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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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
**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

**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 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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**Trooper Jody S. Dye**  
Trooper Dye, patrolling Interstate 270 during heavy rainfall, was fatally struck while placing fusees 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

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**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

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**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.

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.

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. Baldridge**
Trooper Baldridge 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