

Honor Roll of Highway Patrol Officers Killed in the Line of Duty



Sergeant John F. Best
May 25, 1906 – June 17, 1935

Sergeant Best was the chief of Highway Patrol radio operations at Findlay when he was electrocuted while testing a receiving set at the broadcasting station.



Patrolman George A. Conn
July 19, 1909 – September 27, 1937

Patrolman Conn, New Philadelphia, was killed by assailants who shot him with a .32 caliber automatic pistol. The investigation of this case laid the foundation for the creation of the Highway Patrol's Investigation Section.



Patrolman Leroy S. Bedell
March 27, 1901 – August 20, 1935

Patrolman Bedell was driving one of the Division's Indian motorcycles on State Route 4 in Erie County when he was killed in a fatal crash. He was stationed at Bellevue.



Patrolman Charles G. Cannon
July 18, 1909 – January 1, 1938

Patrolman Cannon was killed in a motorcycle crash while patrolling US Route 42 southwest of Cedarville in Greene County. He was stationed at Springfield.



Patrolman James E. Ivory
February 2, 1907 – January 7, 1936

Patrolman Ivory was critically injured in a motorcycle crash while on duty in Salem in January 1935. After a full year of medical treatment and periods of hospital confinement, he died of injuries sustained in the crash.



Patrolman John G. Hough
August 14, 1912 – December 3, 1940

On September 19, 1940, Patrolman Hough, Portsmouth, was assisting a motorist with a flat tire on US Route 52 in Scioto County when an impaired driver struck him and fled the scene. The officer died 11 weeks later of his injuries.



Patrolman Charles W. Timberlake
August 1, 1911 – August 7, 1936

Patrolman Timberlake was killed in a motorcycle crash while on duty southeast of Lima in Hardin County. He was stationed at Defiance.



Patrolman Paul L. McManis
June 23, 1913 – September 28, 1941

Patrolman McManis was killed in a traffic crash on State Route 269 north of Bellevue in Erie County. At the time of the collision, Patrolman McManis was responding to a crash call. He was stationed at Bellevue.



Patrolman Karl E. Bushong
February 18, 1897 – June 7, 1937

Patrolman Bushong, Geneva, was killed in a crash as he was administering a driver examination when the license applicant collided with an oncoming vehicle.



Corporal John E. Ruch
October 31, 1909 – March 4, 1942

Corporal Ruch died as a result of injuries suffered in a traffic crash that occurred during a high-speed pursuit on US Route 20 in Ashtabula County. He was stationed at Geneva.



Lieutenant Vance M. Andrews
June 11, 1902 – November 21, 1945

Lieutenant Andrews succumbed to fatal injuries suffered in a traffic crash that occurred on State Route 13 in Mt. Vernon. He was stationed at the Division's Columbus facility.



Patrolman Frank J. Hossler
June 28, 1931 – September 22, 1956

Patrolman Hossler was the victim of a fatal traffic crash while on routine patrol north of De Graff in Logan County. He was stationed at the Bellefontaine Post.



Patrolman James P. Gardner
September 8, 1923 – February 28, 1948

Patrolman Gardner was the victim of a fatal traffic crash that occurred in the line of duty. He was a member of the Massillon Post.



Patrolman Robert E. Karsmizki
August 12, 1921 – March 31, 1957

Patrolman Karsmizki, a member of the Bucyrus Post, was fatally shot by a felon during a confrontation in Galion in Crawford County. A Highway Patrol Auxiliary officer present at the scene subsequently killed the assailant.



Patrolman Harry D. Grimes
May 11, 1926 – June 8, 1952

Patrolman Grimes was fatally struck while on a routine traffic stop on State Route 7 in Martins Ferry. He was standing near the highway talking to a motorist when the crash occurred. He was stationed at the Bridgeport Post.



Patrolman Ernest E. Cole
March 13, 1940 – October 3, 1964

Patrolman Cole was fatally struck on Interstate 75 in Butler County while trying to regulate the traffic flow around multiple crashes caused by heavy fog and poor visibility. He was stationed at the Dayton Post.



Patrolman James A. Fredericka
April 7, 1915 – May 8, 1953

Patrolman Fredericka, Warren, was en route to a traffic crash on State Route 7 in Trumbull County on April 30, 1953, when he himself was involved in a traffic crash. The officer died eight days later of injuries suffered in the crash.



Patrolman Jon D. Birchem
January 30, 1945 – February 27, 1967

Patrolman Birchem, a member of the Swanton Post on the Ohio Turnpike, was in pursuit of two speeding vehicles in Wood County. He was fatally injured when he lost control of his vehicle and hit a concrete bridge pillar.



Patrolman Earl W. Casterline
November 28, 1927 – October 19, 1953

Patrolman Casterline was killed in a car-train crash at a railroad crossing obscured by trees and shrubs on Kemper Road in Hamilton County. He was a member of the Cincinnati Post.



Sergeant Harold K. Hanning
December 26, 1943 – August 6, 1970

Sergeant Hanning, a pilot in the Division's Aviation section, was flying over Wooster Township north of US Route 30 in Wayne County when the plane crashed in a wooded area. He had been helping to round up cattle set loose after a traffic crash.



Lieutenant James A. Kirkendall
October 26, 1925 – October 28, 1970

Lieutenant Kirkendall was the Van Wert Post commander at the time of his death in 1970. He was killed in a traffic crash involving two trucks on US Route 33 just west of St. Johns in Auglaize County.



Patrolman Jerry R. Neff
June 5, 1946 – January 30, 1974

Patrolman Neff, Circleville, was on patrol below an overpass in Franklin County when a reckless driver in a stolen vehicle on the interstate above lost control and careened off the overpass, crashing into the officer's patrol car.



Patrolman Joel F. Miller
March 15, 1943 – December 6, 1971

Patrolman Miller was stationed at the Findlay Post. He was killed in a car-train collision at the Penn Central Railroad crossing on County Road 15 in Hardin County.



Sergeant Edward G. Moore
December 31, 1941 – July 23, 1976

Sergeant Moore, Aviation Section, was on air patrol over Knox County when he encountered a sudden, severe thunderstorm. His plane went down north of Mt. Vernon due to heavy rain, poor visibility, and strong, gusty winds.



Patrolman Carl L. Thrush
August 31, 1941 – February 6, 1972

Patrolman Thrush of the Athens Post was answering a crash call on a snowy, slush-covered State Route 93 in Vinton County when his vehicle struck an icy patch, collided with another vehicle, and rolled over an embankment.



Trooper Charles V. Vogel Jr.
July 24, 1955 – January 24, 1980

Trooper Vogel, Springfield Post, was investigating a series of crashes that occurred as a result of icy conditions in Clark County. He was assisting several crash victims in the highway median when he was struck by another vehicle.



Patrolman William J. Keller
August 13, 1945 – October 14, 1972

Patrolman Keller was fatally struck by a pickup truck while outside of his patrol car handling a traffic stop on Interstate 76 in Rootstown in Portage County. He was a member of the Ravenna Post.



Trooper William R. Bender
March 25, 1951 – November 20, 1982

On October 25, 1982, Trooper Bender was directing traffic at a construction site in Wyandot County when struck by a tractor-trailer. Stationed at the Marion Post, he died 26 days later of injuries suffered in the crash.



Patrolman David L. Sterner
April 13, 1951 – February 25, 1973

Patrolman Sterner, Findlay Post, was in pursuit of a speeding motorist in Hancock County when another driver pulled directly in his path. In attempting to avoid a collision, the officer lost control of his patrol car and crashed into a culvert.



Trooper Jody S. Dye
December 3, 1959 – July 5, 1985

Trooper Dye, patrolling Interstate 270 during heavy rainfall, was fatally struck while placing fuses at the US Route 33 interchange in Columbus to warn approaching traffic of a crash scene. He was stationed at the Granville Post.



Trooper Wendy G. Everett
September 30, 1962 – August 5, 1988

Trooper Everett, Circleville, was outside her patrol car completing a criminal investigation on Interstate 270 in Franklin County, when she was struck by a hit-skip driver. She died hours later of injuries sustained in the crash.



Sergeant Dale R. Holcomb
March 7, 1961 – September 28, 2006

Sergeant Holcomb was killed in a two-vehicle crash on Jackson Pike in Gallia County. The crash also claimed the lives of Trooper Joshua P. Risner, and a Gallia County woman. He was assigned to the Gallipolis Post.



Trooper Kenneth A. Maloney
August 7, 1962 – July 28, 1990

Trooper Maloney was killed in a two-vehicle crash that occurred on US Route 68 east of Georgetown in Brown County. He was responding to a crash call at the time of the collision. Trooper Maloney was stationed at Georgetown.



Trooper Joshua P. Risner
September 15, 1977 – September 28, 2006

Trooper Risner was killed in a two-vehicle crash on Jackson Pike in Gallia County. The crash also claimed the lives of Sergeant Dale R. Holcomb, and a Gallia County woman. He was assigned to the Gallipolis Post.



Trooper James R. Gross
January 12, 1969 – January 19, 1996

Trooper Gross, a member of the Ashland Post, received a report of an erratic driver on Interstate 71 near the Post. During the subsequent traffic stop, he was shot and killed by a man who was fleeing the scene of another shooting.



Trooper Jack P. Holland
September 11, 1961 – August 21, 2007

Trooper Holland, a motor vehicle inspector in the Massillon District, was conducting salvage inspections when he was stung by a yellow jacket and suffered a fatal reaction.



Trooper Robert Perez
August 15, 1975 – May 15, 2000

Trooper Perez, Milan Post, was conducting a traffic stop on the Ohio Turnpike in Erie County when an impaired driver struck his patrol car from behind. He died of injuries sustained in the crash three days later.



Trooper Andrew C. Baldrige
November 7, 1984 – February 4, 2010

Trooper Baldrige, Bucyrus Post, died from injuries sustained in a one-vehicle crash on Township Road 95 in Wyandot County. He was responding to a mutual aid call from a Wyandot County Sheriff's deputy at the time of the crash.



Trooper Frank G. Vazquez
July 2, 1975 – November 6, 2001

Trooper Vazquez, West Jefferson, was conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 270 in Franklin County when an impaired driver struck his patrol car, sending it into the stopped vehicle and critically injuring him. He died hours later of injuries sustained in the crash.



Trooper Kenneth Velez
August 23, 1968 – September 15, 2016

Trooper Kenneth Velez, Cleveland Metro Post, was fatally struck while conducting traffic enforcement outside of his cruiser on the berm of Interstate Route 90. The vehicle hit him after swerving toward the berm to avoid another vehicle.

Support Personnel

In addition to our officers killed in the line of duty, we also honor five members who held support positions and lost their lives in the line of duty.

Chief Radio Operator Walter E. Dawson, Warren District Headquarters, was fatally injured in a Patrol car crash northwest of Warren in Trumbull County on May 31, 1953.

Auxiliary Officer Earl F. Ulmer lost his life on July 12, 1953, when he was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic around a crash in Washington County.

Auxiliary Officer Dale R. Warrington died in a crash during the pursuit of a violator in Allen County on August 29, 1965.

Load Limit Inspectors **Paul C. Eberhart** and **Ralph E. Morrow** were killed in a traffic crash on November 23, 1987. They had just finished weighing a truck on US-30 in Wayne County when a tractor-trailer drove off the roadway and crashed into them. A trooper working with them miraculously survived critical injuries.