

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



Sergeant John F. Best

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.

May 25, 1906 – June 17, 1935
Hometown: Bellefontaine
1st Academy Class: November 15, 1933



Patrolman Leroy S. Bedell

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

March 27, 1901 – August 20, 1935
Hometown: Norwalk
1st Academy Class: November 15, 1933



Patrolman James E. Ivory

Patrolman Ivory was critically injured in a motorcycle crash while on duty in Salem in January 1935. After a year of medical treatment and periods of hospital confinement, he died January 7, 1936, of injuries sustained in the crash.

February 2, 1907 – January 7, 1936
Hometown: Bellefontaine
1st Academy Class: November 15, 1933



Patrolman Charles W. Timberlake

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

August 1, 1911 – August 7, 1936
Hometown: Shadyside
5th Academy Class: October 6, 1935



Patrolman Karl E. Bushong

Stationed at Geneva, Patrolman Bushong was killed in a traffic crash on US Route 20 while he was administering a driving examination. He was a passenger in the car driven by the license applicant and suffered fatal injuries when the driver collided with an oncoming vehicle.

February 18, 1897 – June 7, 1937

Hometown: Cleveland

1st Academy Class: November 15, 1933



Patrolman George A. Conn

Patrolman Conn, of New Philadelphia, was killed north of Freeport in Harrison County 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.

July 19, 1909 – September 27, 1937

Hometown: Cumberland

4th Academy Class: July 10, 1935



Patrolman Charles G. Cannon

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

July 18, 1909 – January 1, 1938

Hometown: Columbus

2nd Academy Class: March 12, 1934



Patrolman John G. Hough

On September 19, 1940, Patrolman Hough, of Portsmouth, was assisting a stranded motorist with a flat tire when a drunk driver struck him and fled the scene. The hit-skip occurred on US Route 52 in Scioto County and the officer died 11 weeks later of injuries sustained in the incident.

August 14, 1912 – December 3, 1940

Hometown: Versailles

7th Academy Class: April 3, 1938



Patrolman Paul L. McManis

Patrolman McManis was killed in a traffic crash that occurred 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.

June 23, 1913 – September 28, 1941

Hometown: Mt. Vernon

12th Academy Class: April 30, 1941



Corporal John E. Ruch

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.

October 31, 1909 – March 4, 1942

Hometown: Akron

2nd Academy Class: April 12, 1934



Lieutenant Vance M. Andrews

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.

June 11, 1902 – November 21, 1945

Hometown: Wooster

1st Academy Class: November 15, 1933



Patrolman James P. Gardner

Patrolman Gardner was the victim of a fatal traffic crash. He was a member of the Massillon post.

September 8, 1923 – February 28, 1948

Hometown: Warren

23rd Academy Class: September 10, 1947



Patrolman Harry D. Grimes

Patrolman Grimes was fatally struck during a 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.

May 11, 1926 – June 8, 1952

Hometown: Carrollton

32nd Academy Class: November 7, 1951



Patrolman James A. Fredericka

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

April 7, 1915 – May 8, 1953

Hometown: Niles

25th Academy Class: June 3, 1948



Chief Radio Operator Walter E. Dawson

Chief Radio Operator Dawson of the Warren District Headquarters was fatally injured in a Patrol car crash in Trumbull County.

September 3, 1917 – May 31, 1953

Hometown: Cambridge



Auxiliary Officer Earl F. Ulmer

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

Deceased July 12, 1953



Patrolman Earl W. Casterline

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.

November 28, 1927 – October 19, 1953

Hometown: Norwood

35th Academy Class: May 9, 1952



Patrolman Frank J. Hossler

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.

June 28, 1931 – September 22, 1956

Hometown: Westerville

44th Academy Class: November 4, 1955



Patrolman Robert E. Karsmizki

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.

August 12, 1921 – March 31, 1957

Hometown: Mansfield

23rd Academy Class: September 10, 1947



Patrolman Ernest E. Cole

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.

March 13, 1940 – October 3, 1964

Hometown: Hamilton

63rd Academy Class: January 10, 1964



Agent James B. Burns

On November 7, 1964, Agent Burns was shot and killed as he attempted to arrest a suspect in an illegal liquor sales establishment in Xenia.

Deceased November 7, 1964



Auxiliary Officer Dale R. Warrington

Auxiliary Officer Warrington died in a traffic crash during the pursuit of a violator in Allen County.

May 29, 1930 – August 29, 1965



Patrolman Jon D. Birchem

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.

January 30, 1945 – February 27, 1967

Hometown: Prospect

70th Academy Class: June 10, 1966



Sergeant Harold K. Hanning

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.

December 26, 1943 – August 6, 1970

Hometown: Ravenna

66th Academy Class: February 8, 1965



Lieutenant James A. Kirkendall

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.

October 26, 1925 – October 28, 1970

Hometown: Springfield

28th Academy Class: September 6, 1949



Patrolman Joel F. Miller

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.

March 15, 1943 – December 6, 1971

Hometown: Bloomdale

82nd Academy Class: April 11, 1969



Patrolman Carl L. Thrush

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 hit an icy patch, collided with another vehicle, and rolled over an embankment.

August 31, 1941 – February 6, 1972

Hometown: Waynesfield

65th Academy Class: October 29, 1964



Patrolman William J. Keller

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.

August 13, 1945 – October 14, 1972

Hometown: Hershey, PA

93rd Academy Class: December 17, 1971



Patrolman David L. Sterner

Patrolman Sterner, a member of the Findlay post, was in pursuit of a speeding motorist on State Route 15 in Hancock County when another driver pulled across State Route 37 directly in his path. In attempting to avoid a collision with the vehicle on State Route 37, the officer lost control of his patrol car and crashed into a culvert.

April 13, 1951 – February 25, 1973

Hometown: Canton

95th Academy Class: June 23, 1972



Patrolman Jerry R. Neff

Patrolman Neff was on patrol on US Route 62 below the Interstate 71 overpass in southwestern Franklin County. A reckless driver operating a stolen vehicle on the interstate lost control and careened off the overpass, crashing into the officer's patrol car below. Patrolman Neff was stationed at the Circleville post.

June 5, 1946 – January 30, 1974

Hometown: Mt. Sterling

90th Academy Class: April 16, 1971



Sergeant Edward G. Moore

Sergeant Moore, a pilot in the Division's Aviation section, was on air patrol over Knox County when he encountered a sudden and severe thunderstorm. His plane went down north of Mt. Vernon and east of State Route 13 due to heavy rain, poor visibility, and strong, gusty winds.

December 31, 1941 – July 23, 1976

Hometown: Zanesville

70th Academy Class: June 10, 1966



Trooper Charles V. Vogel Jr.

Trooper Vogel, a member of the Springfield post, was investigating a series of crashes that occurred as a result of icy conditions on Interstate 70 and US Route 68 in Clark County. He was assisting several crash victims in the highway median when he was struck by another vehicle.

July 24, 1955 – January 24, 1980

Hometown: Dayton

104th Academy Class: January 12, 1979



Trooper William R. Bender

On October 25, 1982, Trooper Bender was directing traffic at a construction site on US Route 23 north of State Route 53 in Wyandot County when he was struck by a tractor-trailer. Stationed at the Marion post, he died 26 days later of injuries suffered in the crash.

March 25, 1951 – November 20, 1982
Hometown: Marion
96th Academy Class: October 27, 1972



Trooper Jody S. Dye

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.

December 3, 1959 – July 5, 1985
Hometown: Ravenswood, WV
111th Academy Class: December 11, 1981



Load Limit Inspector Ralph E. Morrow

Load Limit Inspector Morrow was killed in a traffic crash on November 23, 1987. He and Load Limit Inspector Paul C. Eberhart had just finished weighing a truck on US Route 30 in Wayne County when a tractor-trailer drove off the roadway and crashed into them. A trooper working with the team miraculously survived very critical injuries.

October 26, 1930 – November 23, 1987



Load Limit Inspector Paul C. Eberhart

Load Limit Inspector Eberhart was involved in a traffic crash on November 23, 1987. He and Load Limit Inspector Ralph E. Morrow had just finished weighing a truck on US Route 30 in Wayne County when a tractor-trailer drove off the roadway and crashed into them. He succumbed to injuries sustained in the crash four days later.

February 23, 1966 – November 27, 1987



Trooper Wendy G. Everett

Trooper Everett, a member of the Circleville post, was outside her patrol car completing a criminal investigation on Interstate 270 at US Route 62 in Franklin County when she was struck by a hit-skip driver.

September 30, 1962 – August 5, 1988

Hometown: Parkersburg, WV

114th Academy Class: September 6, 1985



Trooper Kenneth A. Maloney

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.

August 7, 1962 – July 28, 1990

Hometown: Middletown

113th Academy Class: September 7, 1984



Trooper James R. Gross

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.

January 12, 1969 – January 19, 1996

Hometown: Brunswick

124th Academy Class: June 25, 1993



Trooper Robert Perez Jr.

Trooper Perez of the Milan post was fatally injured in a crash on the Ohio Turnpike in Erie County when his patrol car was struck from behind by another vehicle during a traffic stop. He succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the crash three days later.

August 15, 1975 – May 15, 2000

Hometown: Lorain

132nd Academy Class: April 4, 1999



Trooper Frank G. Vazquez

Trooper Vazquez was conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 270 in Franklin County when a drunk driver struck his car from behind, sending it into the stopped vehicle and fatally injuring him.

July 2, 1975 – November 6, 2001

Hometown: Defiance

128th Academy Class: July 25, 1997



Sergeant Dale R. Holcomb

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.

March 7, 1961 – September 28, 2006

Hometown: Crooksville

115th Academy Class: March 21, 1986



Trooper Joshua P. Risner

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.

September 15, 1977 – September 28, 2006

Hometown: Oak Hill

134th Academy Class: December 10, 1999



Trooper Jack P. Holland

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.

September 11, 1961 - August 21, 2007

Hometown: Amherst

116th Academy Class: September 18, 1987



Trooper Andrew C. Baldrige

Trooper Baldrige was killed in a one-vehicle crash when his police Interceptor drove off the right side of the road and rolled over. The crash occurred on Township Road 95, just south of State Route 103, just west of the village of Carey.

November 7, 1984 - February 4, 2010

Hometown: Carey

149th Academy Class: December 16, 2009



Trooper Kenneth Velez

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.

August 23, 1968 - September 15, 2016

Hometown: Lorain

118th Academy Class: November 3, 1989