



# FLYING WHEEL

VOLUME 62 • NUMBER 2

APRIL - JUNE 2024



*Nothing can **eclipse** this moment  
The Patrol's response to the total solar eclipse, pg. 6*

OHIO STATE  
HIGHWAY PATROL

## COLONEL'S LETTER



More than three decades ago, President George H.W. Bush expressed his promise to serve our country, and underscored the importance of public service.

"I will keep America moving forward, always forward, for a better America, for an endless enduring dream and a thousand points of light."

Light is the symbol of hope, clarity and guidance; qualities that are central to the Patrol's mission and efforts. When we all work together to serve with a purpose, we act as points of dedication to the great state of Ohio that illuminate our path forward.

This year, we have discovered that light is a common thread that weaves together our commemorations and the ways in which we honor those who came before us.

On April 8, more than two years of planning and collaboration with partners from around the state culminated as our sworn and professional staff ensured a safe, memorable experience for the thousands who watched the total solar eclipse across Ohio. Despite the increase in motorists on our roadways, our troopers saw a 6% decrease in the number of crashes investigated compared to the same time frame the prior week, thanks to the collective efforts of everyone involved.

This once-in-a-lifetime event emphasized our unwavering commitment to ensuring safety, even when the light is literally blocked by the moon.

A few weeks later, on April 26, the sun shone brightly as we dedicated a classroom at the Training Academy to our "Father of Aviation," Captain Ernest. P. Webb. Just as a light helps us to see clearly, Captain Webb helped the Patrol define the way we enforce motor vehicle laws, combat crime and keep our communities safe.

We were also grateful to once again partner with Light Ohio Blue from May 8-18, to express appreciation to Ohio's fallen officers, and their families, for making the ultimate sacrifice.

From a caravan of more than 100 law enforcement cruisers in central Ohio, to Patrol posts illuminating their exteriors in blue lights, shades of cobalt illuminated the skies in May and represented unity for law enforcement personnel throughout the state.

On May 10, we gathered to honor the memory of our 48 fallen Patrol members during the annual Memorial Ceremony. Each name of these brave souls is fixed in black granite, made brighter by the undiminishing eternal flame.

While their names are etched on our memorial monument, their legacies live on in the lives they touched.

In June, we celebrated Retiree Appreciation Month by honoring those who bind us together as a Patrol family. Our retirees, both sworn and professional staff, forged the foundation upon which our Division was built and served as a beacon of strength, integrity and light.

I am excited to highlight that our Division held its first Master Trooper ceremony on June 26 at the Piqua District Headquarters. I have mentioned it before – to reflect leadership, you do not always need a formal rank.

And, over the course of the year, more than 300 master troopers will receive their designation at posts across the state.

As we move forward this year, let us be a source of light in all that we do. The light that is felt throughout the Division has helped us emerge from challenges a better and stronger agency that is more prepared to handle whatever comes our way.

Just as former President Bush assured America that through the service of its citizens the nation could have a stronger future, it is undeniable that through a shared vision of public service for the protection of Ohioans, as a Division we can lead Ohio to a stronger, safer future.

God bless our fallen, God bless the families and God bless the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Colonel Charles A. Jones  
Superintendent

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

- 4 Patrol Honors Their Fallen (Patrol Memorial)
- 5 Light Ohio Blue Memorial Cruiser Caravan
- 6 Solar Eclipse (Nothing Can Eclipse This Moment)
- 7 Captain Webb Classroom Dedication, First Master Trooper Ceremony
- 8 Retiree Cookout
- 10 Saved by the Belt (Events Around the State)

## NEWS AND EVENTS

- 12 Patrol Graduates 52 Troopers (173rd Class) + Introducing Lateral Cadets!
- 13 PO2 Quine Swearing-In, Patrol Memorial Day Hero Workout, National Police Week Memorial
- 14 Public Safety Leadership Academy (PSLA) Graduation, Women's Academy Readiness Seminar
- 15 Buckeye Boys and Buckeye Girls State, 2024 Junior Cadet Program
- 16 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
- 17 Building Bikes and Building a Community of Hope, Buck Fifty Race, Dapper Dog Darius Comes out on Top

## AWARDS

- 18 Distinguished Service Medallion Awards (Troopers Tarver, Kirby and Boyer), Top Dog Civilian Award (Trooper Dickerson and K-9 Clavo), A History of Previous Fitness Award Winners
- 19 Athens Post Dispatchers Honored, Major Altman Achieves Perfect Fitness Score
- 20 Years of Service Awards (Dispatcher Dicken, Captain Fellure, Dispatcher Hoffman and Captain Springs)
- 21 Work Zone Conference, Honda Odysseys: Driving the Patrol Forward, Licensing and Commercial Standards Enforcement Blitz

## AROUND THE STATE

- 22 Events from around the state

## AND MORE!

- 26 Where are they now? - Trooper Ricardo "Rico" Jones, Ohio Department of Veterans Services at the Training Academy
- 27 Credit Union, Letter from HPRS, Highway Patrol Auxiliary
- 28 Retirements
- 33 Highway Highlights
- 34 Memorial Ceremony Photos
- 35 Director's - Chaplain's Corner

Want daily updates on the Patrol & OIU?  
Follow us!



Ohio State Highway Patrol  
Ohio Investigative Unit

@OSHP  
@OSHP\_NWOhio  
@OSHP\_NEOhio  
@OSHP\_CentralOhio  
@OSHP\_SWOhio  
@OSHP\_SEOhio  
@Ohio\_OIU

@OhioStateHighwayPatrol

Ohio State Highway Patrol

@OSHP

Now featuring QR codes! Scan codes with the camera app on your smartphone, and simply tap the link that pops up to directly view videos or additional content related to the articles featured in *Flying Wheel*. Look for codes with "FW Exclusive" for content that can only be found in the magazine!



## PATROL HONORS THEIR FALLEN

The annual gathering for the memorialization of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's fallen occurred on May 10 in the Leadership Auditorium at the Training Academy.

As in years past, the Division's Memorial Ceremony provided an opportunity to remember the heroic sacrifices of those who have died in the line of duty. For active and retired personnel, it offered a profound moment to join families of the fallen as a gesture of respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice while providing purposeful service to Ohioans.

Families of 20 of the fallen attended this year's event. Their presence, some of whom attend year after year, underscored the family spirit that stands strong across the Division.

In addition to the Honor Guard that stood to recognize and salute the fallen, the tradition continued of welcoming back three retirees to participate in the ceremony – retired Lieutenant Colonel William Costas, retired Lieutenant Mary Pfeiffer and retired Sergeant Dale LaRue.

Retired Patrol Major Robert Booker, a current Ohio Investigative Unit enforcement commander and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association president, read the roll call of the Patrol's 48 fallen members in order of their passing. Following each name, the memorial bell tolled and a rose was placed at the memorial wall in the Training Academy courtyard.

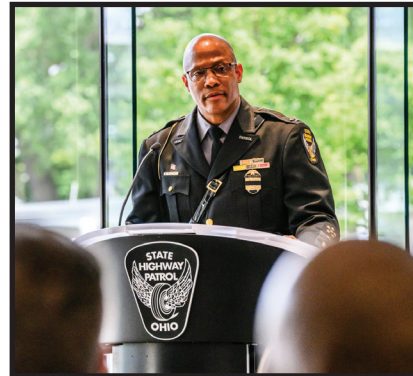
In his remarks, Colonel Charles A. Jones talked about the honor of the 48 names etched into Patrol history on the memorial wall.

"We are surrounded by the echoes of their bravery, the echoes of their dedication and the echoes of their honor," said Colonel Jones. "Our fallen embody honor, and today, we honor their memory by committing to uphold it in our own lives and actions."

For a second consecutive year, the Memorial Fallen Flag Project took place.

On the day of the ceremony, troopers from local posts visited the fallen and placed a United States flag at each member's resting place. The flag serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made to ensure our safety and it is fitting that we honor our fallen with the ultimate symbol of strength and resilience.

THE FIRST PATROL MEMORIAL CEREMONY WAS HELD ON MAY 16, 1989, AND HONORED 31 FALLEN PERSONNEL. IT WAS PRESIDED OVER BY THEN LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD G. GRUMNEY, AND THE LATE AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, WILLIAM DENIHAN. THE LATE REVEREND RICHARD ELLSWORTH GAVE THE BENEDICTION.



Left: Colonel Charles A. Jones addresses the audience of family members and Patrol staff in Leadership Hall.

Below: A member of the Honor Guard pays his respects.



The Patrol's Pipes and Drums performs "Amazing Grace" at the memorial. Shown left to right: Trooper Nicholas P. Cayton, Canfield Post; Sergeant John F. McGlashan, Sandusky Post; Sergeant Stephen A. Murphy, Lisbon Post and Sergeant Matthew A. Dyer, Wapakoneta Post.



The Memorial Cruiser Caravan lights the Columbus skyline blue.

## LIGHT OHIO BLUE



The Chillicothe Post shows their support for the Light Ohio Blue campaign.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol joined law enforcement agencies from across the state to participate in the annual Light Ohio Blue campaign from May 8-18, which honors law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, along with their surviving family members. The campaign also shows support for active law enforcement personnel across the state.

To kick off the 2024 Light Ohio Blue campaign, a ceremony was held at The Tree Church in Lancaster on May 8.

The keynote speaker for this year's ceremony was Connie Moyer, National President of Concerns of Police Survivors.

Light Ohio Blue also recognized four individuals with awards for their work to support law enforcement and their communities.

Following the ceremony, a Memorial Cruiser Caravan, comprised of more than 100 cruisers from law enforcement agencies from across the state, departed from Lancaster and traveled through Amanda, Circleville, Ashville and Groveport-Madison Township, before ending in downtown Columbus. Throughout the caravan, all law enforcement vehicles flashed their lights in an effort to, "light the sky blue."

For the duration of the 2024 Light Ohio Blue campaign, all Patrol posts added a blue light to the exterior of their buildings to show continued support.



A young girl from the community shows her support for law enforcement officers.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE 174TH CADET CLASS, THE LIGHT OHIO BLUE 2024 CRUISER CARAVAN WAS ONE OF THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE THE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BEING A MEMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS THEY SERVE. THE CADETS FIRST HELPED STAGE PATROL CRUISERS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE CARAVAN AND ASSISTED WITH PUTTING COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATES ON MANY OF THE CARAVAN'S VEHICLES. BUT THEIR REAL MEMORIES FROM THE NIGHT CAME FROM THE EXCITEMENT TO SEE THE NUMBERS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS WHO LINED THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE ROUTE. FROM THE WINDOWS OF THE TRAINING ACADEMY BUS, THE CADETS WAVED AT THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO LINED THE ROUTE.

FROM YOUNG CHILDREN, TO FAMILIES GATHERED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CARAVAN, THE CADETS GAINED A NEW UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY-LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS. THAT EXPERIENCE WAS HEIGHTENED DURING A STOP AT A SCHOOL ALONG THE ROUTE WHERE CADETS INTERACTED WITH CHILDREN, INCLUDING POSING FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND PASSING OUT TEDDY TROOPER STUFFED BEARS.

## NOTHING CAN ECLIPSE THIS MOMENT

### The Patrol's response to the solar eclipse

For nearly two years, the Ohio State Highway Patrol prepared for the total solar eclipse on April 8, ensuring the safety and security of residents and travelers.

A key component of the Patrol's eclipse preparedness involved collaboration with state, county and local law enforcement agencies. This collaborative approach underscored the Patrol's commitment to public safety and ensured a unified response to potential challenges posed by the once-in-a-lifetime event.

"I say it a lot – when we work together, it turns out better," stated Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, during the planning stages. "It is going to take all of us to help make the eclipse a safe and memorable experience for the thousands of Ohioans and visitors coming to our great state, for this historic event."

Success was achieved by working together. With partners at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Patrol developed a comprehensive strategy to manage increased traffic. Augmented staffing levels and mobilization of resources, including the Aviation Section, underscored the commitment to maintaining a state of readiness. Troopers were highly-visible across the state and ready to assist motorists with any and all emergencies.

The collaborative messaging among agencies emphasized three key principles – planning, preparation and patience. Motorists were urged to plan their viewing locations and travel routes in advance, ensuring their vehicles were well-maintained and equipped with emergency kits. Patience was also stressed, as travelers were expected to experience delays and would need to adopt a patient mindset during increased travel times.

The Patrol's Public Affairs Unit also leveraged social media platforms to communicate important information and updates before, during and after the eclipse. This proactive approach included traffic advisories, safety tips and reminders to motorists to plan their travel routes in advance and refrain from stopping on roadways to view the eclipse.

As Ohio hosted this historic celestial event, the Patrol had a presence at the Joint Information Center (JIC), where statewide agencies worked seamlessly together. At the after-action review, agency representatives highlighted how well the team worked together, emphasizing the strong collaboration that contributed to the successful event.

"It was truly amazing to know that everyone in the JIC was there, being the heartbeat of it all," said Sima Merick, Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management



Director of Public Safety, Andy Wilson, prepares to board a Patrol helicopter used for traffic monitoring during the total solar eclipse.



Lieutenant Marcus A. Pirrone observes the total solar eclipse.

Agency. "Success comes back to communication and coordination amongst our agencies both locally and at the state level."

By working together, the Patrol once again demonstrated their commitment to public safety and ensuring a positive event for residents and visitors alike.

In collaboration with local partners and with a commitment to public safety, OSHP managed the unique challenges presented by this rare astronomical event, demonstrating once again their unwavering dedication to serving the community.

With a longstanding commitment to service, OSHP played a crucial role in managing traffic, providing emergency response services and promoting safety during this rare event.

## CAPTAIN ERNEST P. WEBB CLASSROOM DEDICATION

On April 26, a classroom at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy was dedicated to retired Captain Ernest P. Webb. The classroom sits where the Academy's firing range used to be, before a new one was constructed and dedicated by the Patrol on July 26, 2000, undergoing quite a transformation in the process. *See the QR code below for more on this topic!*

Captain Webb was born in 1906, coincidentally the same year the Wright Brothers were granted a patent for their "flying machine." Webb was infatuated by airplanes ever since he saw one fly at the Adams County Fair in 1917, flown by one of the first licensed female pilots in the country, Ruth Law. That day changed Webb's life forever, cementing itself as the day he, "forgot his fascination with steam engineering and decided that he would fly." His legacy and love for aviation lives on in every one of the Patrol's pilots and aircrafts that fly today, more than 75 years later, and more than 40 years after his passing on April 8, 1981.

Webb was a member of the first training school at Camp Perry, which started on October 2, 1933, and his name was called first at the inaugural graduation ceremony on November 15, 1933, as roll call started in reverse at that time. Throughout his 25-year career, and until his retirement on February 1, 1959, Webb continued to accomplish many firsts in the Patrol, establishing himself as not only a trailblazer, but a 'skyblazer.'

On June 8, 1948, then Sergeant Webb went airborne with the Patrol's first plane, a 1948 Beechcraft Bonanza Model 35. The plane was purchased for \$7,800 after Webb worked with Colonel George Mingle and state legislature to secure funding. Sergeant Webb also recorded the first aircraft traffic assist on the same day, after he observed a car skidding off the road into a ditch. Additionally, he also made many advancements in traffic control and speed violation enforcement from the air during his career. These efforts awarded Captain Webb with the moniker, "Father of Patrol Aviation."



Colonel Charles A. Jones with the family of Captain Webb and the new classroom dedication plaque.

Captain Webb's family takes extreme pride in his legacy. Family members came from as far as Texas and Arizona for the classroom dedication. Family members in attendance included Captain Webb's daughter, Nancy Cannon, and grandchildren, Matthew Cannon, Stacey Harper, Stephanie Armstrong and Daryl Rardon. When family members were asked what the dedication meant to them, daughter Nancy Cannon stated, "My dad would be so honored. He loved the Highway Patrol." Granddaughter Stephanie Armstrong shared, "I think the love of aviation and the Highway Patrol, and just in general public service is because of him. Our whole family is into planes and aviation. And we love the officers, so I think this is just really special."



Scan the QR code to view photos of the Academy's old firing range, before it became Captain Webb's classroom. This content is a Flying Wheel exclusive!

## FIRST MASTER TROOPER CEREMONY



Trooper Michael D. W. Keeton's family assists with pinning on his new Master Trooper uniform insignia.

In a ceremony held on June 26 at the Piqua District Headquarters, the Patrol recognized the exemplary service of the first of more than 300 recipients of the Master Trooper designation this year. This significant milestone marks a new chapter in the Patrol's storied 90-year history.

The Master Trooper designation honors troopers who have achieved at least seven years of service and demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication and commitment to the Patrol's Core Values. These troopers have consistently served with a purpose, embodying the highest standards of service and protection.

The newly designated Master Troopers were praised for their unwavering dedication and significant contributions to the Patrol's mission.

"Your continued efforts are vital to preserving the legacy of the Ohio State Highway Patrol," said Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent. "Your devotion to duty will continue to make a difference and embolden the lives of those we serve."

The event underscored the importance of leadership at all levels within the organization. The new Master Troopers were reminded that their recent designation symbolizes character and the ability to inspire others.

Master Trooper ceremonies will continue through the summer, at various posts across the state.

## RETIREE COOKOUT: SHARING MORE THAN JUST A MEAL



The Patrol's retirees and "Stetson Club" members gather around the Patrol's core values sign at the Training Academy. The Stetson Club represents a group of loyal and dedicated supporters of active and retired members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol who contribute \$1 a day to support State Troopers of Ohio, Inc. Retirees shown from left: Sergeant Walter "Magnum" Davis, Trooper Fred M. Summers, Colonel Kenneth L. Morckel, Major Fred Goldstein, Lieutenant Ernie Wilson, Staff Lieutenant Robert Warner, Colonel Thomas W. Rice (executive director of State Troopers of Ohio, Inc.), Colonel Warren H. Davies, Lieutenant Colonel Rob Hartsell, Sergeant Jim Chapman, Lieutenant Delmer D. Dunlap, Major and OIU Enforcement Commander Robert W. Booker (president of the Ohio State Troopers Association), Major J.P. Allen, Sergeant Mike Kasler and Captain Carl Roark (executive director of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirement System).

On June 21, nearly 200 retired Ohio State Highway Patrol sworn officers and professional staff attended the 9th Annual Retiree Cookout at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy.

As in years past, this year's retiree cookout served as an opportunity for past and present employees to reunite with their Patrol family while honoring the legacy of the retirees.

The annual event is held in conjunction with Retiree Appreciation Month, which was inaugurated in 2014 by Colonel Paul A. Pride. Originally celebrated in April, Retiree Appreciation Month was later moved to June.

Even before they entered the Training Academy, attendees were treated to some rare sights. Retired Sergeant Dale L. LaRue coordinated to have five vintage Patrol cruisers on display outside the Training Academy, and the Aviation Section had one of the Division's Airbus helicopters on static display.

Hope, the Division's first therapy dog, and her handler Trooper Paul E. Appleman were in attendance, providing retirees with a look at the Patrol's continuing commitment toward putting resources into the mental health and wellness program.

As attendees gathered in the gym, Gabriel Rosvanis played the guitar and sang a mix of inspiring songs to honor the retirees' selfless service. Gabriel, a huge supporter of law enforcement, was appointed

"Junior Colonel" by Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, at the 2022 Light Ohio Blue, Operation Santa's Sleigh event.

During the program, attendees heard from Danielle Chatfield-Beres, CEO of the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union, as well as Colonel Jones on ways in which the Division is constantly and consistently pushing forward to become more effective, responsive and aligned with the needs and values of Ohio.

In covering changes over the last few years, with the purpose of evolving the Patrol's operations and policies to better protect our communities, he cited recruitment initiatives, including the policy change allowing troopers and cadets to cover visible tattoos with the long sleeve uniform shirt and the elevation of the maximum entry age into the Academy up to 40. Additionally, the new Master Trooper designation for troopers who demonstrate exceptional leadership without pursuing the promotional track was covered.

Finally, Colonel Jones reemphasized his love for the Patrol, an organization he recognizes as his family.

"Life teaches us that family is defined by the ones that celebrate our successes and who we lean on during our difficult times. That is what I see when I look around this gymnasium today. A family," said Colonel Jones. "It's the women and men who share a commitment of service with



a purpose. Because this Division – all these people here today – they are your family. I know you all are a part of mine.”

Following the program, members of the 174th Cadet Class served hamburgers and hotdogs to attendees, which were prepared by the Patrol’s Auxiliary. Retirees and active personnel then engaged in the most important part of the event – fellowship and catching up with friends and colleagues.

A very special thank you to the sponsors for the event, including the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union, Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association, Ohio State Troopers Retirees Association and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary.



*Retired Sergeant Steve Brode and retired Electronic Technician 3 Paul Mayer admire a vintage Patrol cruiser.*



*Retired Auxiliary Lieutenant Colonel Steven Morgan and Retired Auxiliary Captain Bill Simpson prepare burgers for the cookout.*



*Gabriel Rosvanis performs for the audience.*



*Danielle Chatfield-Beres announces the raffle giveaway winners.*



*Left: Retired Sergeant Richard Fogt and retired Trooper James Matthews share a laugh together.*

*Right: OIU Enforcement Commander and retired Major Robert W. Booker, and retired Colonel Tom Rice pose for the camera.*



## SAVED BY THE BELT EVENTS TAKE PLACE

As mentioned in Colonel Jones' State of the Patrol address, "Saved by the Belt" presentations are larger-scale events that make a broader impact. The model was set last year by the Findlay and Bucyrus districts, during the Buckle Up - Batter Up event, in conjunction with the Toledo Mud Hens, AAA and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. During each event, recipients receive a framed Saved by the Belt certificate and license plate.



### Findlay and Bucyrus Districts

On June 1, this year's Buckle Up - Batter Up event took place. During a pregame ceremony, 13 people joined the "Saved by the Belt" Club. The inductees were recognized on the field and had a group photo taken. Troopers presented the Colors, Trooper Jerome A. Thomas sang the National Anthem and Trooper Casimir A. Von Sacken, Findlay District Trooper of the Year, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. In addition to the event, Teddy Trooper visited with children during the game and Sergeant John F. McGlashan played the bagpipes. The Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum, in partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, also displayed vintage cruisers outside the stadium.

*From left: Trooper Ryan P. Eedy, Norwalk Post; Sergeant Keith G. Smith, Marion Post; Teddy Trooper (also known as David Matas Barrientos, an exchange student from Madrid, Spain and Sergeant Keith G. Smith's cousin's exchange student, Marion Post). Second to right: Sergeant John F. McGlashan, Sandusky Post and Natalie Haase with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.*



*A Quick Click Challenge public safety announcement about safety belts from Lieutenant Rustun K. Schack, Toledo Post, and Muddy from the Toledo Mud Hens.*

**THE "QUICK CLICK CHALLENGE" IS A QUICK AND FUN CHALLENGE THAT SHOWS JUST HOW LITTLE TIME IT TAKES TO MAKE THE LIFESAVING DECISION TO WEAR A SAFETY BELT. FOUR PEOPLE FORM A GROUP AND TAKE TURNS RUNNING AROUND A CAR, FASTENING THEIR SAFETY BELTS AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAN IN EACH SEAT POSITION.**



*From left: Canton Post Trooper Jace D. Miller, Trooper Nicholas B. Goodnite, Sergeant Bryan L. Sponaugle, Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinee Lynn Swann, Trooper Marcus A. Custer, Lieutenant Kaitlyn M. Kowicki and Trooper George S. Ksenich.*

### Cleveland District

On May 18, the Cleveland District held their "Saved by the Belt" Award presentation at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton during an annual safe communities event. During the event, five people were honored. The Canton Post competed in a modified version of the Quick Click Challenge, which consisted of running around an Ohio National Guard Humvee and completing an obstacle course while wearing drunk goggles. The challenge also featured 13 football teams and 9 cheer teams from Stark County.

"The awardees were very thankful for the opportunity to bring awareness to the local students," said Lieutenant Kaitlyn Kowicki, Canton Post commander. "I liked watching them interact . . . they were all sharing the stories of their traffic crashes . . . they were all able to relate to one another, and understand the struggles that came with their incidents."



Trooper Jace D. Miller, Trooper Nicholas B. Goodnite, Sergeant Bryan L. Sponaugle, Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinee Lynn Swann and Trooper Marcus A. Custer competed in the Quick Click Challenge.



Following the "Saved by the Belt" presentation, Sergeant Adam M. Shonk, Lisbon Post, and Dispatcher Jalisa G. Jones, Warren Post; Teddy Trooper (portrayed by OSHP Cadet Candidate Vincent Greenwood in the video and by Electronic Technician Terry E. Maffitt, Warren District Electronic Tech during the event) and Scrappy from the Scrappers introduced the Quick Click Challenge.



Front left to right: Teddy Trooper (also known as Electronic Technician Terry E. Maffitt, Warren District Electronic Tech); Captain Jeffrey S. Greene, Warren District Headquarters; Dispatcher Kristen M. Paolillo, Warren Post.  
Back row: Staff Lieutenant Bradley M. Bucey, Warren District Headquarters; Saved by the Belt recipient and Streetsboro Officer Gene Larson; Staff Lieutenant Brian M. Vail, Warren District Headquarters; Lieutenant Philip J. Robinson, Hiram Post and Dispatcher Kathryn L. Kringeta, Warren Post.

## Warren District

The Warren District teamed up with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers for a "Saved by the Belt" event at Eastwood Field on June 11. During the pregame ceremony, four people joined the "Saved by the Belt" club before a game between the Mahoning Valley Scrappers and the State College Spikes. The inductees were recognized on the field. In addition to the event, Teddy Trooper visited with children during the game. A Quick Click Challenge public safety announcement about safety belts from Sergeant Adam M. Shonk, Lisbon Post, aired at the beginning of the game.

Right: Charlie Brown and Snoopy helped celebrate the six award recipients. They were joined by Deonta Whigham, security manager at Cedar Fair Entertainment Company (second from left) and Captain Heber M. Fellure, Wilmington District commander (third from right) and Staff Lieutenant Matthew R. Schmenk, Wilmington District assistant commander (second from right).



## Piqua and Wilmington Districts

In southwestern Ohio, six individuals joined the "Saved by the Belt" club on May 17. The presentation was a pilot project between the Patrol and Kings Island, and was held at the International Restaurant above the park's entrance. As part of the day's celebration, Kings Island provided each recipient and their family members with one-day admission tickets to the park. Due to the day's success, the Patrol and Kings Island are partnering again for a second "Saved by the Belt" event at the park this October.



## PATROL GRADUATES 52 TROOPERS



The Patrol's 173rd Academy Class graduated on June 14 after 28 weeks of intense training.

Director Andy Wilson, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, provided remarks. Retired Patrol Lieutenant and Bexley Chief of Police Gary D. Lewis Jr. delivered the commencement address to the 52 members of the Patrol's 173rd Academy Class. The Honorable Judge David A. Trimmer, Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas, issued the Oath of Office.

Trooper Allen M. Grace, Lancaster Post, was selected as class speaker.

The new graduates were assigned to 37 of the Patrol's 59 posts.

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

- **Top overall performance**  
– Trooper Joshua S. Carr, Sandusky Post
- **Top performance in academics**  
– Trooper Anthony C. Verardi, Steubenville Post
- **Top performance in driving**  
– Trooper Nathan C. Sims, Gallipolis Post
- **Top performance in firearms**  
– Trooper Joshua S. Carr, Sandusky Post
- **Top performance in physical fitness**  
– Trooper Joshua S. Carr, Sandusky Post

### Introducing Lateral Cadets

Included in the 173rd Class were four lateral cadets. The lateral cadet program allows prospective candidates with current Ohio Basic Police Officer Certification and two years of continuous full-time experience to attend a condensed academy program. The 173rd lateral cadets attended the Patrol's Training Academy for 11 weeks. Once their training was completed, the four lateral cadets were sworn in and began working on the road with a field training officer. When the traditional 173rd Academy Class graduated, the lateral classmates walked with their classmates during graduation.

The laterals in the 173rd Class included Michael A. Loehr, Wapakoneta Post; Brett T. McMillan, Wilmington Post; Nathan R. Wathey, Granville Post and Tevin J. Williams, Toledo Post.

Scan the QR code to view a video about the Patrol's lateral cadet program from the perspective of a graduating cadet.



Were you unable to make it to the ceremony? Scan the QR code to the left with the camera on your smartphone to view the 173rd Cadet Graduation ceremony video.

## SWEATING IT OUT TOGETHER FOR THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY HERO WORKOUT

In honor of Memorial Day, cadets from the 173rd Academy Class gathered alongside senior staff and other Ohio Department of Public Safety personnel to participate in the annual Patrol Memorial Day Hero Workout on May 24. The workout, honoring Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Navy Seal, Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who died in the line of duty, took place at the Ohio Strength CrossFit gym in Columbus. The workout consisted of a mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats and an additional mile run to finish the workout.

Director Wilson motivated everyone ahead of the workout. "I refuse to be mediocre," he declared, "and you all need to push each other and those around you every day to be the best version of yourself. And guess what? We're going to push each other to be better today than we were yesterday."

Colonel Jones spoke on the sacrifices that our country's military members make in their mission of providing service.

"Freedom isn't free. It is about service," he stated. "When we talk about 'Service with a Purpose' in the Patrol, well, I can assure you that every woman and man in our United States military, when they join up and they enlist, they're also serving with a purpose, and that purpose is to keep us free."

The Patrol Memorial Day Hero Workout was a difficult challenge for all who participated. It served as a reminder to never forget the sacrifices of our military, and to let their memories inspire us to live each day with gratitude, strength and purpose.



Scan the QR code to view an extended video of the Patrol Memorial Day Hero Workout. This content is a Flying Wheel exclusive!

## PO2 QUINE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



On April 17, Police Officer 2 Andrew D. Quine was sworn in by Colonel Jones. PO2 Quine was assigned to the Expo Center.



## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK MEMORIAL



During National Police Week, the Patrol had a contingent take part in many of the memorial ceremonies.

From left: Lieutenant Robert D. Hilderbrandt, Xenia Post; Lieutenant Kristi J. Mistovich, Zanesville Post; Police Officer 2 Joshua B. Davis, Expo Center; Major Nakia J. Hendrix, Field Operations; Lieutenant Colonel Joshua M. Swindell; Enforcement Agent Willie L. Ford, Ohio Investigative

Unit Cleveland District Office; Motor Vehicle Inspector Patrick A. Weaver, Jackson District Commercial Enforcement; Trooper Shawn D. Grim, Granville Post; Major Anne Ralston R. Ralston, Office of Personnel; Sergeant Jerrold T. March, Criminal Patrol; Lieutenant Aaron M. Morgan, Jackson Post; Trooper Evan M. Hill, Canton Post; Lieutenant Jordan L. Schwochow, Norwalk Post; Sergeant Kevin L. Harris, Cleveland Post; Lieutenant David J. Bever, Critical Communications Center; Lieutenant Todd J. Cunningham, Training Academy; Lieutenant Dana Hutton, Jackson District Criminal Patrol; Lieutenant Christian J. Niemeyer, Columbus Post; Lieutenant Brian W. Nelson, Training Academy; Sergeant Jason G. Bonar, Warren Post and Staff Lieutenant Andre T. Swinerton, Training Academy.

**PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATION**



On June 17, the 11th Public Safety Leadership Academy (PSLA) class graduated 32 law enforcement leaders from around the state. During the graduation, Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, provided remarks and retired Staff Lieutenant Heidi Ramsey, an instructor for PSLA and the FBI National Academy, also addressed the graduates.

Throughout the 11 weeks of accredited, college-level training, graduates learned skills necessary to manage any division within a law enforcement agency. The graduates earned a leadership certificate and 10 hours of academic credit through The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs. Participating officers completed 276 hours of instruction on community engagement, leadership, public administration and contemporary issues in policing.

During National Police Week, graduates traveled to Washington D.C. and the Flight 93 National

Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., where they toured sites that shaped our nation's leaders and attended specialized training for peace officers at the National Holocaust Museum. As part of a community outreach effort, graduates partnered with Habitat for Humanity MidOhio to build, paint and organize various community sites throughout central Ohio.

The 11th PSLA Graduation featured 10 OSHP personnel including: Lieutenant David J. Bever, Critical Communications Center; Sergeant Jason G. Bonar, Warren Post; Sergeant Kevin L. Harris, Cleveland Post; Lieutenant Robert D. Hilderbrandt, Xenia Post; Lieutenant Dana M. Hutton, Jackson District Criminal Patrol; Lieutenant Kristi J. Mistovich, Zanesville Post; Lieutenant Aaron M. Morgan, Jackson Post; Lieutenant Brian W. Nelson, Training Academy; Lieutenant Christian J. Niemeyer, Columbus Post and Lieutenant Jordan L. Schwochow, Norwalk Post.

*In 21st Century law enforcement, collaboration is the only way for us to be successful. I know that collaboration has been a central feature of your time together as a class. Collaboration provides opportunities for communication with officers from other agencies, and opportunities to engage with the communities you serve.*

- Colonel Charles A. Jones at the PSLA Graduation



Trooper Holly M. Chesnick, Academy Instructor, prepares to lead the women in physical fitness training.

**WOMEN'S ACADEMY READINESS SEMINAR**

On April 6, the Women's Academy Readiness Seminar took place at the Patrol's Training Academy. During the day, future cadets, and other women interested in law enforcement, gathered to learn about the hiring process, physical fitness prep, academy life and more. This was the second Women's Academy Readiness Seminar held in the past year.

## BUCKEYE BOYS STATE AND BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE



The 2024 Buckeye Boys State Troopers with (left) Sergeant Joseph M. Weeks, Piqua District Criminal Patrol; Sergeant Eric D. Holbrook, Circleville Post; (center) Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent and (right) Sergeant Evan M. Hill, Canton Post.

The 2024 American Legion – Department of Ohio Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State took place again this year. Both Buckeye Boys and Buckeye Girls State began on June 9. Buckeye Girls State ended on June 15 and took place at Bowling Green State

University, while Buckeye Boys State was held through June 16 at Miami University.

Each year, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary bring rising high school seniors, known as delegates, together to experience the operation of a democratic form of government with an emphasis on patriotism and teamwork. Buckeye Boys State Troopers and Buckeye Girls State Troopers were afforded the opportunity to receive a hands-on experience of learning what it is like to be a trooper.



The 2024 Buckeye Girls State Troopers with (front from left) Major Anne R. Ralston, Office of Personnel; Trooper Katelyn M. Thomas, Findlay District Criminal Patrol; Sergeant Lindsay J. Barrett, Columbus Post; Sergeant Allison O. Mentis, Marion Post and Lieutenant Colonel Joshua M. Swindell, OSHP assistant superintendent.

This year, the delegates learned saluting and marching – military courtesy, and the Patrol's Core Values. The delegates heard from various Patrol sections including Aviation, Computer Crimes Unit, Office of Investigative Services and Special Response Team. There were also demonstrations on self-defense, K-9s and impaired driving. In addition, the Public Affairs Unit presented a DRIVE to Live presentation at each location.

There were 60 students vying to become Buckeye Girls State Troopers, and 24 were selected with 22 graduating. There were 49 Buckeye Boys State delegates vying to be a trooper, and 30 were selected.

A Patrol graduation was held for both the boys and girls delegates. Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, addressed the Buckeye Boys State Troopers and Major Anne R. Ralston, Office of Personnel, addressed the Buckeye Girls State Troopers during their respective graduation ceremonies.

## 2024 JUNIOR CADET PROGRAM



The Buckeye Boys State staff consisted of Sergeant Eric D. Holbrook, Circleville Post; Sergeant Joseph M. Weeks, Piqua District Criminal Patrol and Sergeant Evan M. Hill, Canton Post. The Buckeye Girls State staff included Sergeant Lindsay J. Barrett, Columbus Post; Sergeant Allison O. Mentis, Marion Post and Trooper Katelyn M. Thomas, Findlay District Criminal Patrol.

Beginning on June 23, the Ohio State Highway Patrol hosted their Junior Cadet Program at the Patrol's Training Academy. This year, 24 rising high school seniors participated.

The program is designed to give select high school students who are interested in learning about law enforcement the opportunity to participate in an intense and immersive five-day training course. The coursework includes crash investigation, officer/violator contacts, self-defense tactics, K-9 operations, emergency vehicle operations, motorcycle operations, impaired driver apprehension and military drills. The cadets are also required to reside at the Training Academy for the length of the program.

The cadets ended the week with graduation at the Thomas P. Charles Leadership Hall on June 27. Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, presented graduation certificates to the cadets.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

### Planning and Making it to Columbus

All throughout Ohio's cities and towns during the week of June 24, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics weaved its way through the state. Troopers, police officers, deputies, judges and more joined the cause to relay the Flame of Hope.

Sergeant Timothy R. Cunningham, Cambridge Post, was one of the regional leaders for this year's Torch Run. In April, he began planning locations, getting t-shirts ordered, and working with athlete coordinators and departments located in his southeastern region. He also worked on getting donations from local companies. By mid-May, he had everything locked down and he started sending out event reminders.

His leg of the Torch Run began on Tuesday, June 25 in southeastern Ohio. On Wednesday, June 26, they went to the eastern portions of Ohio. His final leg took place in the southern and eastern portions of Central Ohio.

He planned it all during his own time, but said his family is very involved and helps him with the process. His kids help run with the Flame of Hope, and his wife drives the van that follows the runners. It's important to Sergeant Cunningham for his children to see what it is like to give back. His kids also get to see the joy on the faces of the athletes.

"The athletes are excited," he said. "It's pure excitement for them. They love this."

### The Final Leg

The Torch Run concluded on Friday, June 28 from the Patrol's Training Academy, winding its way from 17th Avenue through The Ohio State University's campus and to the Ohio Stadium, the site of this year's Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies. Motorcycle Units, bicycle units and mounted units from the Patrol and the Columbus Division of Police helped control traffic along the route. The Patrol's 174th Academy Class and a class from the Columbus Division of Police ran in cadence, adding to the awe-inspiring sight for those looking on.

As the runners entered Ohio Stadium, the moment everyone was waiting for had arrived – seeing the athletes and giving high-fives, hugs, huge smiles and sharing in pure joy. Once everyone entered the stadium,

the Flame of Hope made its final rounds, lighting the cauldron as participants watched.

"I like seeing the athletes' faces," said Program Administrator 1 Melinda J. Montenaro, Crime Lab. She has been participating in the Torch Run since 2007. She has joined every year except two - one year when storms canceled the large contingency, and during the pandemic. She and Program Administrator 2 Jaclyn D. Snyder, Ohio Investigative Unit, also participate in the Columbus Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ohio.

"I love seeing the athletes, too," said PA2 Snyder, who started doing the Torch Run in 2014. "I also like seeing the comradery of all the law enforcement agencies coming together for this cause."

For those lucky enough to get to carry the Flame of Hope, the moment is one they will never forget.

"It was a really cool and an exciting experience, and I am glad I got to be a part of a great cause," said Sergeant Daniel J. Muck, Training Academy, who participated for his sixth time. "Carrying the torch was an added bonus."

There are also retirees, who love the event so much that they come back for it. Some have moved on to other departments, but the foundation set in the Patrol motivates them to return when they can.

For former Lieutenant Colonel and United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, Michael D. Black, he started running in 1989 when he was a member of the Patrol's 118th Academy Class. Since then, if he was able to participate, he did.

"It's the cause, that's why we all come out and run the Special Olympics Torch Run," he said. "It's special to be out here with all the law enforcement partners and cadets from the Patrol and Columbus. That's why I keep coming back every year, because it's motivating when we run into the stadium and see how much the Olympians appreciate you."

Scan the QR code to view more photos from the Torch Run.





## BUILDING BIKES AND BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

On June 28, members of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) gathered at Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center for a community impact and marketing workshop that touched hearts and changed lives.

The day began with OPI team members from across the state assembling bicycles from a box of parts and engaging in team-building exercises to ensure each bike met the pinnacle standard of quality and safety. The true magic unfolded as teams worked collaboratively to market these bikes to young consumers, not knowing that the children they envisioned were real members of the community.

At the end of the day, partners including the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Pickaway County Sheriff's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation joined in an emotional ceremony to present the completed bicycles to deserving children. The moment the employees realized that their marketing efforts were for actual children in need helped transform a simple workshop into an act of kindness and connection.



An OPI team member and Lieutenant Shad E. Caplinger, Circleville Post, present a young boy with his new bicycle.

Listen as ODPS Director Andy Wilson recounts his experience running the Buck Fifty Race with Patrol personnel. The team finished the 150-mile relay race in 22 hours and 43 minutes, nearly 2 hours under their anticipated finish time.



## DAPPER DOG DARIUS COMES OUT ON TOP



Trooper Jacob Lawrence with K-9 Darius.

The Patrol ran their annual Dapper Dog Contest this spring to help share the Patrol's K-9 unit with the community.

The bracket-style competition played into the theme of March Madness, and began with round 1 on March 22, running for 4 rounds in total. K-9s were matched up into pairs at random, with winners decided by popular vote via polls on Instagram. Photos were also shared on Facebook for the community to vote and comment on.

The final three contestants were K-9s Darius, Odin and Ragnar, with K-9 Darius named as the winner on April 4. Darius received a total of 1,673 votes, pulling ahead in the last hour by just 10 votes.

Darius is a new graduate from the K-9 Officer Training Program. He graduated on March 11 with his handler, Trooper Jacob Lawrence, Criminal Patrol.

On Thursday, July 25, Colonel Jones presented Trooper Lawrence and K-9 Darius with a winner's certificate at the Patrol's Training Academy.

Regarding K-9 Darius' win, Trooper Lawrence stated, "Like any great champion, Darius celebrated his win only briefly. Once he was announced the winner (which was never a surprise to him), Darius enjoyed the win with his family and friends. He was given a treat, but went right back to work to stay on top to be the repeat Dapper champion."

Darius would like to publicly thank his supporters who helped him secure the win.

## TROOPER TARVER AND TROOPER KIRBY RECEIVE HONORS



On May 20, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Trooper James L. Tarver (pictured left) and Trooper Benjamin J. Kirby (pictured right), both from the Lebanon Post, with the Patrol's Distinguished Service Medallion for their immediate medical response to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle, which saved her life.

## TROOPER BOYER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION



Lieutenant Colonel Chuck J. Linek, Trooper Matthew D. Boyer, and Lieutenant Colonel Joshua M. Swindell.

On April 24, Trooper Matthew D. Boyer received a Distinguished Service Medallion for his professionalism and courage. Trooper Boyer earned the honor after he located a gunshot victim in a parking lot in Akron on January 16, 2024. His swift response and life-saving measures, including applying a tourniquet, assisted in preventing further harm to the victim who was actively losing blood. He was presented with the honor at the Cleveland District Headquarters.

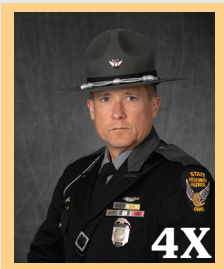
## TOP DOG CIVILIAN AWARD



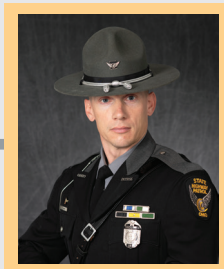
Captain Daniel E. Springs, Piqua District, and Captain Brent C. Hunter, Criminal Patrol, congratulate K-9 Clavo and Trooper Dickerson.

On May 6, Trooper Jacob A. Dickerson and K-9 Clavo, Bucyrus Criminal Patrol, were awarded the Top Dog Civilian Award at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's 2024 Military Working Dog Competition.

2012



Trooper Bryan M. Dail\*



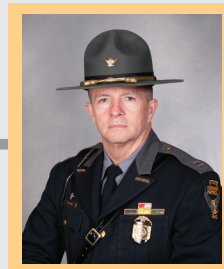
Trooper Nickolas B. Goodnite



Trooper Shelly R. Ledyard



Staff Lieutenant Heidi A. Marshall\*



Captain Christopher J. Zurcher\*

FITNESS AWARD WINNERS THROUGH THE YEARS



## ATHENS POST DISPATCHERS HONORED

On April 16, Certificates of Recognition were presented to Athens Post Dispatchers Brittany J. Davies, Brandy L. Laudermilt and Carrie L. Warren. They were honored for their life-saving efforts on March 16, 2024, for locating a motorist who was suffering from a medical emergency while driving through Ohio. Dispatcher Davies received a call from a person in Illinois, whose niece was driving through Ohio and was having a stroke. Dispatchers Davies, Laudermilt and Warren started making calls.

They worked to obtain critical information, working with the OSHP Intel Unit to geographically locate the victim's phone. At this point, the victim could no longer verbally communicate when the dispatchers called her. The original caller was able to tell the dispatchers that her niece was in the Trotwood/Englewood area in Montgomery County. Dispatchers were put in touch with the Englewood Police Department, who saw the niece's vehicle on one of their traffic cameras. OSHP Intel pinged her phone to a more specific location using cell tower triangulation, and Englewood officers located her at a gas station. She was then transported to the hospital by Englewood EMS. The following day, the dispatchers contacted the original caller and learned that the victim had been released from the hospital after receiving treatment for a stroke.



From left: Dispatchers Carrie L. Warren, Brittany J. Davies and Brandy L. Laudermilt.

## MAJOR ALTMAN ACHIEVES PERFECT FITNESS SCORE



**3X**  
WINNER

Major John C. Altman was honored on April 11 for earning a perfect score on the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Health and Physical Fitness Evaluation Graded Exercise Test (GXT) on March 15, 2024. This is the third time Major Altman has achieved a perfect score. He previously earned the perfect score in July 2019 and in March 2022.



Major  
B. Gene Smith\*



Trooper  
Justin P. Lister



Trooper  
Jacob R. Engle



Trooper  
Hollin C. Wenger



Trooper Ravonne  
R. Lawrence

2023

## YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS



**40 YEARS** – On May 21, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Dispatcher Suzanne Dicken with a certificate for 40 years of service.



**35 YEARS** – Dispatcher Lisa M. Hoffman, Canton Post, was recognized by Colonel Charles A. Jones on May 22 for her 35 years of service to the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



**35 YEARS** – On May 20, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Captain Heber "Marty" Fellure, Wilmington District Headquarters, with a certificate for 35 years of service to the citizens of Ohio and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



**35 YEARS** – On April 11, during the Staff and Command at Hocking Hills, Captain Daniel E. Springs, Piqua District Headquarters, was presented with a certificate for 35 years of service to the citizens of Ohio and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

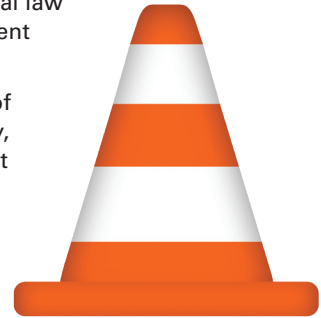
## PATROL COLLABORATES FOR WORK ZONE SAFETY INITIATIVE

On June 5, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), announced the launch of the 2024 Work Zone Initiative and Move Over, Slow Down campaign during a press conference. Governor Mike DeWine and Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, highlighted the importance of ensuring safe roadways for both motorists and workers during the "100 Deadliest Days of Summer" – the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when there is an increase in traffic, leading to more fatal crashes.

"In 2023, nearly 400 people died on our roads between the end of May and the beginning of September," stated Governor DeWine during the event. "This number would no doubt be higher if not for local law enforcement and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, which aggressively work each summer to prevent reckless driving."

The initiative emphasizes enhanced enforcement of safety measures, including the utilization of proper signage and warning devices leading up to, and throughout each work zone. Additionally, the Aviation Section is taking action in the air – employing a bird's-eye view of the violations that endanger everyone on the roadway.

"There are many testimonies from troopers across the state that underscore the critical importance of prioritizing safety, not just for ourselves, but for the dedicated workers alongside our roads," said Colonel Jones. "Their well-being hinges on our collective commitment to safe driving practices."



## HONDA ODYSSEYS: LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS HELP DRIVE THE PATROL FORWARD



In partnership with American Honda Motor Co. Inc., the Patrol's Licensing and Commercial Standards (LCS) Section selected a specialized version of the Honda Odyssey for its fleet. This model was designed and tested at Honda's Auto Development Center in Raymond and aims to enhance the Patrol's operational capabilities.

The fully marked Odyssey is equipped with lights for commercial vehicle enforcement, radios, computer access and has a connected printer to print out inspection reports roadside.

At Honda's Auto Development Center, innovative ideas are transformed into reality through advanced design and rigorous testing. The Patrol also benefits from the Odyssey's advanced features, improving efficiency in motor carrier enforcement and bus and vehicle inspections.

This partnership underscores a shared commitment to innovation, environmental responsibility and public safety, setting a new standard for future collaborations in automotive technology and law enforcement.

*Our Licensing and Commercial Standards section covers many disciplines but has one focus: purposely and passionately keeping Ohio's roadways safe for commerce and student transportation. Watch to learn more about their recent enforcement blitz.*



## GHQ



**POLYGRAPH –** On April 27, Trooper Christopher N. Williams, Polygraph Unit, threw out the first pitch at the Ohio State vs. Michigan State baseball game. Trooper Williams once played baseball for Ohio State and enjoyed finding himself back on the field!

## FINDLAY DISTRICT



**FINDLAY DISTRICT –** On March 28, Trooper Justin G. Craig, Findlay District Office of Investigative Services, received the United States Secret Service (USSS) Director's Recognition Award. Trooper Craig was nominated by Resident Agent-in-Charge Matthew Schierloh for his ongoing efforts as a task force officer. Colonel Charles A. Jones, Major Chad J. Neal, USSS special agents and staff, and OIS leadership joined Trooper Craig at a small ceremony that was held at the USSS Toledo Office. Trooper Craig's contributions not only furthered the mission of the USSS, but the goals of the Ohio State Highway Patrol to make Ohio safer for those who live and travel through our state.

## BUCYRUS DISTRICT



**BUCYRUS POST –** Trooper Barry J. Miller, Bucyrus Post, and a Crestline student participate in the practical portion of Prom Promise, which consisted of operating a UTV with OVI goggles through a cone course.

**BUCYRUS POST –** Sergeant John R. Banta, Bucyrus Post, and Trooper Joshua P. Smith, Office of Recruitment and Diversity, conducted a DRIVE to Live event at Crestline High School on April 19. The event coincided with Crestline's Prom Promise event. Approximately 40 juniors and seniors were in attendance.



*Trooper Ian D. Blackwood (back center) and Trooper Willie E. Richardson (back right) join safety partners and area kids at the Toledo Bowl-A-Thon.*

**BOWLING GREEN POST –** On June 15, Bowling Green Post troopers joined public safety and community partners at the 2024 Build-A-Trust Bowl-A-Thon in Toledo.

## CLEVELAND DISTRICT



**CANTON POST** – On April 26, Trooper William B. Kanter took part in the Q92 Students for Sobriety at Canton South High School. The event was in collaboration with the Stark County Safe Communities and traffic safety partners.



**CLEVELAND POST** – On April 23, Trooper Hiram Morales visited Grindstone Elementary School in Berea. He talked to pre-kindergarten students about being a law enforcement officer, the importance of knowing their home addresses and phone numbers and car safety. He also showed the students his cruiser. “It was an educational visit that the students really enjoyed,” said Courtney Turner, early childhood educator.

**CANTON POST** – Trooper Justin K. Smith participated in a safety belt check on April 30 at Central Catholic High School. The safety belt check was in collaboration with Stark County Safe Communities and partner safety agencies. During the check, students and staff received candies if they were wearing their safety belt.

## WARREN DISTRICT



**RAVENNA POST** – On April 26, members of the Ravenna Post and Warren District Honor Guard participated in the 19th annual None 4 Under 21 event. This is a collaboration with Portage County Safe Communities. Approximately 1,300 students from 12 high schools in Portage, Trumbull, Mahoning and Ashtabula counties attended the event at Kent State University. During the None 4 Under 21 event, students were encouraged to make good decisions and heard from speakers who have experienced the results of poor decisions.



**RAVENNA POST** – On May 3, Sergeant Brad M. Evans (left) and Trooper Kourtney M. Baker (third from left) partnered with the Portage County Sheriff’s Office, Palmyra Township Fire Department and the Paris Township Fire Department to conduct a Mock Crash at Southeast High School. Sergeant Evans spoke to the students about the importance of making good decisions when driving or riding in a vehicle such as limiting distractions and not driving impaired.

## PIQUA DISTRICT



**SPRINGFIELD POST** – Highway Patrol Cadet Candidate Ethan G. White, and Dispatcher Chelsea L. Sederstrand from the Springfield Post participated in Red, White & Cards on June 15 at Triad School.

## COLUMBUS DISTRICT



**COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT** – Trooper Anthony A. Matheny (pictured above) and Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Leo T. Grabovich gave a class on trailer safety and load securement at the John Deere National Expo in Lancaster on June 14. They answered questions regarding straps, chains and proper tie-down techniques to safely get equipment from one destination to another.



**MARYSVILLE POST** – The Patrol took part in the Army National Guard - Marysville Community Relations and Recruitment event on May 21. Troopers met with community members and provided information on recruitment.

## CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT



**NEW PHILADELPHIA POST** – On April 8, Lieutenant Johnnie H. Maier, met 93-year-old Jean Robinson (in red) and her daughter, 73-year-old Bobbi Jean (in black). They traveled from Glenville, W.Va. to view the eclipse. The two stopped in northern Tuscarawas County to view this once-in-a-lifetime event.



**WILMINGTON DISTRICT**



**GEORGETOWN POST AND WILMINGTON DISPATCH CENTER** - On April 25, now Sergeant Anthony "Ryan" Day (left), Sergeant Joshua W. Hunter (center) and Dispatcher Kayla J. Hilderbrand (right) gave a DRIVE to Live presentation to students at Manchester High School in Adams County ahead of their prom.

**JACKSON DISTRICT**



**IRONTON POST** – Sergeant Derek L. Malone (right) and Trooper Alan J. Beam (left) completed a DRIVE to Live event at the Rock Hill High School.

Throughout the month of April, Sergeant Malone also conducted multiple Drive to Live events in Lawrence County in collaboration with the Lawrence County Juvenile Court System.



**GALLIPOLIS POST** – On May 16, a memorial ceremony was held at the Gallipolis City Park in remembrance of Ohio State Highway Patrol Sergeant Dale Holcomb, Trooper Joshua Risner and Gallipolis Municipal Court Probation Officer David Poling. Patrol personnel in attendance at the annual event included, from left, retired Trooper Marvin Pullins, Trooper Seth F. James, Lieutenant M. Jason Roe, Trooper Timothy R. Martin, Sergeant John F. McGlashan, Trooper Austin J. Neekamp, Trooper James M. Trelka and Sergeant Robert L. Haislop.

## RETIREES

*Where are they now?*



By Captain Rob Jackson, Retired

Retired Trooper, Ricardo "Rico" Jones

Years Served: May 1989 - October 2017

Assignments: Cadet - 118th Academy Class

Trooper - Portsmouth Post, Granville Post

Ohio Statehouse and Licensing and Commercial Standards

Retired Trooper Ricardo "Rico" Jones graduated from Columbus East High School and served the state of Ohio for more than 28 years. He also served his country as a member of the United States Army. Since retirement, Rico has pursued his passion for community theater, performing for local theater companies such as PAST Productions Columbus, MadLab and Actors' Theatre of Columbus. He enjoys bringing different characters to life on stage and entertaining the audience.

Rico also continues his service to the state of Ohio as a "Blue Coat," which he describes as being a friendly guide and security assistant at the Ohio Statehouse. He says retirement allows him to spend more time with his family and friends, while also traveling to more places like New York, Florida and Las Vegas. Rico is the proud father of four children, the youngest of whom just graduated from Missouri Southern State University on a full-ride basketball scholarship. He also has six grandchildren, who keep him busy and happy.

Rico says he misses the interaction with the public when he was working the road, but working at the statehouse has somewhat filled this void. As an avid Ohio State Buckeyes fan, Rico does miss working the OSU basketball and football games. He says he is grateful for his former career with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and looks forward to what the future holds.

## VETERANS SERVICES VISITS THE PATROL



The Patrol hosted Director Deborah Ashenhurst, Ohio Department of Veterans Services, for In-Demand Jobs Week as she recognized the Patrol's commitment to employing military veterans.



Director Deborah Ashenhurst, Ohio Department of Veterans Services, addresses the crowd of Patrol staff at the Training Academy, which included several Veteran troopers, for In-Demand Jobs Week.

**INTRODUCING...**

**SAVE TO WIN®**

Save money and earn chances to win big cash prizes!  
It's as easy as 1,2,3:

1. Open a Save to Win® savings account
2. Deposit money
3. Every \$25 you save earns you entries into cash prize drawings!\*

For every \$25 you save, you earn chances to win up to \$5,000 in quarterly prizes plus hundreds of additional cash prizes each month!

Contact us today for more information or to open an account. 614-431-0784 or [www.patroleu.com](http://www.patroleu.com).  
\*See official rules at [www.patroleu.com](http://www.patroleu.com)

**NCUA**  
NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION

**STATE HIGHWAY PATROL CREDIT UNION**

**Message From HPRS Executive Director - Fraud Awareness**



Fraud is a serious issue that especially affects older adults, and it's essential to take preventive measures. According to the 2023 FBI Elder Fraud Report, 2023 scams targeting individuals aged 60 and older increased approximately 11% from the previous year. Tech support scams, personal data breaches, confidence and romance scams, non-payment or non-delivery scams and investment scams were the most common types of elder fraud reported. And of these common types of fraud, investment scams were the costliest.

Practical steps can be taken to reduce your vulnerabilities and exposure from financial exploitation. Designate a financial power of attorney to handle your financial matters if you become incapacitated. Appoint a trusted contact for accounts and investments so questionable activity can be discussed with you or your designee. Never provide personal information or pay money based on an email or text message, as scammers will often use phishing emails or texts to manipulate you into revealing personal information or making payments. Never provide information or money over the phone unless you know and trust the source; when in doubt, hang up and call the organization back using a reliable and known phone number to discuss the matter.

Remaining vigilant and aware is the best deterrent when it comes to combating fraud. Staying up to speed on these and other types of scams is your best defense when it comes to securing your personal identifiable information. Relying on your close network of family and friends will keep you connected and informed, providing you an avenue to reach out and discuss important matters to help your decision making when it comes to these and other questionable activities.

Best Regards,

Carl Roark, Ph.D. HPRS Executive Director



**HIGHWAY PATROL AUXILIARY**

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, an all-volunteer force that provides assistance to troopers in the course of their duties, is accepting applications.

To inquire or apply for a position in the Auxiliary:  
email [OSHPAux@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:OSHPAux@dps.ohio.gov) or apply online:  
<https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruit/auxiliary.html>



**STAFF LIEUTENANT  
WAYNE V. PRICE,  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT / D8**

Staff Lieutenant Wayne V. Price, Wilmington District, retired on April 4, 2024, after 31 years with the Patrol. Staff Lieutenant Price joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Walbridge (now Bowling

Green) Post. As a trooper, he served at the Batavia Post and was selected as PostTrooper of the year in 1999. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Chillicothe Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Wilmington Post. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Hamilton Post to serve as post commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Batavia Post. He was promoted to staff lieutenant in 2017 and was assigned to the Wilmington District Headquarters to serve as assistant district commander.



**STAFF LIEUTENANT ERIC R.  
RUFFIN, SECURITY SERVICES**

Staff Lieutenant Eric R. Ruffin, retired on May 1, 2024, after over 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1998 as a member of the 132nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Piqua Post. As a trooper, he also served at Capitol Operations,

Training Academy, Investigations, Executive Protection, Criminal Investigations and Security Services. In July 2017, he was promoted to sergeant and served as assistant commander at the Expo Center. As a sergeant, he also served in Security Services. In 2020, he was promoted to lieutenant in Security Services. In 2023, he was promoted staff lieutenant in Security Services.

He served in the United States Army from 1992 to 1997.



**LIEUTENANT  
MARTINA J. JACKSON,  
ASHTABULA POST / D4**

Lieutenant Martina J. Jackson, Ashtabula Post, retired on June 3, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. She earned her commission in July of that year and was

assigned to the Marysville Post. She was selected as PostTrooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, she also served at the Medina Post. In 2007, she was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Mansfield Post. As a sergeant, she also served at the Medina and Ashland posts, and the Training Academy. In 2018, she was promoted to lieutenant to serve as post commander at the Ashtabula Post. From 2018 to 2021, Lieutenant Jackson also served as the East Side Mobile Field Force Commander.

In 1998, Lieutenant Jackson earned an associate degree in law enforcement from Cuyahoga Community College. In 2013, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science/criminal justice from the University of Akron. She graduated with a Master

of Arts degree in organizational leadership from Malone University in 2016. She completed the Public Safety Leadership Academy at The Ohio State University – John Glenn College of Public Affairs in 2019. Lieutenant Jackson served in the Ohio Army National Guard from 1993 to 2008.



**LIEUTENANT MATTHEW  
"BRENT" MEREDITH,  
SWANTON POST / D1**

Lieutenant Matthew "Brent" Meredith, Swanton Post, retired on June 28, after 32 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission that November and was assigned to the former Walbridge

Post. In 1997, he was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the Defiance Post to serve as assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Findlay Post and former Walbridge Post, and in Criminal Patrol. In 2006, he was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the Fremont Post to serve as post commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Findlay and Swanton posts.

In 2022, he earned an Associate of Science degree in criminal justice administration from Franklin University. He received a certificate from the administrative officers course from the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville in 2003.



**SERGEANT JOSEPH D. BAISDEN,  
PORTSMOUTH POST / D9**

Sergeant Joseph D. Baisden, Portsmouth Post, retired on May 2, 2024, after 32 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1991 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Bucyrus Post. In January 1993, he became a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to

the Portsmouth Post. As a trooper, he was selected as PostTrooper of the Year and earned the Criminal Patrol Award. In 2008, he was promoted to sergeant and served as assistant post commander at the Ironton Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the Portsmouth Post.



**SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER  
COLBERT, PIQUA POST / D5**

Sergeant Christopher Colbert, Piqua Post, retired on April 19, 2024, after 34 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 Lima Post. As a trooper, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times. In 1996, he

was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Piqua Post. Throughout his career, he also served at the Xenia and Dayton posts.

Sergeant Colbert earned an associate degree in criminal justice in 1989 from Edison Community College. In 2003, he completed the Police Executive Leadership College.



**SERGEANT ROGER A. COOPER**  
**CIRCLEVILLE POST / D6**

Sergeant Roger A. Cooper, Circleville Post, retired on May 23, 2024, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Circleville Post. In 2014, he was

promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the West Jefferson Post.

In 1993, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Harding University.



**SERGEANT W. SCOTT DAVIS,**  
**WEST JEFFERSON POST / D6**

Sergeant W. Scott Davis, West Jefferson Post, retired on May 2, 2024, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2002 as a member of the 140th Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year and was assigned to the Delaware Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to

the West Jefferson and Columbus posts, and Capitol Operations. During his time at the Columbus Post, he was assigned to the Motorcycle Unit. As a trooper, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement six times and the Criminal Patrol Award three times. In 2021, he was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Mt. Gilead Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the West Jefferson Post.

In 2007, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Ohio Dominican University.



**SERGEANT CHAD A. DURFEY,**  
**VAN WERT POST / D1**

Sergeant Chad A. Durfey, Van Wert Post, retired on June 7, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in June 1999 as a member of the 134th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. As a trooper, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year

twice and District Trooper of the Year once. In 2007, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. In 2012, he was promoted to sergeant and served as assistant post commander at the Swanton Post.



**SERGEANT TIMOTHY S. DURHAM,**  
**SPRINGFIELD POST / D5**

Sergeant Timothy S. Durham, Springfield Post, retired on April 10, 2024, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 2002 as a member of the 139th Academy Class. He earned his commission in October of that year and

was assigned to the Springfield Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Training Academy and the Marysville Post. He was presented with the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement seven times, was selected as Post Trooper of the Year five times, and the Blue Max Award and Criminal Patrol Award twice each. In November 2021, he was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Marysville Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the Springfield Post.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington College in 1994.



**SERGEANT KEVIN W. KOBİ,**  
**IRONTON POST / D9**

Sergeant Kevin W. Kobi, Ironton Post, retired on May 13, after 26 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1998 as a member of the 131st Academy Class. He earned his commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Ironton Post. As a trooper, he earned the Criminal Patrol

Award twice. He was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Ironton Post in 2012.

Sergeant Kobi graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree in law enforcement from Ohio University in 2018.



**SERGEANT RUSTY A. LANNING,**  
**LANCASTER POST / D6**

Sergeant Rusty A. Lanning, Lancaster Post, retired on June 5, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in June 1999 as a member of the 134th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned

to the Lancaster and Granville posts. In 2012, he was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Chillicothe Post.



**SERGEANT MICHAEL T. MAHAFFEY,**  
**WAPAKONETA POST / D5**

Sergeant Michael T. Mahaffey, Wapakoneta Post, retired on June 14, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol. Sergeant Mahaffey began his Patrol career in May 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Dayton Post. In 2016, he

was selected as Lima Post Trooper of the Year, earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement and the Criminal Patrol Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Wapakoneta and Lima posts, as well as the Piqua District Criminal Patrol Unit. In 2017, he was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the Van Wert Post.

He earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from Lima Technical College in 1995.

Sergeant Mahaffey served in the United States Army from 1991 to 1992.



**SERGEANT RODNEY  
D. MURPHY,  
TRAINING ACADEMY**

Sergeant Rodney D. Murphy, Training Academy, retired on May 1, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post.

As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Circleville Post and the Training Academy. In July 2011, he was promoted to sergeant and served at the Training Academy. As a sergeant, he also served at the West Jefferson, Wilmington, Xenia, Springfield and Chillicothe posts.



**SERGEANT JOHN SILVEY,  
CRIMINAL PATROL**

Sergeant John Silvey, Jackson District Criminal Patrol, retired on May 10, 2024, after 32 years with the Patrol. 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 Mt. Gilead Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned

to the Portsmouth Post. He was selected as the Post Trooper of the Year in 2002. In 2005, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. In November 2005, he was promoted to sergeant and served as the assistant post commander at the Gallipolis Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the Ironton Post, Southeast Regional Criminal Patrol and Jackson District Criminal Patrol. He also earned a Criminal Patrol Award as a sergeant.



**SERGEANT FRANK  
E. SIMMONS JR.,  
DAYTON POST / D5**

Sergeant Frank E. Simmons Jr., Dayton Post, retired on June 20, 2024, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned

to the Dayton Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Xenia Post. In April 2011, he was promoted to sergeant to serve as assistant post commander of the Wapakoneta Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the Wilmington and Dayton posts, as well as the Training Academy.

Sergeant Simmons served in the United States Air Force from 1992 to 2000.



**TROOPER CARL L. GUTMAN,  
SANDUSKY POST / D2**

Trooper Carl L. Gutman, Sandusky Post, retired on May 6, 2024, after 20 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 2004 as a member of the 142nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Sandusky Post. In 2023, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year.

In 2000, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from The Ohio State University.

In 2007, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Ohio Dominican University.



**TROOPER JASON T. LANKEY,  
SWANTON POST / D1**

Trooper Jason T. Lankey, Swanton Post, retired on June 1, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol and 31 years of service to the citizens of Ohio. He joined the Patrol in June 1999 as a member of the 134th Academy Class.

He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post where he served throughout his career. As a trooper, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 2008.



**TROOPER BLAKE C. PRATHER,  
MARYSVILLE POST / D5**

Trooper Blake C. Prather entered into disability retirement on June 19, 2022, after nine years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 2012 as a member of the 154th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Marysville Post where he served throughout his

career. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice.

In 2010, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Shawnee State University. He also earned an Associate of Arts in medical science from Shawnee State University in 2011.



**TROOPER NIKKI N. SNEAD,  
DELAWARE POST / D6**

Trooper Nikki N. Snead, Delaware Post, retired on April 10, 2024, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in July 1992. In February 1994, she became a member of the 126th Academy Class. She earned her commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. As a trooper, she also

served at the West Jefferson and Delaware posts, Columbus District Headquarters, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement and Capitol Operations. She earned an Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement in 1997. In 2005, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The Ohio State University.



**TROOPER JAIME SWEITZER,  
RAVENNA POST / D4**

Trooper Jaime Sweitzer, Ravenna Post, entered into disability retirement on April 21, 2024, after 21 years of service to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 2002 as a member of the 139th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the same year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Canfield Post. He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2021. Trooper Sweitzer served in the United States Navy from 1991 to 1994.



**TROOPER TROY L. THOMPSON, NEW PHILADELPHIA POST / D7**

Trooper Troy L. Thompson, New Philadelphia Post, retired on April 1, 2024, after 22 years of service with the Patrol. He began his Patrol career in October 2001 as a member of the 138th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Canton Post.

Trooper Thompson served in the United States Army from 1995 to 2000.



**TROOPER DARREN O. WEATHINGTON,  
DAYTON POST / D5**

Trooper Darren O. Weathington, Dayton Post, retired on May 1, 2024, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. Throughout his career, he also served at the Wapakoneta Post and former Eaton Post.



**AGENT CHAD S. FANNIN,  
CINCINNATI DISTRICT OFFICE**

Agent Chad S. Fannin, Cincinnati District Office, retired from the Ohio Investigative Unit on June 7, 2024, after 26 years. He graduated from the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy in June 1993. He started as a Police Officer 1 with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in April 1998. He joined the Ohio Investigative Unit in September 1999 and was assigned to the former Dayton Satellite Office. In 2016, he was named District Agent of the Year.



**SHARON K. BLACKFORD,  
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL**

Human Capital Management Analyst Sharon K. Blackford, Office of Personnel, retired on May 31, 2024, after 30 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She joined the Patrol in 1993 as a Word Processing Specialist 2 in the Office of Personnel. In 1995, she was promoted to Personnel Officer 1, and again promoted in 1998 to Personnel Officer 2, both times remaining in the Office of Personnel. In 2007, her title changed to Human Capital Management Analyst. As a Human Capital Management Analyst, she also served at Staffing Services.

In 1995, she earned an Associate of Arts degree in education from Ohio Valley College.



**ROGER CAIAZZA CLEVELAND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS**

Portable Load Limit Inspector Roger Caiazza, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on April 18, 2024, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 2000 as a maintenance repair worker 2 at the Akron Post. In 2002, he was promoted to portable load limit inspector at the Cleveland District Headquarters.



**ANN GAMBERT,  
CLEVELAND DISTRICT**

Administrative Professional 1 Ann Gambert, Cleveland District, retired on May 17, 2024, after 26 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She joined the Patrol in August 1997 as an administrative staff member at a Drivers Exam Station in Garfield Heights. In 1998, she was promoted to secretary at Cleveland Operations. As a secretary, she also served at Cleveland Investigations and the Cleveland Post. She was promoted to administrative professional 1 in 2011 and remained at the Cleveland Post. As an Administrative Professional 1, she also served at the Cleveland District Headquarters.

**Are You Ready To  
Build Tomorrow?**



For more info visit  
[www.statepatrol.ohio.gov](http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov)



**#JoinOSHP**

Scan QR code for more info.



**STEVEN S. HORNSBY  
LICENSING AND  
COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

Motor Vehicle Inspector Steven S. Hornsby, Jackson District Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on May 3, 2024, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 1994 as a maintenance repair worker 2, assigned to the Jackson District Headquarters. As a maintenance repair worker 2, he also served at the Gallipolis Post. In 1997, he was promoted to Motor Vehicle Inspector, assigned to the Jackson District Headquarters. He also served as a Driver License Examiner 2 at the Jackson District Headquarters.



**MARK W. KING,  
LICENSING AND  
COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

Motor Vehicle Inspector Mark W. King, Warren District Licensing and Commercial Standards (LCS), retired on April 30, 2024, after 31 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1993 as a maintenance repair worker 2, assigned to the Ashtabula Post. In 2004, he was promoted to Motor Vehicle Inspector, assigned to the Warren District LCS.



**JAN E. LAWRENCE,  
FISCAL SERVICES**

Financial Manager Jan E. Lawrence, Fiscal Services, retired on June 28, 2024, after 42 years of service. She began with the Patrol in November 1981 as an account clerk 1 in Logistic Services. In 1983, she was promoted to a technical typist and moved to Personnel. In 1985, she was promoted to accountant 1 and returned to Logistic Services. She was promoted to accountant 2 and remained in Logistic Services in 1987. In 1990, she was promoted to accountant/examiner supervisor 1 in Logistic Services. She received the Employee Recognition Award in 1993. In 1994, she was promoted to accountant/examiner supervisor 2 and remained in Logistic Services. She again won the Employee Recognition Award in 1996. In 1997, she was promoted to fiscal officer 2 in Fiscal Services. In 2012, she received the Superintendent's Certificate of Appreciation. In 2015, she was promoted to financial manager and remained in Fiscal Services.



**RICHARD "RICH" NEWSOME,  
GHQ FINANCE AND  
LOGISTICS/GHQ RADIO SHOP**

Electronic Technician 2 Richard "Rich" Newsome, GHQ Finance and Logistics/GHQ Radio Shop, retired on June 28, 2024, after 31 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1993 as maintenance repair worker 2 at the Academy, later serving at the Granville Post. In December 1998, he was promoted to electronic technician 1 at Central Install. In 2001, he was promoted to electronic technician 2 at Central Install. As an electronic technician 2, he also served at the Alum Creek Facility.



**ROBERT "ERIC"  
SCHOONOVER, GHQ  
FINANCE AND LOGISTICS/  
GHQ RADIO SHOP**

Electronic Technician 2 Robert "Eric" Schoonover, GHQ Finance and Logistics/GHQ Radio Shop, retired on June 28, 2024, after 31 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 1993 as a highway patrol electronic technician 1 in Central Install. In January 1997, he was promoted to electronic technician 2. As an electronic technician 2, he also served in site maintenance and at the GHQ Radio Shop.



**DANIEL E. SHAFFER,  
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT  
LICENSING AND  
COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Daniel E. Shaffer, Cambridge District Licensing and Commercial Standards, entered into disability on March 14, after 35 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 2005 as a dispatcher at the St. Clairsville Post. As a dispatcher, he also served at the New Philadelphia Post and the New Philadelphia Dispatch Center. He was promoted Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector for Cambridge District.



**NANCY L. WITHERS,  
ATHENS DISTRICT**

Administrative Professional 1 Nancy Withers, Athens District, retired on May 2, 2024, after 28 years with the Ohio Investigative Unit. She joined OIU in April 1997. She served in the Athens District Office throughout her career.



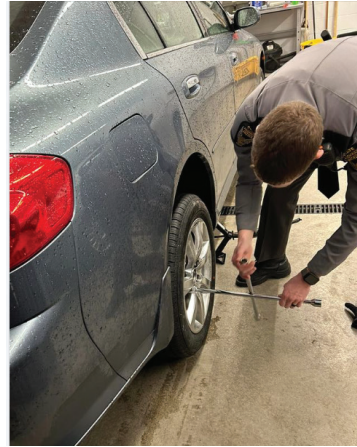
## HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

*Comments received via social media.*

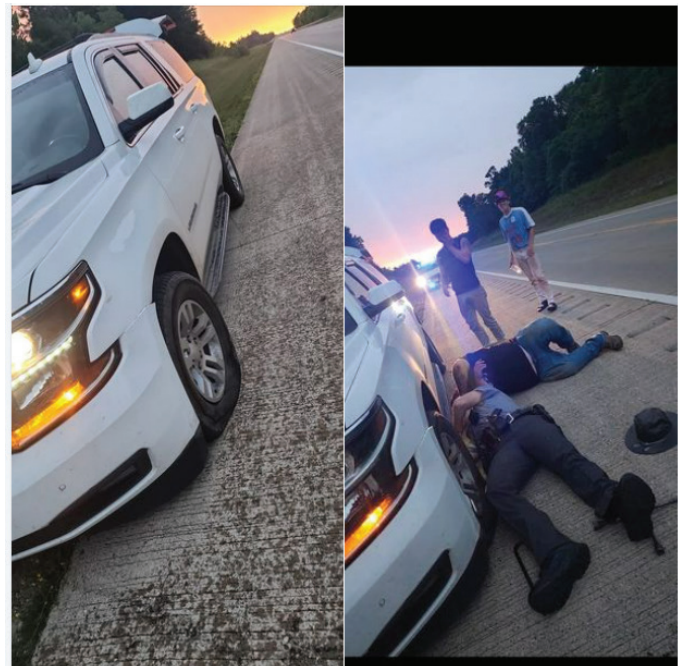


"Our Yellowstone Landscape Columbus East branch in Reynoldsburg celebrated our Spring Kickoff and Safety Rodeo yesterday and it was an AMAZING time! BIG shoutout to . . . Ohio State Highway Patrol for donating their time and/or items for our employee giveaways! . . . The Ohio Highway Patrol worked with our crews on truck and trailer safety!" - Kelly Johnson, Office Manager at Yellowstone Landscape Ohio

"Thanks to all of our partners, especially the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, who helped to keep our roadways, the state, and our visitors safe yesterday for the total eclipse! I can see why so many traveled to our great state to take in this amazing sight!" - Emily Davidson, Director of the Ohio Traffic Safety Office



"Caught a flat tire . . . I walked across the street to a patrol/tpd sub station to get a jack to change my tire, and Trooper Martin told me to pull my car in the garage and did it himself without hesitation. Huge thanks to Ohio State Highway Patrol." - Damein Carter



"That's State Trooper Rider laying on the ground with my husband helping him change the tire!! He also assisted getting the spare off my suburban and taught [my son] a few tricks about changing a tire!! . . . You just don't see this anymore!! . . . His service tonight was greatly appreciated." - Jessica Hill-Young



**Tuscarawas County TNR Project**

Mentioned Ohio State Highway Patrol in a Wall Post

2 days ago



Thank you to the Sheriff Deputy & Highway Patrol officer that came last night in New Phila to help an injured cat YOUR MOM RAISED YOU RIGHT!!! Kitty is with neighbor who may adopt **Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office Ohio State Highway Patrol** The kitty is tame, but abandoned and starved.





Colonel Charles A. Jones addresses the audience.



Memorial Retiree Lieutenant Colonel William Costas escorts a guest to their seat.



The Honor Guard presenting the colors. Shown from left: Lieutenant Clifton D. Dowell, Elyria Post; Trooper Shelly R. Saeger, Defiance Post; retired Sergeant Mike Mahaffey; then Sergeant Matthew N. Geer, Bowling Green Post and Trooper Stefen L. Gilliland, Xenia Post.



Memorial Retiree Lieutenant Colonel William Costas and 2023 Trooper of the Year, now Sergeant Evan M. Hill.



A close-up view of the memorial wall that features the Oath of commissioned officers.

Members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Family:

Iron sharpens iron! The more time I spend with this great organization, the more this saying rings true for me. Since the last issue of the Flying Wheel, I have joined members of the OSHP for events like the Buck Fifty 24-hour relay race, the final HITT training exercise with the 173rd Academy Class, open mat trainings for Defensive Tactics, the Patrol Memorial Day Hero Workout and Firearms Training with the Special Response Team. I have also been with you as you responded to protests on college campuses. I've flown on several aviation missions, participated in ride alongs with posts from District 1 and toured the OSHP Statehouse Operations. Through every interaction and every experience, you have pushed me to be a better version of myself. In order to participate in these events with you, I have to be focused and disciplined to ensure that I am trained to a level so that I can hold my own with you. The training, discipline and focus improves who I am, both as a person and as a professional. The obligation I feel towards you all as your Director of Public Safety truly motivates me to try to be better every day. Thank you for always pushing me.

Please know that I will, also, always strive to push you to be better, both individually and collectively as a group. The Ohio State Highway Patrol is an amazing organization with a rich history of excellence. I'm so proud of how each and every one of you uphold that history everyday through your words and actions. Let's never be content to rest on the reputation, deeds and accolades of those who came before us. Let's always strive to blaze our own path of excellence, innovation and achievement. Let's always push ourselves (you pushing me, me pushing you) to be better today than we were yesterday.

We are proud of you. God bless you, be safe, and let's go!

Andy Wilson



Director

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Department of  
Public Safety

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



As autumn descends, it symbolizes nature's growth to maturity and is a reminder to us, of our own maturity, as we grow with the passing seasons. It's a call to embrace and reflect on what adversity has been overcome. Acknowledge the courage that was shown among uncertainty, the empathy displayed to others during tragedy and the light of hope given to community members across the great state of Ohio.

During challenging times is when our true strength shines. Upholding justice to preserve peace and persevering through daunting paths, exemplifies your commitment to service.

As your chaplain, I've seen your unwavering dedication firsthand. Your integrity and honor are unmatched. Have peace in knowing that amidst turmoil, you're not alone. Draw strength and support from one another and celebrate successes. Continue to use the courage within you to be the guiding light and steady hand for others and to overcome any obstacle with professionalism and strength.

May courage and resilience fill your hearts as you continue to serve the citizens of Ohio and provide safety within their communities. Stay safe, stay strong and know that your unwavering dedication is deeply appreciated.

With gratitude,

Reverend Phil Hurlbert



State Chaplain

## FLYING WHEEL

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

Mike DeWine – Governor, State of Ohio  
Andy Wilson – Director, ODPS  
Colonel Charles A. Jones – Superintendent, OSHP  
Editor: S/Lt Tiffany L. Meeks, tlmeeks@dps.ohio.gov  
Reporters: Lt. J. Ray Santiago, PIO1 Julie L. Hinds,  
PIO2 Julie A. Akers, PIO2 Mara E. Diaz,  
PIO1 Jonah M. Young, PIS Bradley C. Shaw,  
Project Manager 2 Jeffrey W. Grayson,  
Interns: Emily C. Parrett and Logan P. Nowlin  
Photography: Colleen E. O'Shea, Shane N. Flanigan  
Graphic Design: PIO1 Mariah McVeigh

Contributors  
Findlay and Bucyrus District – Sgt. Ryan E. Purpura  
Cleveland, Warren and Cambridge District – Sgt. Bridget A. Matt  
Piqua, Wilmington and Jackson District – Sgt. Tyler S. Ross  
Columbus District – Lt. J. Ray Santiago, Sgt. Tyler S. Ross  
Retired Captain Rob Jackson  
HPRS Executive Director Carl Roark  
Chaplain Phil Hurlbert

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



# JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!

*Scan the QR code for more information.*

