complete, the History Unit will have plenty of extra space to receive additional historic donations. These artifacts are preserved, stored, and on occasion displayed in the academy's Heritage Hall so future generations of the patrol and the public will truly know our history.



Artifacts of the History Unit include items like license plates, safety check reports and the "electro-matic radar speed meter."



Veterans share experiences with senior staff

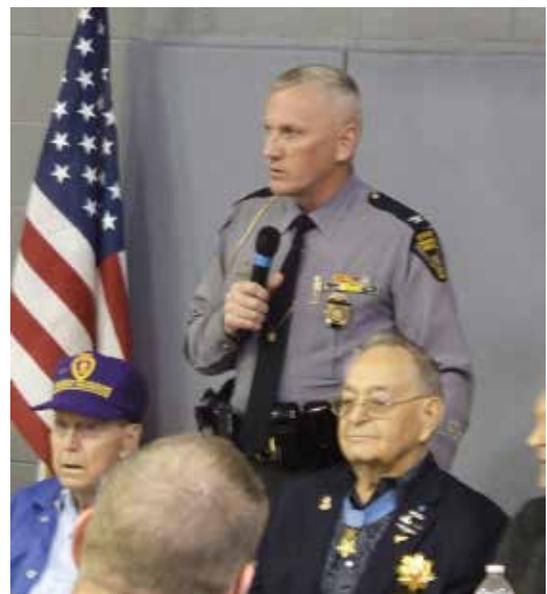
Two decorated war veterans shared their experiences with senior staff and local law enforcement leaders at the March Senior Advisor Meeting in Roseville, Ohio. Ronald E. Rosser, a recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Korean War, was the keynote speaker. Stanley "Todd" Inman, a World War II veteran, attended as well.

Rosser repeatedly risked his life to fight the enemy and rescue wounded soldiers while in Ponggilli, Korea, enabling the withdrawal of his unit.

"It seems like yesterday all this stuff happened to me, and I'm working towards 86 now," Rosser said. "I wish I could put on a uniform and go to work with you."

Rosser was formally presented with the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman on June 27, 1952. He is also a recipient of the South Korean Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart.

Inman, a Roseville High School graduate, has received three Purple Hearts for his time served during the second World War. He was shot in the head and the foot during battle in the South Pacific. Both Rosser and Inman currently reside in Roseville.



Public Safety Leadership Academy in third session

After two successful classes, a third Public Safety Leadership Academy (PSLA) began this March to prepare a new batch of leaders for their futures in law enforcement management.

Those who successfully complete the 11-week session, which includes college-level and collaborative work, will receive 10 semester hours of academic credit through the Ohio State University–John Glenn School of Public Affairs. Though hosted by the Patrol, the class draws attendees from numerous statewide agencies, including police departments, sheriff offices, the Patrol and Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU). More than 60 officers have completed the course.

But it's not just about college credit. It's a fantastic opportunity to grow as a law enforcement professional, according to many graduates of past PSLA classes. Major Steve Tucker of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office says it changed his career.

"I love the fact that it wasn't just taught from a law enforcement perspective," he said. "It's taught from academia."

Major Tucker was a lieutenant in 2013 when he participated in PSLA. The lessons he learned

"It's amazing how many similarities you have regardless of where you're located."

– Chief Jack Davis
Cuyahoga Falls Police Department

from the class didn't just assist in his promotion; they became vital to his success in his new role. He takes out a PSLA binder several times a week to look up public records laws, an important aspect of his new position. He's more active in strategic planning to confront crime proactively, and knowledge he gained in class about community oriented policing—along with relationships he built with classmates—made it clear to him that many law enforcement agencies have a role to play in Ohio's communities.

Chief Jack Davis of the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, another student of the 2013 class, echoed that appreciation of connectedness between agencies. It's good to be with like-mind-

ed people, he said, regardless of whether they're from a large or small department.

"It's amazing how many similarities you have regardless of where you're located," he added.

Chief Davis had been a captain for 11 years when he attended the class. After participating in 2013, he was promoted to Chief the next year. He called it one of the best things he's ever attended. "The classes taught you to look at yourself and how you act, not just at others who work for you," he said.

The majority of the class is taught at the Patrol Academy, though PSLA students also take a week-long trip to Washington, DC, during National Law Enforcement Week for leadership and ethics courses and visits to museums in the area. Major Tucker recalled meeting a veteran at the Marine Corps Museum who shared his experience on the beach at Iwo Jima.

"When are you going to get a chance to talk to someone like that?" he said. "That was really a once in a lifetime opportunity."

This investment in Ohio's future leaders is invaluable, and the Patrol looks forward to seeing what this new class will accomplish.

OSHP Auxiliary Store online, stocked with new items

Don't forget that the OSHP Auxiliary Store at the Academy is now online and is stocked with a number of new items, including the brand new larger-size Trooper Shield Challenge Coins. Other new items include gray polo shirts with an embroidered OSHP logo, new knives with the OSHP logo, Patrol duty bags, and new watches.

All purchases through the store support the Auxiliary and orders can be shipped to any Patrol post in the state. To place an order on the website go to www.oshpaux-store.org. The store is also open at the Academy on Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m. and Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m.

Troopers, Deputies honored for shooting response

Six law enforcement officers received the Superintendent's Citation of Merit for their actions in approaching a Kentucky murder suspect on a highway scene. Members of the Ohio State Highway and the Butler County Sheriff's Office located and stopped the suspect in his vehicle, who allegedly kidnapped his estranged girlfriend after murdering her teenage son. The suspect was armed with a hand gun and began firing shots. Officers forcibly removed him from the vehicle by breaking several windows.

In addition, six troopers received the Certificate of Recognition from the Superintendent for their roles in the location, stop and apprehension of the suspect. The officers gathered descriptive information, determined his whereabouts on I-75 in the Cincinnati area and made a

traffic stop, all within minutes of receiving the information from Kentucky authorities.

Public Safety Intelligence Analyst Katie Mason was also instrumental to the case by utilizing her contacts with a telephone company to determine the suspect's location, and Lieutenant Marcus A. Pirrone coordinated communication with Kentucky authorities to secure important details about the suspect. Both received Certificates of Recognition.

The suspect was treated for a self-inflicted gunshot and incarcerated in the Warren County Jail on homicide charges. He allegedly shot and killed his girlfriend at some point between the abduction and the traffic stop. The criminal case is pending.



Citation of Merit, top: Colonel Pride presented the Citation of Merit on February 5. OSHP Officers: Lieutenant Matt Hamilton, Lieutenant Kevin Long, and Sergeant Joe Luebbers. Butler County Sheriff's Department Officers: Lieutenant Morgan Dallman and Deputy Brian Oswald. Not pictured is Lieutenant Clint Arnold.

Wilmington District officers (above left) were presented with the Certificates of Recognition by Captain Paul Hermes, District Commander, on February 12. Pictured: Trooper Andy Bennett, Sergeant Jeff Staples, Trooper Chris Creech, Trooper James Hutchinson and Trooper Nate Stanfield. Not pictured is Lieutenant Wayne Price.

Hub personnel also received Certificates of Recognition. Lieutenant Marcus Pirrone and Public Safety Intelligence Analyst Katie Mason were recognized for communication efforts to assist officers on the scene.

Woman honored with Citation of Merit

Ramona Jenkins of Jackson, Ohio, was honored with the Superintendent's Citation of Merit Award for her brave actions that saved the life of a man in a burning vehicle.

Ms. Jenkins, a nurse, was inside her home when she heard the crash of a head-on, two-vehicle collision on December 4, 2014. She immediately responded to the scene where one vehicle was on fire with heavy damage preventing the victim from escaping.

Ms. Jenkins used Kool-Aid from the man's car to prevent flames from burning him, directed bystanders to retrieve water from her house and pulled the man out of the vehicle after numerous attempts. Her actions undoubtedly saved the life of the crash victim, and the Patrol was honored to present her with the award.



Citation of Merit: Colonel Pride presented a Citation of Merit to Ramona Jenkins of Jackson, Ohio, on January 23.

Retirees: You are invited!

THE OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

2nd Annual
Retiree Cookout

June 12, 2015
State Highway Patrol Academy
740 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211
11:00 am



SAVE THE DATE

After last year's success, the Ohio State Highway Patrol will be hosting another Retiree's Cookout this summer. Retirees (and one additional guest) are invited to attend. Please RSVP by June 1, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Martinez at smartinez@dps.ohio.gov or 614-752-4672.

Trooper Justin N. Slusser is State Trooper of the Year



Trooper of the Year: Justin N. Slusser with Colonel Paul Pride and Director John Born at the Ohio State Highway Leadership Awards.

At a ceremony that honored many individuals for their hard work over the past year, the 2014 Ohio State Highway Leadership Awards concluded with the selection of Trooper Justin N. Slusser as the 2014 State Trooper of the Year. Colonel Paul Pride presented him with the award at the ceremony, which took place on February 13, 2015.

Tpr. Slusser, of the Lima Post, has proven himself as an asset to Ohio communities through his work on and off the roadways. In 2014, he removed 63 impaired drivers from Ohio's roads. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award during the last two years. He also earned the ACE Award for Auto Larceny during his first year as a trooper, 2012, as well 2013.

Tpr. Slusser dedicates significant time as a positive role model for students in his community. One program he contributes to, called "Stranger Danger," teaches kindergarteners how to recognize and successfully handle situations involving strangers. Tpr. Slusser

His supervisors describe him as determined, purpose-driven and mature.

also participates in the "5 Minutes for Life" program, which teaches high school athletes how to be good leaders and live drug free lives; he spoke to 13 different athletic teams in the last year.

Tpr. Slusser and his family are active members at the Lima Community Church and volunteer in the Children's Ministry section.

His supervisors describe him as determined, purpose-driven and mature, noting that his contributions to the Patrol are remarkable for someone who joined the division fewer than five years ago.

"You can depend on him to be there," said Capt. Gary Allen of the Findlay District. "I don't have to worry about him doing

the right things at the right time, because you just know he's going to be there."

Upon accepting the award, Tpr. Slusser thanked the many people in his life who offer him support, from his coworkers to his family.

Tpr. Slusser joined the patrol in 2011 as a member of the 151st Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year, and was assigned to the Lima Post. Tpr. Slusser was voted the Lima Post Trooper of the Year in 2013 and 2014 and District Trooper of the Year in 2014.



Justin N. Slusser

Witcher earns Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award

Sergeant Veroman D. Witcher earned the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award, which recognizes troopers' dedication to humanitarian efforts, both professionally and personally.

He has served as an Intermediate Family Support for the organization New Hope for Special Needs (NHFSN), founded by his wife, Marion, to support individuals with special needs. NHFSN provides assistance to other families by maintaining a prayer website, hosting special needs workshops and distributing special needs literature. NHFSN has awarded numerous scholarships to students majoring in special education studies.

Sgt. Witcher and his wife direct the special needs ministry within their church community. He has also served as a head coach for their church's Special Olympics team.

The couple was inspired to

empower individuals with special needs because of their own daughter, who is challenged with autism and epilepsy.

Sgt. Witcher joined the Patrol in November 1985 as a member of the 115th Academy Class. While at the Xenia Post, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1989, as well as Post, District and State Trooper of the Year in 1997. He is currently stationed at the Piqua Post.



Veroman D. Witcher

CHIARAMONTE AWARD NOMINEES

Bucyrus District	Tpr. Stephen B. Vanderford
Cleveland District	Tpr. Chad M. Schell
Piqua District	Sgt. Veroman D. Witcher
Columbus District.....	Sgt. William P. Elschlager
Cambridge District	Tpr. Timothy R. Cunningham
Wilmington District.....	Tpr. Steven R. Ilo
Jackson District	Sgt. Christopher R. Smith

Smith is Dispatcher of the Year

Cheryl A. Smith of the Canfield Post was selected as the 2014 State Dispatcher of the Year. Smith is looked up to by many other dispatchers for her leadership skills and professionalism. Her supervisors call her a "go-to person" for critical situations, for both her own post and others in the district.



Cheryl A. Smith

Smith joined the Patrol in July 1985 and was assigned to the Warren Post. In 1991, she transferred to the Canfield Dispatch Center. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2004, Post and District Dispatcher of the Year in 2006, and Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2007 and 2008.

Kline earns Blue Max

Trooper Shawn E. Kline of the Cleveland Metro Post was honored with the Blue Max Award for recovering 18 stolen vehicles in 2014, valued at \$68,288, resulting in the apprehension of 18 suspects.

The Blue Max Award is awarded to the officer who recovers the most stolen vehicles with apprehension each year.

Tpr. Kline began his Patrol career with the state of Ohio in January 1997 at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. He trained as a member of the 140th Academy Class in September 2002 and earned his commission in February of the following year. He was assigned to the Elyria Post, and in 2013, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Cleveland Metro Post.



Shawn E. Kline

Jester wins State Trooper Recognition Award



Christopher T. Jester

Trooper Christopher T. Jester, a crash reconstructionist at the Cleveland District Headquarters, was selected from ten regional recipients for the Trooper Recognition Award.

The Trooper Recognition Award recognizes excellence among troopers who are assigned to specialty positions. In 2014, Tpr. Jester handled a significant number of crash reconstruction cases

using superb investigation and composition skills, a number of which required him to respond after regular work hours.

Tpr. Jester is a member of the 126th Academy Class. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1998 while at the Ravenna Post. In 1999, he transferred to the Lisbon Post. He was again selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2003 and 2006. He was selected as District Trooper of the Year in 2006. In 2012, he transferred to his most recent assignment at Cleveland District Headquarters.

DISTRICT TROOPER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Findlay District	Tpr. Gerald L. Gibson
Bucyrus District	Tpr. Brian D. Kelley
Cleveland District	Tpr. Christopher Todd Jester
Piqua District	Tpr. Kimberly A. Trout
Columbus District.....	Tpr. Bradley E. Long
Cambridge District	Tpr. Shawn W. Allar
Wilmington District.....	Tpr. Jennifer Soderquist
Jackson District	Tpr. Keith A. Fellure
GHQ.....	Tpr. Nicholas M. Malo

Melo earns Rice Leadership Award



Raul A. Melo

Sergeant Raul Melo, of the Columbus Metro Post, won the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award, which honors a sworn supervisory officer for outstanding leadership. The award is sponsored by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association.

Sgt. Melo is credited for his focus, attention to detail and ability to train and guide troopers to become

leaders. He is often called on late at night and on his time off to provide translation for those who only speak Spanish, helping lead to many arrests. He also teaches Spanish to cadet classes. Sgt. Melo is a member of the 139th Academy Class.

RICE AWARD NOMINEES

Findlay District	Sgt. Matthew R. Schmenk
Bucyrus District	Sgt. Timmothy J. Hoffman
Cleveland District	Sgt. David S. Garber
Piqua District	Sgt. Steven V. Duteil
Columbus District.....	Sgt. Raul A. Melo
Cambridge District	Sgt. Scott A. Louive
Wilmington District.....	Sgt. Mark B. Herren
Jackson District	Sgt. Paul T. Mercer

McBride is Ohio Investigative Unit Agent of the Year

Victoria J. McBride, Canton District Office, was selected as the Ohio Investigative Unit Agent of the Year, which recognizes excellent agents who enforce state, federal and local laws with emphasis on liquor, food stamp and tobacco offense.

Her supervisors describe her as highly motivated, dedicated and a true asset. She joined the Ohio Investigative Unit in August 2000 and is assigned to the Canton District Office. In 2007, she transferred to the Athens District Office. In 2010, she returned to the Canton District Office.

OIU DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

Athens	Agent Byron R. Guinther
Canton	Agent Victoria J. McBride
Cincinnati	Agent John W. Burton
Cleveland.....	Agent Shawn M. Kleinhenz
Columbus.....	Agent Betty A. Ford
Toledo.....	Agent Andrew J. Bouza

Evans wins MCEI of the Year



Brandon M. Evans

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Brandon M. Evans, of the Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, was selected as Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year.

A well respected employee, Evans began his career with the Patrol in January 2012 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Piqua District Headquarters. He was promoted to a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector in July 2012 and transferred to his most recent assignment at the Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Terrill is Technician of the Year



Trenton N. Terrill

Electronic Technician 2 Trenton N. Terrill, Office of Strategic Services, was selected as Electronic Technician of the Year.

Terrill specializes in the area of maintaining, upgrading and deploying the OSHP specialty vehicles, which include the OSHP and OIU Command Vehicles as well as the Division's two Skywatch towers.

He joined the Patrol in December 2012 as an Electronic Technician 1 assigned to the Office of Strategic Services, and remained there after a promotion to Electronic Technician 2.

DISTRICT MCEI AWARD WINNERS

Findlay District	MCEI Melanie B. Kurtz
Bucyrus District	MCEI Donald O. Dailey
Cleveland District	MCEI Glen E. Myers
Piqua District	MCEI Brandon M. Evans
Columbus District.....	MCEI Arthur W. Philabaum
Cambridge District	MCEI James R. Smith
Wilmington District.....	MCEI Gary J. Moore
Jackson District	MCEI Anthony R. Lester

DISTRICT ET AWARD WINNERS

Findlay District	ET2 Matthew D. Metzger
Bucyrus District	ET2 Douglas A. Carnegie
Cleveland District	ET2 Richard W. Selep
Piqua District	ET2 John V. Trittschuh
Columbus District.....	ET2 Kristopher M. Massey
Cambridge District	ET2 James K. Howell
Wilmington District.....	ET2 Jeffrey L. Williams
Jackson District	ET3 Tyler J. Wolfe
GHQ.....	ET2 Trenton N. Terrill

Robinson wins Employee Recognition



Candy N. Robinson

Candy N. Robinson, an administrative professional at the Toledo Post, received the Employee Recognition Award, which is presented to civilian employees showing excellence.

She began her state career in April 2011 as an administrative professional 1 and has been assigned to the Toledo Post throughout her career. While there, she assisted the Toledo Post

while it was only staffed by one sergeant, as well as filling in for an OIU secretary. She is applauded by her supervisors for never missing a beat while maintaining a positive disposition.

Costas wins Retiree Award



Bill and Becky Costas

Retired Lt. Colonel Bill and Becky Costas are the winners of the Patrol's first Retiree Recognition Award to honor their service and compassion for others. Bill and Becky created a non-profit charity in 1999, Cortland Humanitarian Outreach Worldwide, and have dedicated more time than ever to the organization after re-

tiring in 2004. So far, their efforts have sent more than 6,200 desks and other supplies to schools in 14 developing countries. They have also taken 24 mission trips to Appalachian areas of Kentucky to deliver clothing, backpacks and school supplies for children.

DISTRICT DISTINGUISHED RETIREE

Findlay District Ret. Tpr. Timothy J. Coll
 Bucyrus District Ret. Tpr. A.J. Torres
 Cleveland District Ret. Lt. Col. William Costas
 Piqua District Ret. Lt. Terry Payer
 Columbus District ... Ret. Lt. Col. Robbie K. Hartsell
 Cambridge District Ret. Lt. David Peters
 Wilmington District... Ret. Tpr. Richard R. Blyberg
 Jackson District Ret. Tpr. Hal Hardesty

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Findlay District AP1 Candy N. Robinson
 Bucyrus District AP1 Kristin L. Seitz
 Cleveland District MVI Kelly M. Semple
 Piqua District AP4 Stacy L. Mullen
 Columbus District..... AP1 Tracy J. Miller
 Cambridge District SLLI Richard J. Drabik
 Wilmington District..... MRW2 John W. Herbert
 Jackson District MRW2 Paul R. Keesee
 Personnel PA1 Jessica L. Scalley
 Strategic Services..... PSIA Mark A. Wong
 Field Operations..... MA Gretchen Lopez-Martinez
 Criminal Invest..... PA1 Melinda S. Harrison

Bass wins Family Recognition



Kristen Bass

Kristen Bass is the first winner of the Patrol's Family Recognition Award for her dedication to helping children who have been orphaned, abused or neglected. Kristen is married to Lt. Chad Bass, commander of the Hiram post. The couple are parents of four children, ages 10-15, in addition to becoming foster parents. Kristen also works to help others

battle drug addiction through mentoring activities, as well as home schooling their children and tending to two dogs, a kitten and a bearded dragon.

PATROL FAMILY RECOGNITION WINNERS

Findlay District Luke E. Fisher
 Bucyrus District Krista Jeffries
 Cleveland District Kristen Bass
 Piqua District Marion Witcher
 Columbus District..... Jen Rucker
 Cambridge District Lisa Derrington
 Wilmington District..... Samantha Jo Rhodes
 Jackson District Hannah McDonald

Hatcher is Police Officer of the Year

Police Officer Brian A. Hatcher, Ohio Expo Center, was selected as the first winner of the new Police Officer of the Year Award. His supervisors describe him as energetic, positive and in possession of exceptional communication skills.

Officer Hatcher joined the Patrol in September 1997 and was assigned to the Ohio Expo Center. During his 18-year

career, Officer Hatcher has also been assigned to the Ohio Department of Public Safety Charles D. Shipley building. Officer Hatcher is currently a field training officer and has retained his safe driving ribbon his entire career.



Brian A. Hatcher

Statewide Auxiliary Award Winners Honored at Patrol Ceremony

William J. Duffy Award of Excellence

Auxiliary Lieutenant Stephen C. Martin, Delaware Post, received the 2014 Duffy Award. Over the last three years, he has volunteered an average of 351 hours per year which includes riding on patrol, working at sobriety checkpoints and assisting at special details.



Stephen C. Martin

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.

Auxiliary of the Year

Auxiliary Officer Eric L. Ross, Springfield Post, won the State Auxiliary Officer of the Year Award, which is presented to the officer who volunteers the most hours while demonstrating the core values of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary.



Eric L. Ross

In 2014, Auxiliary Officer Ross volunteered 475 hours of time in assisting with Patrol duties. This time included riding on patrol, assisting at the Ohio State Fair, Ohio State University football game details, sobriety checkpoints, Shield details and working at the Academy store. He joined the Auxiliary in 2013.

Earl Ulmer Meritorious Service Award

Auxiliary Major Bryon M. Doty of the Delaware Post earned the Ulmer Award, which is bestowed upon an Auxiliary officer for outstanding service, courage, valor or heroism.



Bryon M. Doty

Aux. Maj. Doty has amassed unparalleled hours of service time in the four years he has been with the Auxiliary.

He has won multiple district awards along with the State Officer of the Year Award and the Duffy Award. He has worked at all Ohio State University football games. He regularly works special details, rides with troopers on a regular basis even during holidays, and is ready to assist and help in any situation with the Patrol or Auxiliary. He is ready to service at a moment's notice without hesitation and with no thoughts of receiving anything in return for his efforts. He continues to display the core values of the Patrol and the Auxiliary in his everyday action since joining in 2011.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Findlay	Aux. Maj. Captain James L. Reneau
Bucyrus.....	Aux. Maj. Lois J. Lust
Cleveland.....	Aux. Maj. H. Lee Neutzling
Piqua	Aux. Ofc. Eric L. Ross
Columbus.....	Aux. Lt. Bryon M. Doty
Cambridge.....	Aux. Maj. Joshua D. Schlicher
Wilmington.....	Aux. Ofc. Jeremy D. Gale
Jackson.....	Aux. Ofc. Emily E. Pinney

Post & District

Troopers & Dispatchers of the Year

Troopers

Dispatchers

Troopers

Dispatchers

FINDLAY DISTRICT

Lima	Justin N. Slusser**	
Defiance	Matthew J. Gardner	
Findlay	Matthew N. Geer	Denise S. Blue
Toledo	Christopher G. Seambos	
Van Wert	Adam M. Brincefield	Meghan L. Scheirer
Bowl. Green	Evan M. Slates	Jennifer J. Sabin*
Swanton	Michael T. Ziehr	

COLUMBUS DISTRICT

Delaware	Nicholas R. Shaw	James M. Stegner*
Lancaster	Chad M. McMunn*	Tonya L. Birchfield
Cols Metro	Tawanna L. Young	
Granville	Timothy J. Mularcik	
West Jeff	Troy R. Gray	Matthew A. Williams
Mt. Gilead	James P. King	
Circleville	Terrence D. Vollmer	

BUCYRUS DISTRICT

Ashland	Elliot D. Rawson	
Bucyrus	Craig B. Overly	Stephanie J. Evans
Sandusky	Shane R. Zehnder	Heidi J. Maloy
Norwalk	Thomas P. Halko	
Elyria	Juan R. Santiago*	
Marion	Keith G. Smith	
Mansfield	Shaun M. Robles	Carrie L. Wolford*
Fremont	Austin H. Young	
Wooster	Daniel L. Laubacher	Dina L. Slager
Milan	John J. Williams	

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT

St. Clairsville	Thaddeus J. White*	Randall L. Gilbert
Lisbon	Steven A. Tucci	Tammy S. Renfro
Cambridge	Timothy R. Cunningham	David M. Spratt
Steubenville	Edwin A. Weigand	
Zanesville	Samuel K. Hendricks	
New Philly	Ryan D. Rainsberger	Richard F. Skelly*

CLEVELAND DISTRICT

Ashtabula	Erik N. Souders	
Clev. Metro	Chad M. Schell	
Chardon	Ebon I. Harrison	
Canfield	David M. Brown*	Cheryl A. Smith**
Medina	Shaun P. Mollohan	Jennifer J. Pakish
Ravenna	Chester L. Engle	Josa T. Muir
Canton	John R. Nemastil	Amanda S. Miller
Warren	Daniel W. Morrison	Cindi Sarigianopoulos
Hiram	Griffin P. Kelley	
Berea		Brittney N. Horning

WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Georgetown	Andrew T. Dunn*	
Hamilton	S. Scott Lyons	
Batavia	Derek R. Disbennett	Neil E. Yockey*
Wilmington	Jeremy B. Priest	Pamela J. Kelly
Cin. Metro	Bradley Hess	
Lebanon	Matthew R. Keener	Amy J. McCleese

JACKSON DISTRICT

Athens	Danny J. Howard	Rodney D. Robinson*
Gallipolis	Marvin L. Pullins	
Jackson	Daniel H. Saultz	Aaron M. Music
Ironton	Matt K. Lloyd	
Chillicothe	Thomas G. Cassity*	
Portsmouth	Dewaine A. Norman	Scott N. Caudill
Marietta	Stephen L. Rogers	

PIQUA DISTRICT

Wapakoneta	Steven G. Posada*	
Springfield	David G. Slanker	Dawn M. Fremder*
Xenia	Jacob Daymon	
Piqua	Jordan L. Monnin	Krista L. Storer
Dayton	Jason R. Hutchison	Marsha J. Carey
Marysville	Jacob C. Morrison	

GHQ

P97		Erin N. Garloch
Cols. Comm. Center		Courtney S. Franklin*

* District Winners ** State Winners

Thank Yous

A sampling of messages received or through social media and mail

From Facebook:

Just wanted to say thanks to OSP Trooper Rutherford (Pike County) who was so helpful on Sunday when we experienced a tire blowout on RT 32 E. We really appreciate his concern for our safety and willingness to get his hands and knees dirty. He was so personable and kind. Keep that hand sanitizer close by, Trooper, and thanks again so much.

A special thank you to Trooper Stryker for helping me this morning change my flat tire on 71 south. He was a life saver! Thank you!

I would just like to say thank you to the Delaware Ohio patrol division for making sure my husband was ok. It's men and women like you who make this state a better place to live. Taking a distress call from a wife to check on her truck driver husband is wonderful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We'd like to send a big thank you to Lee Darden who helped us on the side of the road today (315 and Ackerman Road)! Our tire was flat and our tire iron actually broke while trying to loosen the lug nuts. He offered his tire iron and some muscle to help get the tire loose and get us safely on our way. We're very grateful to the State Highway Patrol and Trooper Darden!



Trooper Lee Darden helped a motorist change a flat tire along Route 315 in Columbus.

Through mail:

Lt. Gebhart,

I wanted to take a quick moment to tell you about an encounter I had with Trooper Boysel. On Nov 13, 2014 my Mom, Wendy Trott, was in a semi truck accident and was severely injured. She was in Miami Valley Hospital for over a month.

On Nov. 13th I received a call from Trooper Boysel about my Mom. I live in Florida and had no way of getting to my Mom. Trooper Boysel was so kind in "delivering" difficult news to me about my Mom. He was caring, sympathetic and genuinely seemed concerned for my Mom and for us, her family. But what he did next and over the next couple of weeks is why I'm writing.

The afternoon of the accident Trooper Boysel called me back to see how I was doing. He wanted to make sure I was ok, (I cried during our first call). He wanted to make sure I was able to get hold of the hospital and find out about my Mom, and he wanted to extend a helping hand, any way he could. Over the next couple of days I called him regarding my Mom's personal belongings, my Mom's truck and he always asked how I was doing and how my Mom was doing. Trooper Boysel even went to my Mom's truck [and] recovered as much as he could of her personal belongings, including one of her wallets, Christmas gifts she had been saving to give to her grandchildren and her beloved audio books.

Then he brought the wallet and audiobooks to my mom in the hospital and checked on her. My Mom said he was so very kind and even stayed to chitchat with her for a little while. He then offered to send the gifts home to Florida! I purchased and set up a UPS shipping label, set it to him and he took the box to UPS and sent it home for her.

I must've told him thank you a couple dozen times, but the truth is, words can't express my gratitude.

Trooper Boysel went above and beyond his professional duty as an officer and did something special. He gave of himself in a personal way. He gave professionally, but his personal sacrifice is why I'm writing. He didn't have to do anything, past informing me of my Mom's accident. But he did. And I wanted you to know.

Trooper Boysel was kind, caring, compassionate, selfless, and a gentleman. In this day and age what he did is rare. I was privileged to be a witness. Please thank him for me, as his supervisor. If I was there I would probably give him a hug but coming from you, probably just a nice, strong handshake will do!

Thank you, again from the bottom of my heart!

Sincerely,
Jody Black

OHIO INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Wisconsin man entered guilty plea on gambling charges, money laundering

The owner of a Wisconsin company that supplied thousands of video slot machines to bars, restaurants and other businesses throughout Ohio entered a plea of guilty to gambling charges on February 5.

Erin Nelson and 8 Line Supply, a firm based in the Green Bay suburb of De Pere, each pled guilty to all charges in an eight-count information filed in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty announced.

Those charges included one count of Attempted Money Laundering, two counts of Possessing Criminal Tool and five misdemeanor counts of gambling.

Records obtained during the investigation showed that 8 Line Supply had sold nearly 23,000 gambling devices or parts and components used to assemble gambling devices to customers in Ohio since 2008 totaling \$2.7 million.

8 Line Supply sold intact devices as well as the components used to produce illegal video

gambling devices in Ohio and other states. The company pleaded guilty to criminal offenses for distributing illegal gambling devices into Ohio including Black Beard, Beanstalk, Puzzle Bug and Ghouls Night Out.

“What’s crucial about this conviction is that it establishes a precedent and proof that all of these games are per se slot machines and can’t be disguised as skill games or any other device legal to operate anywhere in Ohio,” said Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft. “With this ruling we now can, and will, pursue other out-of-state companies that attempt to sell illegal devices into Ohio and will absolutely pursue anyone in Ohio that chooses to distribute or operate them.”

This conviction resulted from an on-going investigative effort by the OIU, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office and the U.S. Secret Service. The team received valuable assistance and support on this case from the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Division of Criminal Investigation.

During the execution of a search warrant at 8 Line Supply’s Wisconsin offices, an examination of the company’s computers produced a list of its Ohio customers. After a series of raids and investigations, bar owners in eight cities have entered guilty pleas to gambling charges.

OIU agents have warned tavern and carryout owners that no matter what they want to believe or are being told by the individuals who want to put these machines at their businesses, they should not do so.

“Just like our successful battle against Internet casinos, this case demonstrates the determination of law enforcement to take a firm stand against illegal gambling — in whatever form it takes next,” said Prosecutor McGinty. “It also demonstrates the impact that’s possible when local, state and federal agencies work together. These defendants have admitted they are in the gambling business. Any absurd claims that these are games of skill have been destroyed by their guilty plea.”

VEHICLE THEFT AND FRAUD UNIT

The Columbus Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit received a tip regarding a stolen 2014 Volvo semi-tractor. During the investigation, the location of the stolen semi-tractor was determined and confirmed by use of the Division’s Aviation Unit.

The Columbus VTFU, Columbus Division of Police and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) executed a search warrant on the premises and located the stolen semi-tractor. Charges for Receiving Stolen Property are pending against the property owner.



CRIMINAL PATROL

Troopers seize 235 pounds of marijuana in Lorain County traffic stop

January 21: Troopers stopped a 2007 Chevy 1500 pick-up truck for marked lanes and failure to signal violations at 3:53 p.m. in Lorain County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 235 pounds of marijuana, worth approximately \$1,200,000.



Troopers seize 103 grams of heroin

January 1: Troopers stopped a 2015 Buick Verano for speed and marked lanes violations in Wood County at 11:54 p.m. Criminal indicators were observed and consent to search the vehicle was granted. During the search, troopers discovered 103 grams of heroin, worth \$15,450 located in the vehicle's trunk.



Troopers seize \$32,500 worth of marijuana

January 6: Troopers stopped a 2004 Chevy Avalanche for following too closely and obstructed rear license plate violations in Lorain County at 3:12 p.m. Upon approaching the vehicle, troopers detected an odor of raw marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed more than six pounds of marijuana, worth an estimated \$32,500.



Troopers seize heroin, crack cocaine in Ross County

February 5: Troopers stopped a 2015 Chevrolet Suburban for marked lanes and unsafe lane change violations in Ross County at 7:45 p.m. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed a package containing approximately 74 grams of suspected heroin and another package containing 125 grams of suspected crack cocaine behind the center display. The contraband has a street value of \$23,750.



2014 CRIMINAL PATROL AWARDS

12 Points

Tpr. Jason N. Archer
 Tpr. James M. Baker
 Tpr. Jason A. Barhorst
 Tpr. Scott W. Bayless
 Tpr. Cody W. Beaty
 Sgt. Matthew R. Beccaccio
 Sgt. Kurt D. Beidelschies
 Tpr. Christopher H. Beyer
 Tpr. Joshua Beynon
 Tpr. Nicholas R. Boes
 Tpr. Robert C. Bradley Jr.
 Tpr. David M. Brown
 Tpr. Joshua B. Bumgardner
 Tpr. Ricky T. Caraway
 Sgt. Chris A. Coverstone
 Tpr. Bryan C. Cox
 Tpr. Joshua C. Craft
 Tpr. Jacob Daymon
 Tpr. Timothy S. Dobbins
 Tpr. Kyle E. Doebrich
 Tpr. Darrell M. Dowler
 Tpr. Richard R. Dudas
 Tpr. Steven M. Dunn
 Tpr. Andrew T. Dunn
 Tpr. Timothy L. Ehrenborg
 Tpr. Christopher L. Ellison
 Tpr. Chester L. Engle
 Tpr. Michael K. Ervin
 Sgt. Jacob L. Fletcher
 Tpr. David S. Francway
 Sgt. David S. Garber
 Tpr. Matthew N. Geer
 Tpr. Erik A. Golias
 Tpr. Nickolas B. Goodnite
 Tpr. Kaitlyn M. Griffith
 Tpr. David A. Grooms
 Tpr. Jason W. Halstead
 Tpr. Jared L. Haslar
 Tpr. Adam T. Hauenstein
 Tpr. Samuel K. Hendricks
 Tpr. Bradley Hess
 Tpr. Matthew D. Himes
 Tpr. Michael F. Hounshell
 Tpr. Charles M. Jackson
 Sgt. Nicholas S. Johnson
 Tpr. Jessie D. Johnson
 Tpr. Timothy J. Kay
 Tpr. Matthew R. Keener
 Tpr. Griffin P. Kelley
 Tpr. Drew W. Kuehne
 Tpr. John L. Lamm
 Sgt. Dean W. Laubacher
 Tpr. Nicholas E. Lauer
 Sgt. Neil D. Laughlin
 Tpr. Nicholas L. Lewis
 Tpr. Justin P. Lister
 Tpr. Evan D. Mace
 Tpr. Ann M. Malone
 Tpr. Gregory A. Mamula
 Tpr. Jerrold T. March
 Tpr. Walter J. Martens
 Tpr. Anthony D. Martin
 Tpr. Ryan M. May
 Tpr. Brian M. McGill
 Tpr. Brandon M. Miller
 Tpr. Chadwick W. Miller
 Tpr. Hiram Morales
 Tpr. Jeremy L. Morris
 Tpr. Daniel W. Morrison
 Tpr. Shane M. Morrow
 Tpr. Matthew L. Mossor
 Tpr. John R. Nemastil
 Tpr. Christian J. Niemeye
 Tpr. David A. Norman
 Tpr. Cristian Perrin
 Tpr. Thurman D. Peterson
 Tpr. M. Scott Phipps
 Tpr. Ryan W. Pickett
 Tpr. Kyle E. Pohlbel
 Tpr. Patrick J. Reagan
 Tpr. Matthew P. Robinson
 Tpr. Ryan E. Robirds
 Tpr. Stephen W. Roe
 Tpr. Justin J. Ross
 Tpr. Michael J. Ross
 Tpr. Michael D. Rucker
 Tpr. Matthew A. Ruth
 Tpr. Juan R. Santiago
 Tpr. Daniel H. Saultz
 Tpr. Rustun K. Schack
 Tpr. Chad M. Schell
 Tpr. Benjamin R. Seabolt
 Tpr. Rachel A. Simmons
 Tpr. David G. Slanker
 Tpr. Evan M. Slates
 Tpr. Justin N. Slusser
 Tpr. James D. Sparkman
 Tpr. Ryan F. Stewart
 Tpr. Eric M. Stroud
 Tpr. Jacob M. Teal
 Tpr. David E. Theobald
 Sgt. Timothy J. Timberlake
 Tpr. Michael S. Trader
 Tpr. Jason L. Turner
 Tpr. Terrence D. Vollmer
 Tpr. Casimir A. VonSacken
 Tpr. Benjamin J. Wallace
 Tpr. Christopher A. Ward
 Tpr. Sean P. Williams
 Tpr. Timothy B. Williamson
 Tpr. Michael R. Wilson
 Tpr. Tawanna L. Young
 Sgt. David Zatvarnický

5 Points

Tpr. Colin Acciavatti
 Tpr. Damion D. Assink
 Tpr. Joshua N. Baker
 Tpr. Benjamin M. Barnard
 Tpr. Landon T. Berger
 Sgt. Jeffery L. Bernard
 Tpr. Jeremy S. Bice
 Tpr. Aaron M. Boggs
 Sgt. Joshua J. Bolduan
 Tpr. Jeffrey M. Boris
 Tpr. Charles R. Bower
 Tpr. Bobby D. Brown
 Tpr. Colt W. Browne
 Tpr. James W. Bryner
 Tpr. Thomas G. Cassity
 Tpr. Carlos M. Castellanos
 Tpr. Kristi J. Comstock
 Tpr. Kristopher J. Conaway
 Sgt. Shawn D. Cook
 Tpr. Micheal J. Corey
 Tpr. Ishmael S. Dabo
 Sgt. Steven P. Daugherty
 Tpr. Samuel L. Davis
 Tpr. Anthony R. Day
 Tpr. Nathan E. Dennis
 Tpr. Benjamin C. Dennison
 Sgt. Kevin D. Dillard
 Tpr. Daniel J. Dubelko
 Tpr. Quinn J. Dunn
 Sgt. Steven V. Duteil
 Tpr. Daniel J. Edelbrock
 Tpr. Brad M. Evans
 Tpr. Jade E. Fown
 Tpr. Anthony S. Fox
 Tpr. Byron D. Foxx
 Tpr. Kaitlin D. Fuller
 Tpr. Joseph R. Glascox
 Tpr. Thomas J. Gronsky
 Tpr. Alexis A. Guilkey
 Tpr. Thomas Halko
 Tpr. Adam J. Hartford
 Tpr. Brian W. Hawkins
 Tpr. Byron R. Hayes
 Tpr. Rocky J. Hise
 Tpr. Eric D. Holbrook
 Tpr. Bryan A. Holden
 Tpr. Charles E. Hoskin
 Tpr. William W. Howard
 Sgt. John R. Howard
 Sgt. Delmer K. Hurd
 Tpr. Justin C. Hurlbert
 Tpr. Jason R. Hutchison
 Tpr. Jacques A. Illanz
 Tpr. Steven R. Ilo
 Sgt. Paul Isgett
 Tpr. Christopher P. Jackson
 Tpr. Jason M. Jeffries
 Sgt. Michael B. Jordan
 Tpr. Steven M. Keating
 Sgt. Christopher S. Kelley
 Sgt. Jerod L. Keyes
 Tpr. James P. King
 Tpr. Seth T. Klco
 Tpr. Shawn E. Kline
 Tpr. Trevor L. Koontz
 Tpr. Christopher M. Krantz
 Tpr. Garrett R. Lawson
 Tpr. Brett M. Lee
 Tpr. Gary M. Lewis
 Tpr. Bruce A. Mac Laine
 Tpr. Matthew M. Manly
 Tpr. Ryan G. Mann
 Tpr. Timothy R. Markowski
 Tpr. Johnathan R. Mattson
 Tpr. Kyle J. Mayle
 Tpr. Brian A. McAllister
 Tpr. Tyler P. McKee
 Tpr. Jeff R. McNamara
 Tpr. Joshua T. Menke
 Tpr. Jeffrey M. Meyerhoffer
 Tpr. Shawn F. Milburn
 Tpr. Jordan L. Monnin
 Tpr. Stephen A. Murphy
 Tpr. Christopher M. Newman
 Tpr. Dewaine A. Norman
 Tpr. Josh T. O'Donnell
 Tpr. Richard P. Ondick
 Tpr. Craig B. Overly
 Tpr. Joshua L. Patrick
 Tpr. Ryan J. Pischel
 Sgt. Craig M. Polasky
 Tpr. Melanie L. Provenzano
 Tpr. David B. Richendollar
 Tpr. Elyse Roddy
 Tpr. Alejo Romero
 Tpr. Aaron M. Ross
 Tpr. Matthew J. Schaub
 Sgt. Matthew R. Schmenk
 Tpr. Heath G. Shaner
 Tpr. Adam M. Shonk
 Tpr. Shawn M. Simms
 Tpr. Keith G. Smith
 Tpr. Nikki N. Snead
 Tpr. Dennis A. Spangler
 Tpr. James K. Speicher
 Tpr. Stefan K. Spriggs
 Tpr. John Stevens
 Tpr. James M. Trelka
 Tpr. Ryan S. Tysinger
 Tpr. Stephen B. Vanderford
 Tpr. Robert V. Vandyke
 Tpr. Taylor H. Vogelmeier
 Tpr. James A. Walton
 Tpr. Robert N. Webb
 Tpr. Joseph M. Weeks
 Tpr. Timothy R. Wenger
 Tpr. Evan A. Williams
 Tpr. Robert J. Wilson
 Tpr. Vic L. Wolfe
 Tpr. Zachary J. Yoder
 Tpr. Michael T. Ziehr

2014 AUTO LARCENY ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

Ace

Tpr. Matthew R. Abbey
 Tpr. James W. Bryner
 Tpr. Thomas G. Cassity
 Tpr. Joshua C. Craft
 Tpr. Timothy R. Cunningham
 Tpr. Byron D. Foxx
 Tpr. Adam T. Hauenstein
 Tpr. Matthew D. Himes
 Tpr. Charles M. Jackson
 Tpr. Logan M. Kirkendall
 Tpr. Shawn E. Kline
 Tpr. Steven S. Lyons
 Tpr. Joseph M. Nartker
 Tpr. Thurman D. Peterson
 Tpr. Vernon L. Pickering

Tpr. Patrick J. Reagan
 Tpr. Chad M. Schell
 Tpr. Robert J. Simone
 Tpr. David G. Slanker
 Tpr. Ryan S. Tysinger
 Tpr. William S. Webb
 Tpr. Austin H. Young
 Tpr. Tawanna L. Young

Four Bolts

Tpr. Michael W. Maddock

Three Bolts

Tpr. James F. Adams
 Tpr. Charles D. Burton
 Tpr. Tyler P. Carr
 Tpr. William S. Davis
 Tpr. David M. Dingeman
 Tpr. Jade E. Elkins
 Tpr. Thomas J. Gronsky
 Tpr. Brett M. Lee
 Tpr. Jeff R. McNamara
 Tpr. Jared D. Myers
 Tpr. Craig B. Overly
 Tpr. Juan R. Santiago

Tpr. Justin N. Slusser
 Tpr. Michael D. Smith
 Tpr. James K. Speicher
 Tpr. Jacob M. Teal
 Tpr. Joshua A. Weaver
 Tpr. Marshall Williams

Award of Excellence

Tpr. William R. Bowers
 Tpr. Grady E. Coblentz
 Tpr. Stephanie P. Hanner
 Tpr. John A. Johnson
 Tpr. Brian D. Kelley
 Tpr. Elizabeth J. Petro
 Sgt. Timothy A. Root
 Tpr. Harley Steppenbacker

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Trooper Paul B. Swan was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for life-saving efforts. On January 1, Trooper Swan was on patrol in Knox County when he observed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit. While trying to catch up to the vehicle, he encountered debris on the roadway near a steep embankment.



Paul B. Swan

With the suspect vehicle not in sight, Trooper Swan stopped to check the area and found the vehicle had struck a tree head-on before going over the embankment. The vehicle was on fire, positioned against a tree about 40 feet below the roadway.

After requesting a squad and the fire department, and realizing he could only make one trip down, Trooper Swan grabbed his fire extinguisher and slid down the embankment. Both the driver and passenger were critically injured, with the driver unable to escape the vehicle.

Trooper Swan extinguished the flames enough to move the driver out of the vehicle to a safe location, and then provided first aid to both victims until emergency rescue personnel arrived.

Sergeant Fernando Chavez was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for lifesaving efforts. On December 8, 2014, the Defiance Post received a call from the Defiance County emergency 911 center advising there was a woman giving birth in the post parking lot.

Sergeant Chavez and other officers at the post re-

sponded and found the woman and her grandmother outside of their vehicle. Sergeant Chavez assisted the woman back into her vehicle and found he could feel the baby's head through the woman's pajama pants.

As he worked to remove the woman's clothing, Sergeant Chavez found the baby had passed completely through the birth canal and the mother's undergarments were wrapped around the infant's neck. Although Sergeant Chavez quickly freed the baby, she was not moving or crying and was starting to turn blue.

Sergeant Chavez held the baby close, tilted her head and cleared her mouth. The baby coughed and then began to cry. Officers continued to care for the mother and child until emergency medical workers arrived.



Sgt. Chavez visited the hospital to check up on the mother and her baby, whom she named Miracle Chavez in his honor. Photo provided by the Crescent-News.

— Continued on page 23.

Auxiliary

An Auxiliary's first ride

Editor's Note: Auxiliary Officer Mike Eberst of the Circleville Post graduated in September 2014 from the most recent Auxiliary Training Class. He wrote the following letter to Auxiliary Colonel Denis Hite describing the first time he rode with a trooper on patrol.

Good morning Colonel. First, I want to thank you and the department for having me. This is something that I've always thought of doing, and the Auxiliary program is allowing me to fulfill a part of my life's dream that I thought I would never complete. I would especially like to thank Aux. Major Doty for all that he has done, and for always being available by phone if I had a question.

Auxiliary Lt. Pillion called a post meeting for Monday evening, so I finally got to go to the post. He, along with Aux. Sgt Hetterscheidt, made whatever apprehension or nervousness I may have had disappear quickly. The Auxiliaries at Post 65 are a good group! We reviewed some policies and procedures and talked about the Pumpkin Show. They gave me some good pointers and explained a lot of things to me. I felt good after the meeting.

I also got to meet the Troopers that were working the 2-10 shift.

Overall, my experience with the Auxiliary has exceeded my expectations.

They were all very friendly and welcoming to the Auxiliaries. One of them, Trooper Cox, asked me when I was going to ride. I told him that I wanted to ride the following day if possible. He said to come down and that I could ride with him. We made arrangements and a plan was set.

I met Trooper Cox at the post, and off we went. Throughout the evening, we made numerous stops for speeding and marked lanes violations. Because of the training that I received in the academy, I was able to spot a couple of things that were not visible to Trooper Cox. One was a six-pack of beer with one missing and one open, and another was 2 pistol cases (yes, they had pistols in them!) tucked behind a VCR that was behind the drivers seat. Neither resulted in an arrest, but Trooper Cox was happy that I saw them.

Trooper Cox is, in my opinion,

an excellent trooper. He reviewed expectations with me before we left, made sure that I knew how to get the shotgun and rifle out and made sure that I stayed safe. My training and his reminders had my head on a swivel during all of our stops. I felt safe riding with him. We get along well and plan on riding together in the future. I was amazed at how tuned in he is at all times to what is going on. He notices everything with every vehicle we pass. This guy is good!

The rest of the troopers at the post are also top notch. Lieutenant Neal welcomed me and had a short talk with me. Sergeant Pennington welcomed me also and shared some advice with me. Everyone there is friendly and made sure that I had what I needed (radio, case, hat rain cover, etc). The Troopers on third shift said that I could ride with them any time. I honestly wish that I didn't have to work so much so that I could ride more!

Overall, my experience with the Auxiliary has exceeded my expectations. I'm anxious to get back out, learn as I go and continue to be a good second set of eyes for whatever trooper that I am riding with. Thanks again for such a wonderful opportunity.

The Patrol Auxiliary is currently accepting applications for new officers. The Auxiliary is an all-volunteer force which provides assistance to Troopers in the course of their duties. Among the duties of an Auxiliary Officer are crash scene and traffic stop assistance, traffic control, disaster relief and special detail support. To learn more about the Auxiliary or to apply, go to: www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/auxiliary.stm.

The Hub



Left to right: Public Safety Intelligence Analyst Mark Wong, Staff Lieutenant Clifton Spinner, Colonel Alexander Alston III, Major General Mark Bartman, ONG Analyst Stephen Bennett, Public Safety Intelligence Manager Angeline Roberts, Public Safety Intelligence Analyst Adam Hermanns, Public Safety Intelligence Manager Tyler Kempf, Major Shawn Davis, Lieutenant Micheal Hasson.

Public Safety Intelligence Manager Angeline Roberts received the Patriot Award from the United States Department of Defense - Employer Support of Guard and Reserve. The Patriot Award nomination is completed by an employee serving in the National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse of a Guard or Reserve member, for the individual supervisors and bosses for support provided directly to the nominating Service member and his or her family. The Patriot Award re-

flects the efforts made to support Citizen Warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed. PSIM Roberts is responsible for the 24/7 scheduling of analysts for the OSP Hub - Intelligence Unit, where nearly half of the analysts are members of the Guard or Reserve. Army Reservist Stephen Bennett nominated Angie for the award.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

— Continued from page 21.

Public Safety Intelligence Analyst **Pete J. Vicini** was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for contributing to a safer Ohio. In April 2014, Vicini, along with the Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit, completed a 12-month investigation which resulted in the arrest of 31 suspects in central Ohio. The investigation began when investigators followed up on an auto title violation discovered by a trooper during a traffic stop. The case soon uncovered a large criminal enterprise involving organized auto theft as well as narcotics and weapons trafficking. The Patrol subsequently coordinated with local, state and federal authorities to handle various portions of the investigation. In April 2014 search warrants were executed at the various locations and numerous suspects were arrested.



Pete J. Vicini

Trooper Eric E. Brown was awarded the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Certificate of Recognition for his efforts to give a critically-wounded victim a chance at survival. On October 25, 2014, Tpr. Brown was attempting to initiate a traffic stop for multiple moving traffic violations when he realized a passenger in the suspect vehicle was likely suffering a medical emergency. Tpr. Brown followed the vehicle into the parking lot of Akron Children's Hospital, where he quickly determined a female in the backseat had been shot and did not have a pulse. Tpr. Brown immediately began chest compressions, and the victim began to breathe on her own. He continued to provide aid until he was relieved by medical personnel. The victim was transferred to a nearby trauma center where she later died.



Eric E. Brown

James R. Mendenhall

Lieutenant James R. Mendenhall, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired February 20, 2015, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1985 as a member of the 115th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to West Jefferson, where he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement six times. He also earned the Blue Max Award for recovering the most stolen vehicles in 1988 and 1991. He earned the prestigious Superintendent's Citation of Merit in 1988 and 1991. In 1992, he transferred to the Office of Criminal Investigations where he served as a plainclothes investigator. In 1998, he returned to the West Jefferson Post. Later that year, he returned to the Office of Criminal Investigations. While in the Office of Criminal Investigations, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1999 and to the rank of lieutenant in 2013.



Post, where he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement in 1992. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Zanesville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. He also served at the Van Wert and Cambridge Posts and Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the Ohio State University in 1986.

James F. Adams

Trooper James F. Adams, Lebanon Post, retired on February 18, 2015, after 38 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1977 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Batavia and Hamilton Posts. He became a member of the 105th Academy Class in December 1978. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Batavia Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1988. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Lebanon Post to serve as an assistant post commander and earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement in 1990. In 2007, he entered the Deferred Retirement Option Plan Program (DROP) and returned to the Batavia Post as a trooper. In 2008, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 2012, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Lebanon Post.



John L. Thompson

Lieutenant John L. Thompson, Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement, retired on January 15, 2015, after 33 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 Lancaster, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1986 and 1988. In 1989, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Portsmouth Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 1991, he transferred to the Bucyrus Post. In 1998, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Gregory L. Cunningham

Trooper Gregory L. Cunningham, Delaware Post, retired on January 16, 2015, after 37 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1977 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Delaware Post. He became a member of the 101st Academy Class in September 1977. He earned his commission in January of the following year and was assigned to the Delaware Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1981. In 1989, he earned the Certificate of Recognition. In January 1994, he transferred to the Aviation Section to serve as a pilot. Several months later, he transferred to the Marion Post. In 1997, he returned to the Delaware Post. In 2002, he transferred to the Executive Protection Unit. He transferred to his most recent assignment at the Delaware Post and he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2011.



David R. Van Buren

Sergeant David R. Van Buren, Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit, retired on February 25, 2015, after more than 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 Cambridge



He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from Ohio Dominican University in 1979.

Paul E. Gerke

Trooper Paul E. Gerke, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on January 21, 2015 after nearly 30 years of state service. He began his state career with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) in May 1984 as a therapeutic worker. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Ravenna, Hiram and Lisbon Posts and Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit. He was selected as Ravenna Post Trooper of the Year in 1997.



Richard D. Terepka

Motor Vehicle Inspector Richard D. Terepka, Medina Post, retired on March 27, 2015, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 1985 as a motor vehicle inspector assigned to the Medina Post. In 1989, he transferred to the former Akron Post to serve as a driver license examiner. In 1997, he returned to his most recent assignment at the Medina Post to serve as a motor vehicle inspector.



Richard L. Knebel

Trooper Richard L. Knebel, Van Wert Post, retired on February 20, 2015, after more than 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and has been assigned to the Van Wert Post throughout his career.



Virginia L. Bryant

Tailor Virginia L. Bryant, Tailor Shop, retired on March 31, 2015, after 28 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol as a tailor in February 1987 and was assigned to the Tailor Shop throughout her career. Bryant worked on more than 40 cadet classes, outfitting thousands of new troopers beginning their Patrol careers. Bryant is also credited with developing the design for the microphone holder currently used by the division. This same design is now used by multiple police agencies. During her tenure, the Division was twice awarded the national Best Dressed Law Enforcement Agency, an award which officially recognizes the role of the Tailor Shop in the overall high appearance standards of the Highway Patrol.



Daniel J. Warniment

Trooper Daniel J. Warniment, Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on May 8, 2015, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. In 1992, he transferred to the Wapakoneta Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1993. In 2001, he transferred to his most recent assignment at Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



Carolyn M. Rosario

Administrative Professional 1 Carolyn M. Rosario, Bucyrus District Headquarters, retired on February 27, 2015, after nearly 30 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in March 1985 as a dispatcher assigned to the Defiance Post. While at the Defiance Post she was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year from 1990 through 1994 and in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001. In 2003, she was promoted to an administrative professional 1 and transferred to the Findlay Post, where in 1991 she was selected as District Dispatcher of the Year. In 2004, she transferred to the Bucyrus District Headquarters, where in 2012 and 2014 she earned the Employee Recognition Award.



OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Chaplain's Comments



Please permit me to be personal for a moment. That is a privilege usually granted to someone quickly approaching the time when he has been permitted to live for nine decades. (That sounds better than saying 90 years!) As that time approaches, I find myself reflecting more upon the past than the future. With my faith and pension, I trust that the future is secure, and includes some opportunities for more motorcycle riding. As I look back over the past 90 years, I find myself wondering about the “what-ifs” and also reflecting upon how fortunate I have been. Why was I fortunate to have been born when I was, where I was and to whom I was entrusted as a child? Having seen what life is like in others parts of the world, I know the blessing which is mine to have been a citizen of the good old USA. I also reflect upon the blessing of being associated with the life and tradition of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Once in a while I wander down the hall at the Academy and look at the pictures of the various classes. There were those who rode out on their Harleys when the Patrol was given birth and I was just 8 years old. There are the pictures of those of my age with whom I could have been associated if I could have qualified to be a Trooper.

And there are the pictures of those young enough to be my children and grandchildren. What impresses me is the fact that although the personnel have changed, the mission and core values have remained steadfast. Yes, the methods and equipment have changed. Colonel Chiramonte used to tell me about his first assignment in Hebron when he would look for the signal on a mailbox indicating there was a call for him at that house. Even I wonder how I ever handled my hospital visitation without the cell phone to alert me to a new situation. I guess I carried change for the now-missing coin telephones.

Vast improvements have been made in the methods used for law enforcement, but what is being done today is based upon the solid foundation of commitment on the part of those who have gone before, including the many retirees who are such a vital part of the life of the Patrol.

The Lord declared a truth applicable to our personal lives and to the organizations to which we give our loyalty: “Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon a rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded upon the rock.” (Matthew 7:24, 25)

Because the Patrol was founded upon the rock of integrity and with a passion to make Ohio a safer place, it has only grown stronger over the years in the fulfillment of its mission. Part of that strength comes from recognition of the tremendous contributions made by those who have served and, even now in retirement, who are a continuing part of the life of the Patrol. As an observer as well as part of the Patrol family, I see the tremendous value of the continuing connection with the retirees. It is strong verification of the fact that the Patrol is truly established upon the solid rock which will always withstand the storms of life and never falter or fail.

We learn to appreciate and learn from the past, to plan for the future, but to realize that the only moment in which we can truly live and contribute is the present. My prayers—and the prayers of my companion chaplains Kelly and Phil—are with you each day as you continue the tradition of making Ohio safer.

Richard D. Ellsworth

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain

FLYING WHEEL

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

John R. Kasich

Governor, State of Ohio

John Born

Director, Department of Public Safety

Colonel Paul A. Pride

Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol

Editor

Nikki Lanka (nalanka@dps.ohio.gov)

Administrative Staff

Lt. Craig Cvetan, Sgt. Vincent Shirey, Julie Hinds, Michele DeGraffinreed, Bradley Shaw

Photographers

Thomas Stiver, Rebecca Meadows, Jim Hamilton

Reporters

Findlay District, Capt. Gary Allen
Bucyrus District, S/Lt. Morris L. Hill
Cleveland District, Lt. Brian T. Holt
Piqua District, Lt. Matthew C. Cleaveland

Columbus District, Lt. Kevin D. Miller

Cambridge District, Capt. Cory D. Davies

Wilmington District, S/Lt. Cliff L. Schaffner

Jackson District, AP4 Lynne A. Robinson

Criminal Investigations, AP4 Tiffany DeArmond

Personnel, Pers. Testing Spec. 3 Tanya Benner

Field Operations, Lt. Lawrence Roseboro

Planning & Analysis, Lt. Jeff Davis

Strategic Services, Capt. Brenda S. Collins

Auxiliary, Lt. Col. Jason Sanford

157th Academy Class

The 157th Class is scheduled to graduate April 10.



OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
P.O. BOX 182074
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43218-2074

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 3546

