
FLYING WHEEL

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**SERVICE AND SPIRIT:
CRUISER PHOTO EARNS
NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

**CONNECTING AND
PROTECTING AT THE
OHIO STATE FAIR**

**OPERATION NEW BEGINNINGS:
DRIVING CHANGE ON OHIO'S ROADWAYS**



**PATROL ASSISTS
WITH TEXAS FLOOD
RECOVERY EFFORTS**

OHIO STATE
HIGHWAY PATROL

COLONEL'S LETTER



Every issue of the Flying Wheel tells a story of who we are as a Division. It's found in the steady commitment of our people and in the extraordinary moments when they rise to meet a challenge. Always, it's a story of service, rooted in character, strengthened by connection and served with a purpose.

In this issue, you'll see that spirit reflected in the stories ahead.

You will read about the troopers who traveled to Texas to assist communities devastated by flooding. Their work was not only about search and recovery, it was about standing alongside families in their darkest hours, offering strength, dignity and hope. Their willingness to leave behind their own families to support others reminds us of the selfless character that defines this Division.

You will also see how service and pride are reflected in our traditions and in the way we represent Ohio on a national stage. Our recent recognition in the Best Looking Cruiser Contest was more than a photo, it was a story. A story of service, family, patriotism and of the connections that bind us to our communities.

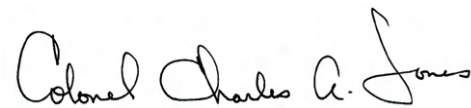
The same spirit of connection and care is at the heart of our Employee Wellness Section. This issue highlights the growing network of resources and support available to every member of this Division. From peer support and chaplains, to therapy dogs and training opportunities, these efforts remind us that wellness is a culture. And, it is a culture we continue to strengthen together.

You will also find in these pages the work of our Fatality Analysis Reporting Systems (FARS) Unit, whose detailed analysis transforms tragedy into prevention. Their work ensures that the lessons of the past are used to build safer roads and save lives across Ohio.

As I reflect on the stories in this issue, I am reminded once again that the Patrol's strength is people – the people who wear the Flying Wheel, the people who came before us and the people we serve every day.

Thank you for living out that strength in all you do.

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



Colonel Charles A. Jones
Superintendent

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Governor Mike DeWine, First Lady Fran DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Ohio State Fair.

PATROL AT THE FAIR: CONNECTING AND PROTECTING

The 2025 Ohio State Fair brought together nearly one million visitors for 12 days of tradition, entertainment and community. From July 23 through August 3, the Ohio State Highway Patrol was proud to play a central role in ensuring the safety of the event while creating meaningful opportunities to connect with fairgoers.

The fair detail began even before opening day. On July 22, personnel gathered at the Patrol's Training Academy for a comprehensive briefing. This preparation set the stage for the Patrol's presence across the fairgrounds, with the goal of being both a visible source of security and a welcoming face for visitors.

The Patrol's footprint could be found in many locations. Inside the Bricker Building, troopers joined fellow Ohio Department of Public Safety agencies in "Public Safety Town." This interactive space allowed visitors to meet troopers, learn about safety initiatives and explore what it means to serve with the Patrol. Recruitment staff and cadets engaged directly with families, answering questions about law enforcement careers while also offering fun, hands-on activities for children.

One of the highlights again this year was Tales with Troopers, a reading program that pairs troopers with young readers in partnership with



Trooper Diep N. Pham counts the number of push-ups completed by participants during the Push-up Challenge.

Recruitment During the Fair:

136 TOTAL APPLICATIONS

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio. With the help of the Patrol's mascot, Teddy Trooper, troopers read stories to children, underscoring the Patrol's commitment not only to public safety, but also to community well-being and early childhood literacy.

Outside, near the Cardinal Gate, the Recruitment Section and specialty units encouraged fairgoers to test their strength and skills. From push-up challenges to tire pulls, these activities showcased the camaraderie and teamwork that define the Patrol. Cadets from the 177th Academy Class were especially visible, assisting in the Lost Kids Booth, volunteering for the dunk tank and guiding families around the fairgrounds. Their enthusiasm and professionalism were evident as they balanced both serious responsibilities and lighthearted moments with the public.

The Licensing and Commercial Standards Section also provided a hands-on demonstration, showcasing the school bus inspection process that plays a vital role in ensuring the daily safety of Ohio's students.

While much of the Patrol's work centered on family-friendly engagement, its responsibility for safety was paramount. Troopers were present at all hours, ensuring a secure environment and assisting families when children became separated. Patrol personnel also played a critical role in providing security during special events and dignitary visits. Throughout the fair, troopers helped coordinate safety during appearances by Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine, Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel and Second Lady of the United States Usha Vance. These visits drew larger crowds, and the Patrol's professionalism ensured smooth, safe experiences for all.

The fair is a unique Ohio tradition, and for the Patrol, it is more than just an assignment, it is a chance to connect. Every conversation, every handshake and every shared laugh with the public reflected the core values of the Division, including family.

The Patrol's involvement at the 2025 Ohio State Fair highlighted the balance between ensuring security and building relationships. From dignitary protection to dunk tank splashes, troopers, cadets and professional staff exemplified what it means to serve with a purpose, helping make this year's fair both safe and memorable for all who attended.

Featured Sections at the Fair:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Auxiliary | Special Response Team |
| Mobile Field Force | Dispatch Operations |
| Crime Laboratory | Police Officers |
| K-9 Unit | Professional Staff |
| Therapy Dog | Aviation |
| Ohio Investigative Services | Motor Unit |



Sergeant Robert A. Marshall helps a fairgoer pull a tire.



Fairgoers pose for a picture in Public Safety Town.

PATROL ASSISTS WITH TEXAS FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS

Twenty troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Mobile Field Force deployed to Central Texas, where they supported search, rescue and recovery operations following catastrophic flooding along the Guadalupe River on July 4.

The flooding, which caused significant damage and loss of life in Kerr County, prompted a multi-agency response effort. The Patrol was mobilized to assist after coordination between state officials in Ohio and Texas. The troopers were deployed for nearly three weeks, departing on July 7 and returning home on July 25.

Also joining the deployment was a team from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), including natural resources officers and K-9s specially trained in search, rescue and recovery. Together, the Ohio teams worked closely with Texas emergency responders in an area where floodwaters had upended homes, scattered debris for miles and left families desperately searching for missing loved ones.

"Our biggest hope is that we can bring calm to chaos and that we can provide closure and hope and hopefully reunification to the families that are impacted the most," said Major David R. Brown, Office of Field Operations, prior to the Patrol's deployment. "At the end of the day, we're there to provide comfort, and sometimes that's giving people the answers they're looking for."

Patrol troopers began operations before daybreak on July 9, focusing their efforts on the river basin and surrounding terrain. In addition to ground searches, they supported recovery operations involving heavy machinery and coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel.

Troopers remained flexible throughout the deployment, adapting their tasks as conditions and operational needs changed. Despite the physical and emotional demands, each trooper carried out the mission with professionalism and compassion.

"You answered the call without hesitation, leaving behind your homes, families and daily routines to stand alongside those navigating profound loss and devastation," wrote Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, in a letter to the troopers upon their return. "You represented the Patrol with strength and compassion. You have once again made the Patrol, and the state of Ohio, proud."

The Patrol's deployment may have ended, but the impact of their presence continues to be felt in the communities they served. Their support provided not only operational relief but also a powerful message of solidarity in the face of disaster.

As always, the women and men of the Division remain ready to serve, wherever the need arises.



First Lady Fran DeWine, Governor Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel recognized the Patrol's efforts in Texas at an event held on September 16 at the Governor's Residence.



Troopers work together to load up the vans in preparation for the journey to Texas.



Different patches, same mission: officers from Texas Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Patrol gather together to aid the citizens of Texas.

OPERATION NEW BEGINNINGS: DRIVING CHANGE ON OHIO'S ROADWAYS



Fonda Freeman, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, and Captain Christopher J. Kinn, Office of Field Operations, discuss Operation New Beginnings.

On August 13, the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy hosted an open house for Operation New Beginnings, a statewide initiative designed to reduce impaired driving recidivism through coordinated outreach and behavioral health support.

Representatives from law enforcement, county behavioral health boards, recovery specialists and partner agencies gathered for a full program that included an officer wellness presentation, networking opportunities, agency updates and formal recognition of board members.

Launched in March 2023 with 11 counties, Operation New Beginnings has now expanded to 73 counties across Ohio. The program connects individuals arrested for impaired driving with local mental health and addiction services. While participation is voluntary and does not alter legal outcomes, it offers a critical opportunity to address the underlying causes of impaired driving and reduce the likelihood of repeat offenses.

The initiative was developed in response to sobering statistics. In 2022, 57% of fatal crashes investigated by the Patrol involved impaired drivers, and nearly 40% of those arrested had prior offenses. Leaders recognized that enforcement alone could not fully solve the problem.

“If we want to stop impaired driving, we have to understand what drives impairment,” said Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent. “If we want to stop the cycle, we have to be willing to interrupt it, with help.”

A central partner in this work is the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), representing all 50 Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards in Ohio. OACBHA has been instrumental in building the program’s infrastructure and facilitating county-by-county expansion.

Captain Christopher J. Kinn, Office of Field Operations and co-chair of the Recidivism Reduction Task Force, has led the Patrol’s operational role. Reflecting on the program’s impact, he said, “We’re hoping that by connecting people to those services that are available, they can use that to make a change. That’s a risk to



■ Participating county

me, to you, to our families, our friends and all of us using the road responsibly.”

The program has already demonstrated measurable engagement. Since its launch, approximately 10% of those offered services have chosen to participate. While behavioral change is a gradual process, each person who accepts help represents a life with renewed potential and a reduced risk to Ohio’s roadways.

The open house reinforced the importance of collaboration in addressing complex public safety challenges. By working together, law enforcement, behavioral health professionals, recovery specialists and community advocates are not only enforcing the law but also creating pathways for recovery.

Through this combined effort, Operation New Beginnings reflects a broader vision for public safety—one that holds individuals accountable while addressing the factors that contribute to dangerous driving behaviors. Its growth from 11 to 73 counties in just over a year demonstrates the commitment of all involved to creating safer, healthier communities across Ohio.

AP4 FERMINA M. SANCHEZ CLASSROOM DEDICATION



Fermina M. Sanchez (center) poses with her classroom dedication plaque, surrounded by family, friends and former colleagues.



Retired Captain and Franklin County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Marvin Hill and Lieutenant Colonel Joshua M. Swindell pose for a selfie with Fermina M. Sanchez.



An attendee admires the photos lining Sanchez's classroom walls.

On September 26, the Patrol's Training Academy was filled with retirees and active personnel from across the state, especially those with ties to the Warren District, as the Division dedicated a classroom in honor of Administrative Professional 4 Fermina M. Sanchez.

The ceremony recognized Sanchez's 55 years of service to the Patrol, a career that began in 1959 when she was hired as a clerk stenographer

at the Warren District Headquarters. Over her career, she served under 16 superintendents and worked for 10 district commanders, adapted through countless changes in technology and operations, and became a trusted presence whose professionalism and loyalty set a standard for generations to follow.

Colonel Charles A. Jones reflected on her enduring impact during the dedication ceremony: "Today is about more than a plaque on the wall. It is about making sure that future generations of cadets, partners from other agencies and professional staff who pass through these doors know the legacy of someone who gave 55 years of her life to the Division, and who continues to inspire us by the way she lives."

Sanchez, joined by family, friends and former colleagues, expressed her sincere gratitude to those in attendance. She acknowledged how meaningful it was to be among others who had classrooms named in their honor, individuals who had made a lasting impact on the Division.

Her legacy was already cemented in 2014 when she retired as the longest-serving employee in Patrol history, with her unit number, 4108, permanently retired, an honor traditionally reserved for superintendents. The classroom dedication builds upon that recognition, ensuring her story will continue to inspire cadets and personnel for years to come.

Sanchez often said she hoped to be remembered as honest, humble and dedicated. The classroom that now bears her name stands as a lasting tribute to those qualities and to a lifetime of Service with a Purpose.

SERVICE AND SPIRIT: CRUISER PHOTO EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Ohio State Highway Patrol recently earned third place in the 12th annual Best Looking Cruiser Contest, hosted by the American Association of State Troopers (AAST). The national competition promotes the professionalism and pride of state law enforcement agencies, offering a platform for us to engage with communities and showcase the values that define the Patrol's work.

Ohio's submission was more than an image, it was a tribute. Captured by Patrol Photographer Colleen E. O'Shea, the photo featured the Division's Dodge Durango in front of a Hocking County barn painted with the American flag. The barn's owner, Larry Kornmiller, offered the use of his property to honor his brothers and all who have served.

Service to country runs deep in Kornmiller's family. "All of my brothers and my brother-in-law served in the military, with two fighting in the Korean War and one in World War II," he said. "That tradition continues with my grandson, Tyler, who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps."

Kornmiller was inspired to create the mural after receiving a photograph from his grandson aboard a ship. "He sent me a photo of him on the ship with the flag flying at an angle, and I thought, that's what I want," he recalled. Working with a muralist, he commissioned a design that gives the illusion of the flag waving in the breeze atop the hill.

"The reason I painted this on here is because of my brothers," Kornmiller said. "They were all in the service. I never did get a chance to tell them, 'Hey, thanks for your service.' They are all gone now except my grandson, Tyler."

His patriotism and generosity elevated the image beyond its visual impact. It became a symbol of service, family and the enduring values held by the Division. The Patrol is grateful for the opportunity to share a part of his story with audiences across the country and, in turn, to thank him for welcoming the Patrol into such a meaningful place.

As a result of the Patrol's third-place finish, the image will be featured in the 2026 AAST national calendar. Each year, the calendar highlights the top 13 entries, giving state law enforcement agencies a chance to represent their commitment to public safety and community connection.

This successful outcome was made possible through the collaboration of many. Trooper Paul E. Appleman coordinated the inclusion of K-9 Hope, adding depth to the image. The Photo Lab and Public Affairs Unit played essential roles in planning, execution, outreach and engagement. Their attention to detail and dedication to the mission ensured a high-quality final product.

Special thanks go to Public Information Officer 2 Mara E. Diaz, who led the Division's social media campaign. Her efforts to engage the public and amplify the message were instrumental in securing broad support and visibility for Ohio's entry.

Appreciation is also extended to all who supported the campaign including sworn personnel, professional staff, retirees, family members and community partners. Their votes and advocacy helped ensure Ohio's submission received the recognition it deserved.

The Patrol remains proud to represent the state of Ohio and is committed to upholding the principles of service, pride and professionalism in daily work and in all interactions with the communities it serves.



Ohio's submission photo for the Best Looking Cruiser Contest.



Colonel Charles A. Jones presents Larry Kornmiller with a framed copy of the third place winning photo.



Front row: Doug Cunningham, Cindy Peterman, Amy Ferguson, Suzanne Muraco, Thomas W. Rice, Andy Wilson, R. M Bruce, Christopher Malson, Dr. Christi Bartman, Gamel S. Brimah, Kristin Slaper.
Middle row: Tim Halbakken, Steve Hartenbach, Haley Melcher, Ted Mosure, Ashley Pesata, Doug Doherty, Elaine Bryant, Michael Ferriter.
Back row: Mike Raven, Gary Lewis, Michael Slocum, David R. Brown, Brad French, Doug Hart, Daniel Hargus, Barbara J. Barch, John Hinton.

PATRIOT AWARDS

On September 12, dozens of Ohioans were recognized during the annual Patriot Award ceremony. The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) hosted the event in the Patrol's Leadership Auditorium at the Training Academy.

ODPS Director Andy Wilson honored employees, military veterans and others representing law enforcement agencies from across the state. The awards are intended to recognize those who have committed their lives to service and public good, as well as families with histories of military and law enforcement service that span generations. Chief R. M. Bruce of the Saint John Police Force in Canada also spoke during the ceremony.

Major David R. Brown, Office of Field Operations, and Lieutenant Gamel S. Brimah, Polygraph Unit, received the Patriot Awards during the ceremony. Also honored was retired Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Lieutenant and Bexley Police Chief, Gary D. Lewis.

During the ceremony, retired Colonel Thomas W. Rice received the inaugural 2025 Thomas P. Charles Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication, professionalism and service that define the best in law enforcement leadership. His leadership, education and continued service to the law enforcement community have established him as a significant figure in the history of the Patrol, the city of Columbus and the Transportation Security Administration.

Lastly, Director Wilson recognized the 20 troopers and four members of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who deployed to Texas to assist with flood relief efforts on July 7, 2025. At the direction of Governor Mike DeWine, this mission highlighted Ohio's commitment to helping other states in times of crisis, and is a testament to the dedication of its first responders.

Members of the Texas deployment include:

- Major David R. Brown, Field Operations/ Licensing and Commercial Standards
- Major Matthew L. Them, Finance and Logistics
- Captain Christopher J. Kinn, Field Operations
- Captain John C. Thorne, Finance and Logistics
- Staff Lieutenant Matthew R. Keener, Wilmington District Headquarters
- Sergeant Bradley Hess, Dayton Post
- Sergeant Rocky J. Hise, St. Clairsville Post
- Trooper Ian D. Blackwood, Bowling Green Post
- Trooper Nicholas G. Combs, Georgetown Post
- Trooper Gabriel A. Duvall, New Philadelphia Post
- Trooper William B. Kanters, Canton Post
- Trooper Matthew Magistri, Wooster Post
- Trooper Dominic L. O'Neill, Hamilton Post
- Trooper Quentin K. Phillips, Circleville Post
- Trooper Reid Phillips, Marietta Post
- Trooper Justin T. Picklesimon, Training Unit
- Trooper Arslan Qaisar, Canfield Post
- Trooper Louis L. Quiles, Batavia Post
- Trooper Tyler J. Slabaugh, Bucyrus Post
- Trooper Zachary M. Witmer, Dayton Post

THIRD ANNUAL 9/11 CLIMB



ODPS Director Andy Wilson addresses the crowd before the 9/11 Climb.

On September 11, the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Law Enforcement Initiatives Office of First Responder Wellness, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and CrossFit Crave hosted the third annual 9/11 Climb at the Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus. The workout carries the singular goal to show strength and dedication, while paying tribute to the 412 first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001.

ODPS Director Andy Wilson spoke before the event about remembering 9/11 and supporting first responders. Trooper Jessica A. McIntyre, Recruitment, sang the national anthem.

Participants gathered on the field for the 9/11 Climb workout, completing as many repetitions as possible of stairs, burpees, sit-ups and lunges or air squats in 41 minutes and 20 seconds – a time chosen to honor the 412 first responders who lost their lives on 9/11.

Others chose a different path to pay tribute, engaging in walking, stair climbing or yoga for the duration. The spirit of unity was palpable as individuals, pairs and teams encouraged one another throughout the challenge, embodying remembrance and support.

Following the climb, Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel addressed the participants about making an impact on people's lives. He reflected on his experience as a head coach, where he served in a leadership role guiding both his teams and coaching staff, and drew a powerful parallel to the leadership and service that law enforcement provides in protecting communities across Ohio.

CORPORAL RUCH HIGHWAY DEDICATION



Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, and Captain Maurice Waddell, Warren District commander, unveil the memorial highway dedication sign.

The highway dedication for Corporal John E. Ruch took place on July 9 at the Ashtabula Post. The dedicated highway runs along the northeast-bound and southwest-bound lanes of U.S. 20 between Center and Gerald roads in Ashtabula County. Corporal Ruch died on March 4, 1942, as a result of injuries suffered in a traffic crash that occurred during a high-speed pursuit on U.S. 20.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Colonel Charles A. Jones and State Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur (Ashtabula) provided remarks during the ceremony.

CAPTAIN KINN HONORED BY VFW



In June, the Veterans of Foreign Wars presented Captain Christopher J. Kinn, Field Operations, with the National Law Enforcement Award. He was honored for his outstanding career and his highly professional and exemplary service to his community and nation.

The certificate states, "Captain Christopher Kinn is truly an exceptional example of all who wear the badge and this honor reflects the proud ideals and high standards of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

SUNBIRD REUNION



The Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association's (OSHPRA) annual Sunbird Reunion took place on August 9. The event was held at the All-Occasions Banquet Facility in Waldo. Before the luncheon, the association held its third quarter business meeting. Presentations were made by Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Linek; retired Captain Tony Bradshaw, Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System (OHPRS) chief operations officer; retired Major Darryl Anderson, OHPRS trustee; retired Colonel Tom Rice, State Troopers of Ohio executive director and retired Major Robert Booker, OSHPRA president.

U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE STRATEGIC LEADER STAFF RIDE



From left: Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Linek, Captain John C. Thorne, Captain Chad A. Maines, Captain Maurice Waddell, Captain Jeffrey S. Davis, Captain Eric A. Caudill, Captain Kristin A. Wickman, Data Systems Administrator Jeremy J. Hansford, Captain Christopher J. Kinn, Captain Aaron J. Reimer, Captain Chad A. Miller and Captain Robert M. Hayslip.

From August 18-20, personnel from the Ohio State Highway Patrol attended the U.S. Army War College Strategic Leader Staff Ride in Gettysburg, Pa. Staff rides are designed to show real-world examples of strategic leadership and view lessons that are still applicable today through a historical context.

A WALK THROUGH HERITAGE HALL

Following in Their Footsteps:

The Stickle and Engle Family

As you pass through Heritage Hall at the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Training Academy, make sure you stop and take a look at the story of one man, his family, and their impact on the Division. Following in Their Footsteps, on display through the first of the year, features retired Trooper Jack W. Stickle; his son, retired Auxiliary Sergeant Michael A. Stickle; his daughters, former Communications Technician Mona A. Stickle; former Typist II and Procurement and Criminal Analyst Marcia A. Stickle; Marla (Maggie) A. Stickle and former Dispatcher Mary A. Stickle; his son-in-law, retired Staff Lieutenant Chester (Chet) L. Engle II (married to Mary); and his grandsons, Milan Post Trooper Jacob R. Engle and Akron Post Trooper Chester (Chet) Engle III. The display also pays homage to Trooper Stickle's daughter, Mollie A. Stickle, who worked for the Licking County Sheriff's Office.

Career

Retired Trooper Jack W. Stickle first joined the United States Marine Corps. After gaining an appreciation for the military, he and some friends decided to take the entrance test for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He became a member of the 38th Academy Class on

November 10, 1952, earning his commission on January 23, 1953, and was originally assigned to the Portsmouth Post. He also worked at the Hebron Post prior to being promoted to corporal in 1964 and transferring to the Marietta Post. As a corporal, he was also assigned at the Hebron Post. In 1969, he was promoted to sergeant at the Hebron Post, which later became the Granville Post.

On October 10, 1962, while at the Hebron Post, then Patrolman Stickle performed a heroic action when he saved several lives. After witnessing a taxi cab pass over a yellow line, he immediately pulled

the vehicle over to the side of the road. The driver got out, and as he approached Patrolman Stickle, he whispered that his passenger had a gun on him and was forcing him to drive to Cleveland. He added the passenger had said that he would not be taken alive. Patrolman Stickle removed the suspect from the cab without incident and retrieved a loaded .32-caliber automatic from the man's pocket. The suspect had a lengthy criminal record, and in his possession was a "death list" with the names of his stepfather and three public officials. On December 14, 1962, Patrolman Stickle was presented with the Superintendent's Citation of Merit.

In the mid 1970s, Sergeant Stickle was advised he was going to have to transfer to fill an open sergeant position at a different post. Instead of disrupting his family's lives, he and his wife Mary decided he would take a voluntary demotion. After more than 25 years of service, Trooper Stickle retired on July 8, 1978.

Family

Retired Trooper Stickle passed away in 1979. Shortly after his passing, a sergeant from the Granville Post reached out to Mary to ask if any of their 10 children would be interested in carrying on his legacy with the Patrol. In the end, six of their 10 children went on to serve the citizens of Ohio, with five of them working in some capacity for the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Before starting his senior year in high school, his son Michael attended the Patrol's first "Youth Week," now referred to as Junior Cadet Week. Along with his father's influence, the structure, discipline and sense of purpose within the Patrol really resonated with him, so years later, he became part of the first Auxiliary class in 25 years. He was promoted to Auxiliary sergeant in 1995. After 26 years of service to the Patrol, Auxiliary Sergeant Michael A. Stickle retired on November 10, 2019.

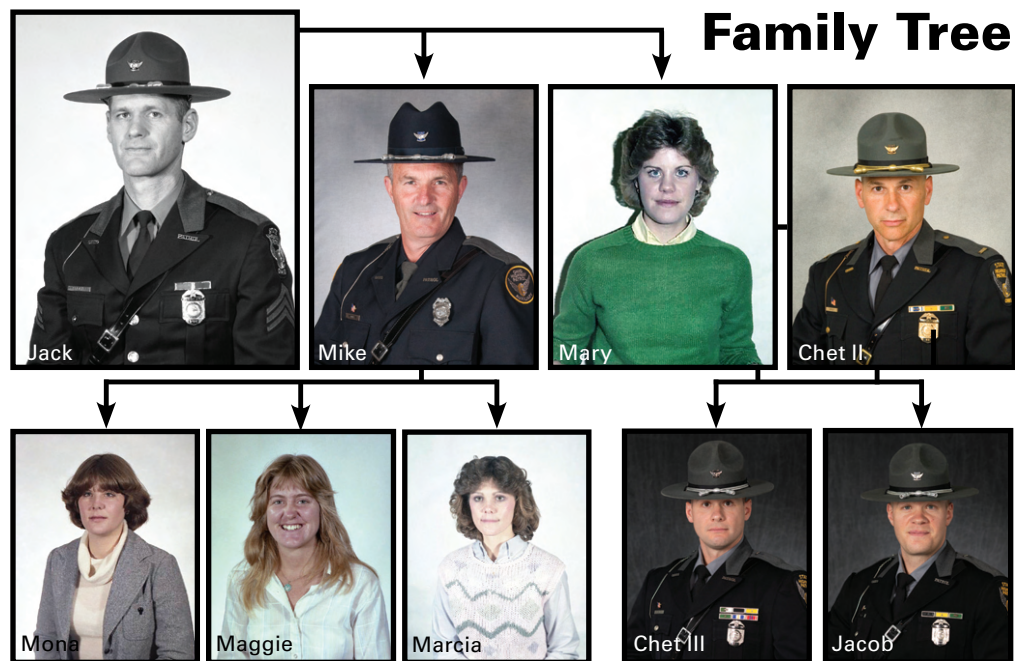
Dispatcher Mary A. Stickle joined the Patrol in January 1980 at the Granville Post and remained there for three years.

Extended Family

While working at the Granville Post, Mary met her husband, then Trooper Chester L. Engle II. He began training with the 111th Academy Class in July 1981. He earned his commission in December 1981 and was assigned to the Granville Post. He rose through the ranks and retired as a staff lieutenant in March 2012, after more than 30 years with the Patrol.

Staff Lieutenant Engle and Mary had two sons who also became members of the Patrol. Trooper Jacob R. Engle joined the Patrol in September 2011 as a member of the 151st Academy Class and currently serves at the Milan Post. He earned his commission in February 2012. His brother, Trooper Chester L. Engle III, worked as a corrections officer for the Licking County Sheriff's Office until he joined the Patrol as a member of the 154th Academy Class in November 2012. He earned his commission in April 2013 and serves at the Akron Post.

The Stickle and Engle families have left a lasting legacy on the Patrol for more than seven decades. To watch their story, please scan the QR Code.



EMPLOYEE HEALTH: HEALING INSIDE AND OUT



A few members of MAT: Lieutenant Molly J. Harris, Sergeant Timothy K. Bullock, Therapy K-9 Hope and Trooper Paul E. Appleman.

In recent years, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has made it clear that employee wellness is not just an initiative, it's a priority. The Division's leadership has taken significant steps to talk openly about mental health, encourage employees to use available resources and continually expand support services to meet the needs of both sworn and professional staff.

The Employee Wellness Section has grown to include new positions, new programs and provide a broader reach. A Member Assistance Team (MAT) administrator, a behavioral health specialist for Health and Physical Fitness Evaluations and the launch of the Therapy Dog Program are among the additions. Education has been woven into cadet and basic training, post grad, LEAD Ohio and in-service schedules. The section also introduced a podcast, added a robust wellness tab on the internal Gateway and strengthened involvement in the state's Crisis Intervention Team program. More recently, an employee relations branch was created to provide training on mediation, team cohesion and proactive approaches to workplace challenges.

Central to this effort is the Mental Health and Wellness Gateway page, which serves as a one-stop resource for employees. It houses information about benefits, seminars, self-care strategies, coping techniques and other related documents. For those seeking more direct support, the MAT and Veteran Member Assistance Team (VMAT) offer confidential peer

support, debriefings after critical incidents and help connecting with mental health professionals. Chaplains and Ohio ASSIST Post Critical Incident Seminars also continue to play an essential role.

The impact of these efforts has been felt across the Patrol. Employees have shared overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many describing the resources as life-changing. Supervisors have noticed improvements in performance and morale, while employees who were initially hesitant to seek help now encourage others to do so. The stigma that once surrounded mental health is giving way to open conversation, mutual support and a culture that recognizes seeking help as a sign of strength.

Specialized programs ensure that all employees feel supported. The VMAT offers a unique perspective for those with military service, providing not only peer understanding, but also guidance on veteran-specific resources and benefits. The Division has also emphasized nutrition and lifestyle support, recognizing that wellness is multi-dimensional and touches every part of our lives, from mental and physical health to emotional, spiritual and social well-being.

One of the most visible additions has been the therapy dogs, Hope and Chance. Their presence across the state has brought comfort and calmness in moments of crisis. Alongside their handlers, they have also opened the door to conversations about wellness, reaching people who may not have spoken up otherwise.

Looking ahead, the Division is committed to further strengthening these resources. Plans include making the Gateway more user-friendly, adding additional chaplains and continuing to grow support networks for commanders who face their own unique challenges. A permanent Command Staff Post Critical Incident Seminar will begin in 2026, reinforcing the commitment to wellness at every leadership level.

Lieutenant Molly J. Harris, Office of Employee Wellness, emphasizes that the most important message for every employee is simple. "There should be no shame in using mental health resources. Just as we treat high blood pressure or a broken bone, caring for our mental health is essential. Stress and critical incidents affect everyone, because we are human. Recognizing the signs, reaching out early and taking advantage of the resources available can make all the difference."

FARS: WHERE DATA MEETS PREVENTION

Within the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Office of Planning, Research and Development, the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Unit plays a critical role in understanding and preventing roadway tragedies. Operating as part of the Traffic Statistics Section, the unit ensures that all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Ohio are carefully analyzed and documented.

Every law enforcement agency in Ohio contributes by submitting reports on crashes involving fatalities, injuries or property damage. Once a fatal crash is reported, FARS analysts begin their work. They review the crash report and the driving records of everyone involved, then "code" the case according to national standards before entering it into the FARS database maintained by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

But their work does not stop with the initial report. To complete a case, analysts gather additional information that may not be included in the Ohio crash report. This includes roadway data from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), toxicology results, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Incident Reporting System, driver and vehicle records from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and even death certificates through the Ohio Department of Health. Each source helps build a comprehensive picture of the crash and the circumstances surrounding it.

This information has far-reaching impact. At the national level, NHTSA publishes the FARS data for public use, enabling research at the federal, state and local levels. The information is used to study driver behaviors leading up to a crash, assess the role of drugs and alcohol, evaluate the effectiveness of safety belts and analyze crashes involving vulnerable age groups such as teens or older drivers. Research based on FARS data has supported national campaigns including "Click It or Ticket," "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," and annual observances like School Bus Safety Week and Pedestrian Safety Month.

The ability to provide complete and timely reports depends heavily on collaboration. The FARS team has built strong working relationships with local police departments and sheriffs' offices across Ohio. Open communication allows for the exchange of supplemental information and corrections when needed, strengthening the accuracy of each case file. Still, challenges remain. Fatal crashes vary widely in their complexity, and obtaining key records such as toxicology results or EMS reports can take time depending on the circumstances of the investigation.

Technology has streamlined much of the process. Ohio's electronic data transfer system automatically moves statewide crash data into the federal FARS case system, saving analysts hours of manual entry. Direct access to systems such as Ohio Trooper Information System (OTIS) Online for toxicology, ODOT's Traffic Information Mapping System roadway portal and EMS reporting tools further reduces delays. In recent years, county coroners in Cuyahoga and Montgomery have begun sending monthly reports to the unit, which helps analysts cross-check fatality data more efficiently. Efforts are underway to expand these partnerships with additional counties.

Trends in Ohio mirror those seen nationwide. Over the past five years, fatal crashes and resulting deaths peaked in 2021, a spike that coincided with national increases observed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the numbers have steadily declined each year, reflecting the combined impact of roadway improvements, enforcement efforts and public education campaigns.

The work can also feel deeply personal. Statistical Supervisor 1 Rebecca S. Lewis came to the Patrol after working at a local police department. "As a mom myself, I am always worried about kids driving or not being restrained correctly in vehicles," she explained. While her team does not interact with motorists directly, the information they collect contributes to roadway safety across the state. For Statistical Supervisor 1 Lewis, certain cases remain unforgettable, including fatalities involving people she knew. Those moments serve as a reminder of the human impact behind every statistic.

For law enforcement officers in the field, the FARS Unit emphasizes the importance of thorough crash documentation. Complete narratives, detailed diagrams and accurate reporting provide the foundation for national research used by medical professionals, engineers, policymakers and automakers. As Statistical Supervisor 1 Lewis noted, "It's not 'just' a crash report."

Through its careful analysis and national reporting, the FARS Unit turns data into knowledge that informs policy, improves roadway design and shapes life-saving public safety campaigns. Their work ensures that the lessons learned from each tragedy contribute to safer roads for all Ohioans.

PATROL ADDS SECOND THERAPY DOG

On August 29, Colonel Charles A. Jones introduced the newest member of the Patrol family, Therapy K-9 Chance. Patrol personnel submitted 64 different potential name submissions for the new therapy dog. Five names were selected as finalists and were voted on; the same submission and voting process that was used for K-9 Hope.

"After receiving an incredible number of thoughtful and creative submissions, followed by a Division-wide vote, the name has been chosen," Colonel Jones said. "I'm confident that he will make a meaningful impact from day one, because everyone deserves a chance to feel supported."

Therapy K-9 Chance is a male purebred black English Labrador assigned to Trooper Julie A. Haas, Staffing Services. He was selected on August 9 as the pick of the litter. Together, Trooper Haas and K-9 Chance will provide mental health education and resources during interactions across Ohio, whether with community members or first responders.

According to Colonel Jones, the new therapy dog is a continuation of the Patrol's impactful effort to provide comfort, connection and emotional support throughout our Division and state. The addition of a second therapy K-9 not only reinforces our commitment to providing support to all, but also allows us to reach more people and continue to make a meaningful difference across Ohio.

Therapy K-9 Chance will not be working official events until he has completed training. Until then, he will be meeting and working with employees. Therapy K-9 Chance is required to get the same certifications that therapy K-9 Hope earned, including certification with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, a Crisis K-9/Therapy K-9 First Response Course, and American Kennel Club (AKC) S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen certifications.

Therapy K-9 Hope was first introduced in March 2024. From January 1 to August 31, 2025, she and Trooper Paul E. Appleman, Staffing Services, took part in five structured mental health briefings which occur after a critical incident. They also attended 20 community-based functions together, including the Special Olympics, Ohio State Fair, Safety Cities, local community events and open houses. In addition, the duo attended 39 site visits or drop-ins to DPS/Patrol facilities to informally meet with personnel. Visits with outside law enforcement agencies or community partners may also take place. During that same time period, Hope was utilized in three critical incident responses and four peer follow-up conversations. Hope has also been present at the Ohio ASSIST Post Critical Incident Seminar.

If you or someone you know is facing a mental health challenge, please remember, you are not alone. Resources are available on the Gateway, through our MAT and VMAT teams, the Office of Employee Wellness or by calling 9-8-8.



Love at "fur-st" sight. Trooper Julie A. Haas snuggles with K-9 Chance.



Above: K-9 Chance introduces himself to Colonel Jones with a lick to his shoe.

Below: Trooper Julie A. Haas and K-9 Chance meet Trooper Paul E. Appleman and K-9 Hope.



K-9 GRADUATION



From left: Officer Ryan Dompier and K-9 Boone, Whitehall Division of Police; Officer Joseph Ford and K-9 Hank, Grandview Heights Division of Police; Officer Steven Hupp II and K-9 Kolt, Huber Heights Police Division; Trooper Colten L. Riley and K-9 DJ, Columbus District Criminal Patrol; and Officer Dylan Stephenson and K-9 Maxx, Mansfield Division of Police. Not pictured: Trooper Andre J. Gordon and K-9 Jax, Cleveland District Criminal Patrol.

Six K-9s and their handlers graduated from the Patrol's K-9 Training Facility on August 11.

ACE AND CRIMINAL PATROL AWARDS



From left: Second quarter Criminal Patrol Award recipients Trooper Devin Thompson, Canfield Post and Trooper Halle R. Paris, Milan Post; Second quarter Ace recipient Trooper Steven R. Church, Delaware Post. Not pictured: Second quarter Criminal Patrol Award recipient Trooper John A. Garner, Dayton Post.

On August 11, an Ace and Criminal Patrol Awards ceremony was held to recognize first-time recipients for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2025.

BATTLE OF THE BADGES



Front row: Stetson Shellhouse and Nash Dickerson.
 Middle row: Sergeant Mark A. Menendez, Marion Post; Trooper Kyle D. Shearer, Special Response Team; Trooper Sarah J. Kliesch, Bucyrus Post; Trooper Kyle J. Mayle, Bucyrus District Criminal Patrol; Sergeant John R. Banta, Bucyrus Post; retired Sergeant Will Ogden and Sergeant Andrew M. Shellhouse, Bucyrus Post.
 Back row: Trooper Tyler J. Slabaugh, Bucyrus Post; Colonel Charles A. Jones; Trooper Joshua P. Smith, Recruitment; Trooper Ryan Noblet, Bucyrus Post; Sergeant David R. Passet, Mt. Gilead Post; Trooper Jacob A. Dickerson, Criminal Patrol; Royce Dickerson; Sergeant Matt A. Ruth, Criminal Patrol; Trooper Drew Nelson, Marion Post and Sergeant Zachary J. Sauber, Bucyrus Post.

On September 6, members of the Patrol's Bucyrus District won the Battle of the Badges charity softball tournament in Upper Sandusky. Teams also included players from the Upper Sandusky Police and Fire Departments, Mohawk Fire and Rescue District, Carey Police and Volunteer Fire Departments and the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office.

The Patrol's team won all three of its games. The first-place trophy rotates each year to the winning team. The tournament benefited the Wyandot Memorial Hospital Oncology Department.

37 OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM PATROL'S BASIC PEACE OFFICER CLASS



On July 3, members of the 152nd Basic Peace Officer Class received training certificates during a graduation ceremony held at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy. The 37 graduates began their 21-week basic course in February.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers, Paulding County Sheriff's Office, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, also provided remarks before the Ohio Investigative Unit's Clayton L. Criss, who was selected as class speaker by fellow class members. Following their graduation, graduates assumed duties as peace officers for 21 Ohio agencies.

Class honors went to the following:

- **Overall Top Performer** – Jakob R. Dillon, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Parks & Watercraft
- **Top Academics** – Christine C. Daley, West Chester Police Department
- **Top Firearms** – Jacob L. Sattelmair, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Parks & Watercraft
- **Top Physical Fitness** – Jakob R. Dillon, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Parks & Watercraft
- **Top Driving** – Clayton L. Criss, Ohio Investigative Unit

TROOPER PICKLESIMON EARNS PERFECT GXT SCORE

POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN



From left: Police Officer 2 Alexandra J. Hendrix, Capitol Operations; Police Officer 2 Babita Gajmer, Capitol Operations; Police Officer 2 Abigail L. Spradlin, Expo Center; Police Officer 2 Colin J. Squires, Capitol Operations; Police Officer 2 Mohammad E. Nasser, Capitol Operations and Police Officer 2 Andrew D. Quine, Expo Center.

On July 1, Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, administered the Oath of Office to six Ohio State Highway Patrol police officers.



On September 15, Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, administered the Oath of Office and swore in Police Officer 2 Lucas Huffman.



Trooper Justin T. Picklesimon, Training Academy, received a perfect score on the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Health and Physical Fitness Evaluation on September 18. He was honored by Colonel Charles A. Jones at the Patrol's Training Academy on September 29.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLIONS PRESENTED TO SERGEANT WILLIAMS, SERGEANT PATTERSON AND TROOPER TODD



From left: Sergeant Darius M. Patterson, Trooper Brandon D. Todd, Sergeant Stephen E. Williams and Colonel Charles A. Jones.

leading Sergeant Patterson to perform chest compressions until EMS arrived. The EMS personnel took over the medical procedures and transported her to Grant Medical Center, where she recovered.

For demonstrating a sense of urgency and providing aid, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Capitol Operations Sergeant Stephen E. Williams, Sergeant Darius M. Patterson and Trooper Brandon D. Todd with Distinguished Service Medallions. The ceremony took place on July 10 at the Ohio Statehouse. On May 6, Trooper Todd was stationed at a security checkpoint at the Ohio Statehouse when he observed a 65-year-old woman experiencing a medical emergency. He promptly found a wheelchair for the woman, while her family retrieved her oxygen tank. Noticing that her condition was deteriorating, Trooper Todd immediately called for assistance. Sergeant Williams and Sergeant Patterson arrived, and together they removed her from the wheelchair and placed her on the floor to begin CPR. The AED was unable to detect a heartbeat,

MEDALLION CERTIFICATE FOR LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS IN WEST JEFFERSON



Trooper Jacob A. Lambdin, West Jefferson Post, Sergeant Nathan Martin, Officer Danni Hiles and Officer Jeremy Ward, West Jefferson Police Department.

On August 27, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented West Jefferson Post Trooper Jacob A. Lambdin, West Jefferson Police Department Officers Jeremy Ward and Danni Hiles, and Sergeant Nathan Martin with medallion certificates for their sense of urgency and rendering aid on June 5 after a vehicle drove off the roadway and into a retention pond. When Trooper Lambdin arrived on scene, the vehicle was partially submerged and was continuing to sink. Two adults and a 5-year-old boy exited the vehicle, but struggled in the deep water. Trooper Lambdin retrieved his rescue rope and proceeded into the water. West Jefferson Police Department Officers Ward and Hiles, along with Sergeant Martin, followed Trooper Lambdin into the retention pond. Trooper Lambdin was able to take hold of the child while the West Jefferson officers rescued the two adults who were in distress. The three occupants were taken to the bank of the pond to receive medical attention, where the driver stated there were two additional people in the vehicle. Upon hearing the driver's statement, Trooper Lambdin put on a life vest and returned to the water and attempted to locate the vehicle, which was completely submerged in the deep, murky water. A dive team responded and retrieved the two remaining passengers, who had drowned.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLIONS PRESENTED TO EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGIST LUMADUE AND DR. IORIO



Colonel Charles A. Jones, Exercise Physiologist Elizabeth J. Lumadue, Dr. Clark D. Iorio and Jackson District Staff Lieutenant Max B. Norris.

On August 11, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Distinguished Service Medallions to Exercise Physiologist Elizabeth J. Lumadue and Dr. Clark D. Iorio for their attention to detail which prevented a serious medical condition. On May 28, Exercise Physiologist Lumadue contacted Dr. Iorio and asked him to review the stress test readings of Staff Lieutenant Max B. Norris' biennial Health and Physical Fitness Evaluation Graded Exercise Test (GXT), where EKG changes were observed. Dr. Iorio agreed that the readings were abnormal and monitored him for several minutes. The abnormal readings began to normalize once his heart returned to a normal state. After further examination of the readings, Dr. Iorio recommended Staff Lieutenant Norris to follow up immediately with a cardiologist. Based on scheduling conflicts with his physician, the decision was made that Staff Lieutenant Norris would go to the emergency room to seek immediate care. At the hospital, doctors discovered a major blockage in one of his coronary arteries. A successful surgery was performed two days later.

TROOPER TOCASH RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Lieutenant Colonel Joshua M. Swindell presented Trooper Richard J. Tocash, Mt. Gilead Post, with a certificate for 35 years of service on September 3.



PA2 HARRISON RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Program Administrator 2 Melinda S. Harrison, Superintendent's Office, with a certificate for 35 Years of Service on August 26.

AP4 RHODES RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Administrative Professional 4 Sandra M. Rhodes, Wilmington District Headquarters, with a certificate for 40 Years of Service on July 10.

AP1 HERBST RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Administrative Professional 1 Christopher C. Herbst, Licensing and Commercial Standards, with a certificate for 35 Years of Service on July 8.



DISPATCHER SMITH RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Dispatcher Cheryl A. Smith, Canfield Post, with a certificate for 40 Years of Service on July 14.

SERGEANT RUSSELL RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Sergeant Michael D. Russell, Cleveland District Investigations, with a certificate for 35 Years of Service on August 15.

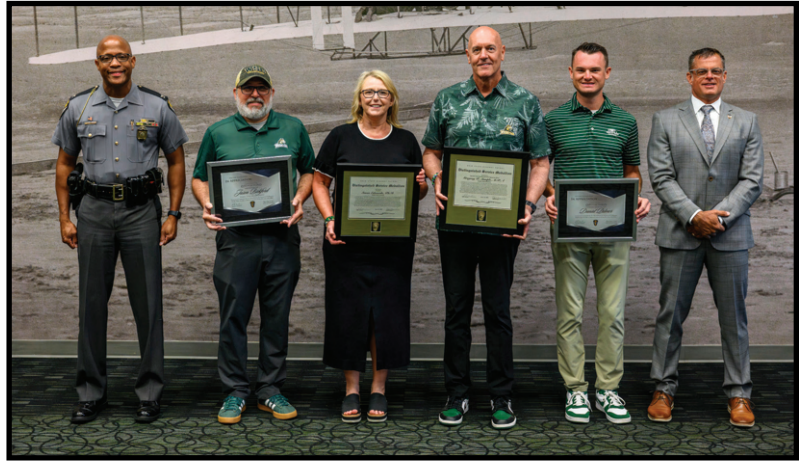


LIEUTENANT WEEKS NATIONALLY HONORED



On August 27, Lieutenant Joseph M. Weeks, Xenia Post, was recognized during the National Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction Conference. The recognition stems from a cold stop he conducted in July 2024 on Interstate 70 in Preble County, while serving as a sergeant in the Piqua District's Criminal Patrol Unit. A cold stop means the officer has no prior knowledge of potential wrongdoing through a law enforcement tip or a license plate reader. The stop resulted in the seizure of 2.9 kilograms of black tar heroin and half a kilogram of cocaine, the largest amount of heroin reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center's National Seizure System for 2024.

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED TO WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS



From left: Colonel Charles A. Jones, Associate Director Jason Bickford, Wright State University President Susan Edwards, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Gregory Sample, Government Affairs Specialist Daniel Palmer and Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Andy Wilson.

On August 19, Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, presented Medallion Certificates to Wright State University President Susan Edwards and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Gregory Sample. He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Government Affairs Specialist Daniel Palmer, Associate Director Jason Bickford and Chef David Glynn. They were presented these honors for their assistance and support provided to Patrol personnel during the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Dayton May 22-26.

LIEUTENANT DAUGHERTY GRADUATES FROM FBINA

On September 4, Lieutenant Steven P. Daugherty, Athens Post, graduated as a member of the 295th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.



PATROL EARNS 2025 CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD



On August 28, the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners awarded the Ohio State Highway Patrol with the Child Advocate of the Year Award for 2025. Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Linek and Major David R. Brown, Office of Field Operations, accepted the award. The Division was honored for youth programs including DRIVE to Live and Season of Sharing, as well as the role that the Office of Investigative Services plays in protecting children from online exploitation.

OTOA BANQUET AND AG AWARDS



The Patrol's Special Response Team (SRT) earned the Ohio Tactical Officers Association (OTOA) Award for Unit/Team Valor at their annual conference and awards banquet on June 11.

Trooper Colin Acciavatti, SRT, received the OTOA Steven Michael Smith Award for Valor. This prestigious award is presented annually to individuals who have distinguished themselves through courageous actions in life-threatening situations.

Additionally, Trooper Acciavatti was presented with the Valor Award during the Ohio Attorney General's 2025 Law Enforcement Training Symposium. The ceremony was held at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Sandusky on September 30.

TROOPER POLLITT AND TROOPER HAMMON HONORED FOR TOP TROOPER PERFORMANCE

On August 11, Colonel Charles A. Jones (left) recognized Regional Training Unit Trooper Adam T. Pollitt (center), who served as a team leader and alternate, and Defiance Post Trooper Samuel R. Hammon (right) for their performance at the National Top Trooper Competition.

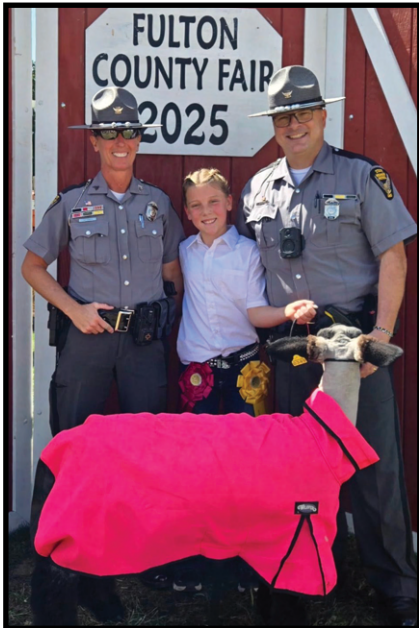


GHQ



Special Response Team - Trooper Paul J. Shore, SRT, interacted with the community and provided the Bearcat for Beaver Creek's Night Against Crime on July 30, in collaboration with Beaver Creek Police Department and Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation & Culture.

FINDLAY DISTRICT



Van Wert and Swanton Posts - Sergeant Dana R. Skinner and Trooper Rodney J. Bingman spent time at the Fulton County Fair on September 1.

Training Academy - On September 29, the 177th Cadet Class held a Hero Run in honor of the life and service of Sergeant Edward G. Moore, a pilot in the Division's Aviation section. Patrol instructors and senior staff led cadets on a run on the grounds surrounding the Patrol's Training Academy. The run ended with a presentation by fallen Sergeant Moore's grandson Trooper John E. Moore Jr., a third-generation trooper. Trooper Moore Jr. is the son of retired Lieutenant John Moore Sr., who retired in 2013.



GHQ - Colonel Jones visited Retired Sergeant Fred Raby and his wife Gloria on September 3 in Ann Arbor, Mich, alongside Trooper Paul Appleman, Therapy K-9 Hope, and State Troopers of Ohio Board Members Tom Rice, Rob Hartsell and Butch Collins. On September 1, 1990, Sergeant Raby was seriously injured in a crash

when his patrol car was struck at high speed during a traffic stop. The Patrol has continued to support Sergeant Raby throughout the years, with a portion of the Ohio Turnpike dedicated in his honor in 2020 and a display in Heritage Hall.

Findlay and Bucyrus Districts

- On September 12, the Findlay and Bucyrus districts hosted the 2025 Buckle Up, Batter Up event with the Toledo Mud Hens. The event was held on the



field and recognized 11 Saved by the Belt recipients. Prior to the Mud Hens game against the Louisville Bats, a news conference regarding safety belt usage took place along with representatives from AAA and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. Trooper Jessica A. McIntyre, Recruitment, sang the national anthem at the event.

BUCYRUS DISTRICT



Left: Norwalk Post - In mid-July, Trooper Jordan M. Cole of the Norwalk Post spotted an injured owl on the roadway. He safely retrieved the bird and transferred it to the Ohio Bird Sanctuary in Mansfield for care and rehabilitation.



Right: Marion Post - Sergeant Keith G. Smith, Marion County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jamie Ralston, Marion County Sheriff Matt Bayles, Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald and Colonel Charles A. Jones at the 44th Annual Marion Popcorn Festival Parade.



Bucyrus Post - During this year's Crawford County Fair and the Ohio State Fair, Emma Lishness, daughter of Bucyrus Dispatcher Samantha H. Vinson, shared the journey of her dog for her 4-H Project. Her presentation earned first place ribbons in her project category and the Junior Individual Communications Contest. Her win at the Crawford County Fair earned her the chance to compete at the Ohio State Fair.

Her dog, aptly named Trooper, began his journey in June 2021, when Trooper Sarah J. Kliesch, Bucyrus Post, pulled over a vehicle on U.S. 23. During the stop, she heard whimpering sounds coming from the trunk. She discovered a severely injured dog; a victim of an illegal dog fighting ring. The dog was taken to the Wyandot County Humane Society for treatment. He survived his injuries and soon found his "fur-ever" home with Dispatcher Vinson. She adopted him and gave him the name Trooper, which reflects his journey and the hero who saved him.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT



Canton Post - Trooper Clinton O. Smith partnered with American Legion Massillon Post 221 and the Salvation Army for Massillon's Back to School Distribution Day.



Elyria Post - On May 16, retired Sergeant Paul J. March brought a group of student musicians from Parma Community High School to perform with the Patrol's Drum and Bugle Corps at the Cleveland Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony.



Akron Post - On July 10, Lieutenant Jonathan A. Ganley and Trooper Andrew M. Masiella joined several law enforcement agencies for "Putting with the Police."

WARREN DISTRICT



Ravenna Post – The Patrol partnered with the Streetsboro Target on August 8 to host a back-to-school supply drive. All the donations were delivered to the Catholic Charities in Ravenna to be distributed to students in need for a successful school year.



Canfield Post – August 27 – September 1, troopers from the Canfield Post attended the Canfield Fair to answer traffic questions, discuss the importance of safety belts and educate drivers on the dangers of distracted driving. They also discussed potential career opportunities.



Left: Warren and Ashtabula Posts – On September 5, Warren District Captain Maurice Waddell and Ashtabula Post Lieutenant Timothy A. Grimm took part in the Pennsylvania State Police’s (PSP) annual beef roast event at the Lawrence Park Golf Club in Erie, Pa. The annual event provided an opportunity to meet with personnel from the PSP, New York State Police and United States Marine Corps, as well as a local business.

PIQUA DISTRICT



Dayton Post – On August 21, Sergeant Joshua E. Jones talked to the Troy Christian High School football team about safe driving during a DRIVE to Live presentation.

COLUMBUS DISTRICT



Training Academy - In late July, troopers visited Cosecha Cuadrangular, a church in Columbus. While there, Trooper Jacob A. Dickerson, Criminal Patrol, K-9 Clavo and Trooper Alejandro Giraldo, Training, interacted with children and answered questions about being a trooper.



Columbus Post - On September 10, the Patrol's Columbus District recruitment team attended Minerva Park's 2025 First Responders Night and earned 2nd place in the Public Safety Vehicle contest with our Durango. Trooper Mark J. Mowbray, Trooper Donald R. Thurman, Trooper Kyle A. Ratcliff and Sergeant Joshua Stryker attended the event.



Circleville Post - On July 29, while working at the Ohio State Fair, Trooper Kyle E. Compton had the incredible honor of meeting Mr. Moses Eldridge (left) - the oldest living World War II veteran in Ohio, age 108! Born April 17, 1917, Mr. Eldridge has witnessed more than a century of history and shared with us one surprising secret to longevity: an onion a day.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT



St. Clairsville Post - Sergeant Rocky J. Hise, St. Clairsville Post, participated in the Barnesville Safety Day on August 9. During the event, Sergeant Hise interacted with members of the community and discussed potential careers with the Patrol.



New Philadelphia Post - On September 12, the New Philadelphia Post partnered with the Tuscarawas County Health Department to support Walk/Bike to School in the Strasburg-Franklin Local School District. Dispatch Supervisor Melissa Rath, Administrative Professional 1 Jennifer M. Kimball, Sergeant

William P. Bower and Trooper Mason M. Hale participated in the event by walking with students as they crossed intersections and roadways to reach the school safely.



Left: Zanesville Post - On August 5, the Zanesville Post partnered with the Zanesville Police Department and Muskingum County Sheriff's Office for National Night Out. Teddy Trooper also made a special appearance.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT



Wilmington Post - Troopers from the Wilmington Post took part in Blanchester's National Night Out on August 5.



Wilmington Post – On September 11, the Wilmington Post held their second blood drive of the year. During the drive, 29 units of blood were collected, including a donation from Trooper Alison A. Slack.



Lebanon Post – On July 18, Colonel Charles A. Jones enjoyed breakfast with members of the Lebanon Post and Patrol retirees.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT — JACKSON DISTRICT

Jackson District Provides Security at Peden Stadium

Anytime the Ohio University (OU) Bobcats host a home football game, it is not unusual to find members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Jackson District providing security at Peden Stadium.

Where troopers are stationed at Peden Stadium differs from game to game. Troopers could be providing security at the entrances. The next week, troopers may be conducting field security, which includes protection of the referees, field and goal posts. There are also troopers walking around the perimeter of the stadium.

"This is a great opportunity to meet with the community, the students and their families," said Lieutenant Steven P. Daugherty, Athens Post commander. He says the district troopers have had the opportunity to work OU games for decades. Troopers work special duty under a memorandum of understanding with the OU Police Department. Games are an opportunity for troopers to further their valuable partnership, working alongside OU Police Department officers and deputies from the Athens County Sheriff's Office.

According to Lieutenant Daugherty, the detail is one that district staff enjoy working. In fact, he has worked the games since 2004 and has taken over the supervisor role in recent years. He added that working the Bobcat games gives troopers a unique vantage point to see the Marching 110 and witness some good football while they work, including OU's 17-10 victory over the University of West Virginia.



Left to right: Deputy Nick Fussner, Deputy Trey Nuzum, Detective Beau Goodrich, Lieutenant John Morris, K-9 Handler Deputy John Kulchar and Deputy Alex Mayle all from the Athens County Sheriff's Office; Ohio University Police Department Captain Michael Meek; Staff Lieutenant Virgil S. Conley, Jackson District Headquarters; Trooper Nathan R. Konkler, Jackson District Licensing and Commercial Standards; Lieutenant Evan Cox, Jackson District Investigations; Sergeant Christopher B. Goss, Athens Post; Sergeant Delmer K. Hurd, Gallipolis Post; Trooper Devin M. Bousquet, Chillicothe Post; and Sergeant Paul T. Mercer, Jackson Post, on September 6, prior to Ohio University's win over University of West Virginia.

JACKSON DISTRICT



Ironton, Jackson, Chillicothe and Gallipolis Posts – On July 26, the Patrol partnered with the Chillicothe Paints for a Saved by the Belt and recruitment event. Participating troopers (shown left to right) included Trooper Derek P. McCarty, Gallipolis Post, who also sang the national anthem at the game, Trooper Josiah Richendollar, Ironton Post, Trooper Tawonna H. Hutton, Jackson Post, Sergeant Bobby D. Brown and Lieutenant Aaron M. Morgan, Chillicothe Post.

Right: Jackson District - On September 12, the Jackson District held its annual golf outing, bringing together current and retired employees, and local officials. Proceeds from the outing help fund the district's sharing season.



Athens Post - On October 1, retirees from the Athens Post enjoyed breakfast together. Those interested can join the group for breakfast on the first Wednesday of every month at Jack's Steakhouse in Logan.



RETIREES – By Captain Rob Jackson, Retired

Retired Trooper Stan Erter

Years Served: July 1966 – May 1994

Cadet in the 72nd Academy Class

Assignments: 1965 - Cadet Dispatcher, St. Mary's Post; 1966 - Trooper, Springfield Post (including multiple temporary assignments in investigations); 1991 - District 5 Investigator; Springfield Post Trooper of Year - 1973, 1983 and 1987

Stan Erter continued his public service after retirement from the Patrol, beginning as a Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) Fraud Unit Special Agent. He worked with BWC for eight years. In 2003, Stan began working as an investigator for the Clark County Prosecutor's Office and in 2012, he retired from public service. During retirement, Stan has enjoyed spending time with family, taking a Viking cruise with his wife, continuing his stained-glass hobby work and enjoying his six grandchildren.


Stan lives in Springfield with his wife Cynthia, who retired after 40 years as a registered nurse at the Springfield Regional Hospital. He enjoys visiting family including his three adult children: Doug, an engineer with BellTech; Christine, a dialysis nurse and Aaron, CEO of a building products company in Chicago. Stan and Cynthia take many trips to Chicago and enjoy seeing their six grandchildren as they grow.

Stan says he misses the interesting people he worked with and met while at the Patrol. He especially misses working with his good friend Gene Archer, recalling a great special assignment at the American Legion Conference in Miami Beach with the Ohio contingent. He is also good friends with Don Holtz and Benny Mikes, and tries to get together with them for dinner and other activities monthly.

When asked to reflect on his career, Stan said it was an experience not a lot of people get to have in life, "There is nothing like being on the Patrol." He added it was a great experience and the people you meet along the way, co-workers and others, are exceptional.

Where are they now?

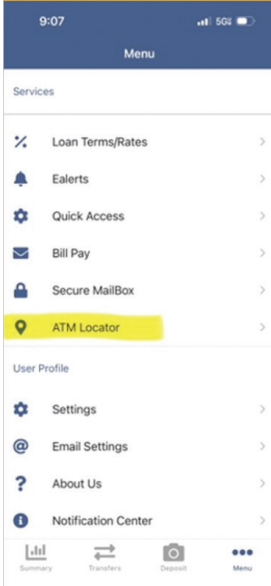


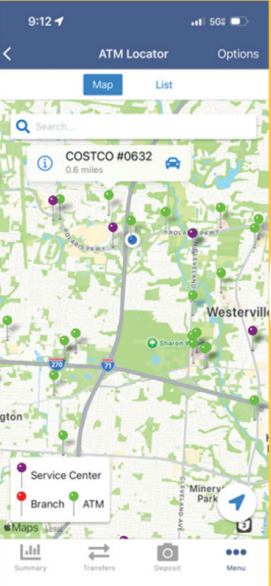


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Message From HPRS Executive Director

Long-term Care and Estate Planning

Long-term care needs can arise unexpectedly, and without careful preparation they can erode both financial security and the legacy you intend to leave behind. As we continue to live longer, the likelihood of needing assistance with daily activities increases, making it essential to factor these potential costs into a comprehensive estate plan. By considering long-term care (LTC) alongside traditional estate planning tools—wills, trusts, powers of attorney—you create a roadmap that preserves assets while ensuring quality care if needed.

The cost of long-term care services, whether in-home care, assisted living facilities or nursing homes, can run into six figures in a short time. Relying solely on personal savings can quickly deplete retirement assets. LTC insurance can alleviate this burden, but premiums may be prohibitive or rise sharply; individuals must weigh the trade-off between paying insurance premiums versus risking out-of-pocket expenditures that could consume their estate.

A robust estate plan establishes who will receive your assets and who will make decisions if you cannot. A will or revocable living trust directs the distribution of property, while durable powers of attorney appoint agents to manage finances. Health care directives and a health care power of attorney specify medical preferences and appoint a trusted person to advocate on your behalf. These documents ensure that, as your health needs evolve, decisions align with your wishes.

Integrating long-term care considerations with estate planning means coordinating life insurance, retirement accounts and beneficiary designations to optimize tax efficiency and care funding. For example, properly titled retirement accounts can bypass probate while still supporting surviving spouses. Communicating your plan to family members and professional advisors minimizes confusion and conflict during vulnerable times.

Ultimately, proactive planning is the key to balancing the high costs of care with the desire to preserve wealth for future generations. Starting early allows greater flexibility and more affordable insurance. Working with qualified financial planners and tax professionals ensures that your estate plan honors your healthcare preferences and safeguards your hard-earned assets.

Best Regards,



Carl Roark, Ph.D. HPRS Executive Director



THE NEW DODGE CHALLENGER HELLCAT



The Ohio State Highway Patrol has a new addition to the fleet. The Dodge Challenger Hellcat is a high-performance vehicle from a court-ordered criminal forfeiture. The vehicle serves a new purpose, engaging with our community at events across the state. When the Patrol seizes vehicles through title fraud, repeat impaired driving offenders or drug traffickers, it helps disrupt dangerous criminal activity and keep our roadways safer.

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 or apply online:
<https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruit/auxiliary.html>



**STAFF LIEUTENANT ANETRA D. SIMS,
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

Staff Lieutenant Anetra D. Sims, Office of Investigative Services, retired on July 25 after 27 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She joined the Patrol in April 1998 as a member of

the 131st Academy Class. She earned her commission in October of the same year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. As a trooper, she also served in the Office of Investigative Services and Columbus District Investigations. In 2012, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and was assigned to the Patrol's Training Academy. As a sergeant, she also served at Columbus District Investigations. In 2016, she was promoted to lieutenant and was assigned to the Office of Recruitment. In 2021, she was promoted to staff lieutenant at the Patrol's Training Academy. As a staff lieutenant, she also served in the Office of Recruitment.

In 2010, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. In 2013, she received a Master's Degree in business administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. In 2016, she received a certificate in advanced leadership training from The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy.

Staff Lieutenant Sims served in the United States Army from 1993 to 1997.



**LIEUTENANT RUDOLPH L. ZUPANC,
CRITICAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

Lieutenant Rudolph L. Zupanc, Critical Information & Communications Center, retired on August 1 after 31 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his Patrol career in September 1993 as a cadet dispatcher.

In May 1995, he became a member of the 127th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of the same year and was assigned to the Hiram Post. As a trooper, he also served at Cleveland District Investigations. In 2002, he was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the Criminal Intelligence Unit. In 2005, he transferred to the Strategic Analysis and Information Center (SAIC). In 2009, he was promoted to lieutenant at the SAIC. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Criminal Intelligence Unit, Crime Lab and HUB. Throughout his career he was a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Drum & Bugle Corps and later helped form the Ohio State Highway Patrol Pipes & Drums.

Lieutenant Zupanc received an Associate's of Science degree in physics from Cuyahoga Community College in 1995. In 2000, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from Kent State University.



**SERGEANT DAVID S. GARBER,
CLEVELAND DISTRICT LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

Sergeant David S. Garber, Cleveland District Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on September 15 after 25 years of service with the Ohio State Highway 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 Mt. Gilead Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Canton Post. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement once. He was promoted to sergeant in 2009 and was assigned to the Marietta Post to serve as assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Mansfield and Canton posts, and he again earned both the Criminal Patrol Award and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice. He was also awarded the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award in 2016.

In 2023, Sergeant Garber earned an Associate's Degree in criminal justice administration from Franklin University. In 2016, he received a certificate in advanced leadership training from The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy.



SERGEANT ROBERT L. HAISLOP III, GALLIPOLIS POST / D9

Sergeant Robert L. Haislop III, Gallipolis Post, retired on September 13 after 25 years of service with the Ohio State Highway 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 Chillicothe Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Jackson Post. He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2006 and earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice. In 2011, he was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the Athens Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the Jackson Post.

Sergeant Haislop earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in management from Ashford University in 2010. In 2022, he received a certificate in advanced leadership training from The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy.



SERGEANT MICHAEL D. RUSSELL, CLEVELAND DISTRICT INVESTIGATIONS

Sergeant Michael D. Russell, Cleveland District Investigations, retired on August 22 after 35 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his Patrol career in August 1990 as a cadet dispatcher. In May 1992,

he became a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of the same year and was assigned to the Ravenna Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Warren District Investigations and Cleveland District Investigations. He was twice named Post Trooper of the Year and earned the District Trooper Recognition Award in 2011 and the State Trooper Recognition Award in 2012. In 2013, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the Cleveland District Investigations – Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit.



SERGEANT JASON L. SNODGRASS, WEST JEFFERSON POST / D6

Sergeant Jason L. Snodgrass, West Jefferson Post, retired on August 8, after 32 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his state service in 1993 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Xenia Post. He became a member

of the 127th Academy Class in May 1995. He earned his commission in November of the same year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Training Academy. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement in 1999. In 2017, he was promoted to sergeant to serve at the West Jefferson Post as assistant post commander.



SERGEANT NATHAN A. WARD, JACKSON DISTRICT INVESTIGATIONS

Sergeant Nathan A. Ward, Jackson District Investigations, retired on July 3 after 24 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

He joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a member of the 137th Academy Class. He earned his commission

in September of the same year and was assigned to the Hamilton Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Cincinnati Post and Wilmington District Investigations. He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2004. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award eight times and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant to serve as assistant post commander at the Cincinnati Post. As a sergeant, he also served at the Lebanon Post.

Sergeant Ward earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1999. In 2000, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Cincinnati. In 2007, he earned a Master of Science degree in criminal justice from Xavier University.

He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1995 to 2001.



**TROOPER RONALD W. ALLEN,
WOOSTER POST / D3**

Trooper Ronald W. Allen, Wooster Post, retired on August 8 after 28 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1997 as a member of the 128th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of the same year and was assigned to the Wooster Post. In 2024, he earned the Master Trooper designation.

In 1993, Trooper Allen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education from Ashland University.



**TROOPER GRADY E. COBLENTZ,
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

Trooper Grady E. Coblentz, Office of Investigative Services, retired on July 1 after 23 years of service with 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 October of that same year and was assigned to the Springfield Post.

Trooper Coblentz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation business administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1996.



**TROOPER DAVID R. HANDSCHUMACHER,
MARIETTA POST / D7**

Trooper David R. Handschumacher, Marietta Post, retired on July 7 after 20 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 2005 as a member of the 144th Academy Class. He earned his commission in October of the same year and was assigned to the Marysville Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Training Academy. He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2017. He earned both the Criminal Patrol Award and Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice. In 2024, he was designated as a Master Trooper.

Trooper Handschumacher served in the United States Marine Corps from 1992 to 1996.



**TROOPER GREGORY A. HARKEY,
SWANTON POST / D1**

Trooper Gregory A. Harkey, Swanton Post, retired on September 19 after 25 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his Patrol career 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 Defiance Post. As a trooper, he was named Post Trooper of the Year twice.

Trooper Harkey received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Toledo in 1997.



**TROOPER RODNEY A. HART,
CAPITOL OPERATIONS**

Trooper Rodney A. Hart, Capitol Operations, retired on July 4 after 24 years of service with the Ohio State Highway 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 Delaware Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Granville and Columbus posts, Central Ohio Motorcycle Unit, and Security Services. He was presented with the O. W. Merrill Meritorious Service Award in 2005. In 2024, he was designated as a Master Trooper.

Trooper Hart served in the United States Marine Corps from 1988 to 1992.



**TROOPER JOHN M. JACKSON,
ASHLAND POST / D3**

Trooper John M. Jackson, Ashland Post, retired on September 13 after 25 years of service with the Ohio State Highway 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 Capitol Operations. As a trooper, he was named Post Trooper of the Year once.



TROOPER MICHAEL W. MADDOCK, NEW PHILADELPHIA POST / D7

Trooper Michael W. Maddock, New Philadelphia Post, retired on July 3 after 32 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission

in June of that same year and was assigned to the Canton Post.



TROOPER BRIAN J. MERCER, HIRAM POST / D4

Trooper Brian J. Mercer, Hiram Post, retired on September 17 after 25 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his Patrol career 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 Milan Post.



TROOPER HOLLIN C. WENGER, WOOSTER POST / D3

Trooper Hollin C. Wenger, Wooster Post, retired on September 2 after 27 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a member of the 137th Academy Class. He earned his commission

in September of the same year and was assigned to the Canton Post. In 2024, he earned the Master Trooper designation.



MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR DOUGLAS M. BACK, WILMINGTON DISTRICT LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS

Motor Vehicle Inspector Douglas M. Back, Wilmington District Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on July 31 after 28 years with the Ohio State

Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1997 as a driver license examiner 1 assigned to Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement. In 2000, he was promoted to motor vehicle inspector and remained at Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement. He also served as a motor carrier enforcement inspector at Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement. He also was an officer with the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary.



MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR DOUGLAS M. BAILEY, WILMINGTON DISTRICT LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS

Motor Vehicle Inspector Douglas M. Bailey, Wilmington District Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on July 31 after 31 years with the Ohio

State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 1994 as a maintenance repair worker 2 assigned to the Hamilton Post. In 2004, he was promoted to motor vehicle inspector and assigned to the Wilmington District Licensing and Commercial Standards.



DISPATCHER GERALD E. EVANS, ATHENS POST / D9

Dispatcher Gerald E. Evans, Athens Post, retired on August 1 after 28 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in July 1997 as a dispatcher and was assigned to the Jackson Post. As a dispatcher, he also served at the Jackson and Athens

dispatch centers. He was named Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2005.



ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL 4 CHRISTINE L. GIBBONS, BUCYRUS DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

Administrative Professional 4 Christine L. Gibbons, Bucyrus District Headquarters, retired on July 3 after 42 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She began her Patrol career in 1982

as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Lisbon Post. As a cadet dispatcher, she also served at the Canfield Post. She became a member of the 113th Academy Class in April 1984. She earned her commission in September of the same year and was assigned to the Milan Post. In 1985, she became a dispatcher assigned to the Bucyrus Post. She was promoted in 1992 to account clerk 1 and was assigned to the Bucyrus District Headquarters. In 1995, she became a secretary and stayed at the Bucyrus District Headquarters. In 2004, she was promoted to executive secretary 1. She became an administrative professional 4 in 2011 and remained at the Bucyrus District Headquarters.

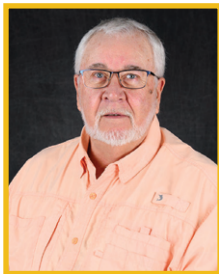


**DISPATCHER
TRAVIS W. JONES,
SPRINGFIELD POST / D5**

Dispatcher Travis W. Jones, Springfield Post, retired on July 17 after 32 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his Patrol career in February 1993 as a dispatcher assigned to the Batavia Post. As a dispatcher, he

also served at the Wilmington Dispatch Center, Lebanon Dispatch Center and Springfield Dispatch Center. He was named Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2004 and 2005.

Dispatcher Jones served in the United States Army in 1992.



**MAINTENANCE REPAIR
WORKER 2 ROBERT J.
JORDAN,
BUCYRUS POST / D2**

Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Robert J. Jordan, Bucyrus Post, retired on July 3 after 34 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his state service in 1990 as a maintenance repair worker 2

assigned to the Bucyrus District Headquarters.



**MOTOR VEHICLE
INSPECTOR MARVIN L. JOSE
JR.,
BUCYRUS POST / D2**

Motor Vehicle Inspector Marvin L. Jose Jr., Bucyrus District, retired on July 14 after 31 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his Patrol career in December 1993 as a maintenance repair worker 2

at the Bucyrus District Headquarters. He was promoted to motor vehicle inspector (MVI) and was assigned to the Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit in 1998. As an MVI, he also served at the Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.



**DISPATCHER SUSAN T.
KRALL,
MEDINA POST / D3**

Dispatcher Susan T. Krall, Medina Post, retired on July 31 after 30 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She began her state service with the Patrol in 1996 as a dispatcher assigned to the Medina Post, where she remained

throughout her career. She was named Post Dispatcher of the Year twice.



**DATA ENTRY OPERATOR 2
MELVIN S. PATTERSON,
CRASH FARS UNIT**

Data Entry Operator 2 Melvin S. Patterson, Crash FARS Unit, retired on August 14 after 32 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He began his state service with the Patrol in 1993 as a data entry operator 2 in the Crash FARS Unit.

Data Entry Operator 2 Patterson served in the United States Army from 1970 to 1986.



**INFRASTRUCTURE
SPECIALIST 2 THOMAS G.
SITES,
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT
HEADQUARTERS**

Infrastructure Specialist 2 Thomas G. Sites, Cambridge District Headquarters, retired on August 29 after 24 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and to the

state of Ohio. He began his state service in 2000 with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. He joined the Patrol in 2005 as a network administrator 2 in the Cambridge District. In 2010, he was promoted to infrastructure specialist 2 and remained in the Cambridge District.

Infrastructure Specialist 2 Sites served in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1977 to 2010 participating in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

POST-PATROL PROFESSIONS



Post Patrol Professions: Herb Homan

When Captain Herbert "Herb" B. Homan retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol in January 2022, he closed a 34-year career that included service as a post and district commander, time at the Office of Business Services, and his final assignment as Security Services commander. But even after decades in uniform, Homan knew his journey of service wasn't over.

"After more than 30 years with the Patrol, I knew it was time for a change, but I'll admit there was some apprehension about stepping away without a clear plan," Homan said. "When I retired in 2022, my main focus was on finishing my research and preparing for my dissertation defense."

That's when Ashland University approached him about a teaching opportunity. "They offered me a Visiting Assistant Professor position while I completed my doctoral degree," he explained. "It was a great

chance to explore teaching at the university level, and I suspect also a way for them to see if I had the right skills for the role." After earning his doctorate, Homan transitioned into a full-time faculty position in the Criminal Justice Department, where he now teaches and mentors the next generation of law enforcement leaders.

Homan draws on lessons learned in the Patrol every day. "The skills I used every day, including critical thinking, strong communication, collaboration and clear writing, are just as important in higher education as they are in law enforcement," he said. "The Patrol's culture really encouraged me to pursue higher education, which gave me the chance to earn more formal academic credentials along the way."

His classroom is built around discussion, collaboration and applied learning. "Group work and scenario-based learning are so valuable because they give students a chance to practice applying what they know, thinking through consequences and making ethical choices together," Homan said. "We focus on things like accountability, temperance, justice and even a bit of indifference, learning that sometimes, even when you make the right choice, you might face unwarranted praise or criticism, and being able to stay steady through that."

Beyond the classroom, Homan organizes career fairs, site visits and professional networking opportunities to connect students with practitioners. "Careers in criminal justice aren't always linear," he said. "These experiences help students see the culture of the field and understand how theory connects with practice."

Teaching has also given him a renewed sense of purpose. "The Patrol was an incredible chapter of my life. I succeeded, I failed, I stumbled, got back up and grew alongside some of the finest people I could ever hope to know. That chapter is over, and stepping into teaching has shown me the best chapter is still ahead."

To those nearing retirement, Homan offers some advice. "Don't think of retirement as the end. It's an opportunity to find something that gives you purpose. Be open to new ideas, keep learning and don't be afraid to try something different. You may be surprised at how rewarding the next chapter can be."

HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Comments received via social media.

"Today, Knox took the vow to protect and serve alongside one of the best — Trooper Hall. With a proud little heart and a BIG smile, he got his very own badge and stood tall like the hero he already is. Watching this moment unfold... there truly are no words. Thank you, Trooper Hall, for taking the time to make one little boy feel like the biggest deal in the world. This wasn't just a photo op — this was a memory for life."



"The nature of this message is to share my positive interactions with Police Officer 2 Allen E. Salyers, Expo Center, yesterday at the Ohio State University Game.

Yesterday on 9-6-25 it was nothing short of great. He's a great person, and Officer. . . I said prayers for Officer Allen when me and my girls got home. Keep being the Officer that I interacted with yesterday, and I appreciate you and the live conversation we had."

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Department of
Public Safety



Men and women of the Ohio State Highway Patrol,

The more time I spend with you, the more impressed I am by what an elite organization you are. You are elite in your history, you are elite in your traditions, and you are elite in the way you carry yourselves and uphold the mission of this great institution. I want to encourage you to continue to be elite in all you do. Challenge yourself every day to grow and improve. Do hard things everyday. Be firm but fair in the administration of justice. Never forget that our friends, our families, and our neighbors depend on you to keep them safe. In their greatest hour of need, it is you who so often make the difference. Be compassionate, be kind, but never back down from a challenge or from taking action when action needs to be taken. Always remember that being elite is never arrogant, it is never condescending, and those who are truly elite always look to improve and assist those around them. I'm so incredibly proud of you and so honored for this period my life where I get to serve with you. Keep striving to be the best in all you do!

Let's go!

Andy Wilson

Director

Good vs. Evil: A Word for Those on the Front Lines

On a scale of 0 to 10, how attacked do you feel by the daily "grind"; the stress of life, the negative news you see, the tragic incidents that surround you? How healthy is your spirit?

As you consider your answer, realize this: evil wants the light of good to disappear. Evil wants their acts to create doubt, fear, sadness, and loss of hope.

After years studying this topic, one pattern stands out—evil doesn't waste time on those who pose no threat. Evil does attack those doing good, kind, loving work. It attacks those advancing light in the darkest of places.

Sound familiar?

The men and women within law enforcement agencies serve on both physical and spiritual front lines. That makes you a target. When you're drawing closer to your calling or making an impact, the attacks intensify. Expect resistance when you're dangerously close to snuffing out evil's agenda. When you bring good to a bad situation, share a smile during turmoil, or bring calm to the absolute worst of times.

Common signs of a struggling spirit may be: spiritual isolation, sudden moral failures, hopeless thoughts, loss of faith in others, or a numbness to what brings you joy.

You're not alone in this fight. Stay alert. Stay connected. And know—when the battle heats up, it's likely because you're getting close to a breakthrough in the constant fight of good vs. evil.

You are prayed for!

Reverend Phil Hurlbert

State Chaplain

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER





The Lighthouse

Mental Health Resources for Your Voyage Through Life's Challenges

Hope for the Holidays: Navigating Winter's Challenges

As Ohio settles into winter, the shorter days and gray skies can take a toll on how we feel. For many, this time of year brings more than a longing for warmer weather, it can also bring changes in mood and energy. One condition that highlights this connection is seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a form of depression that follows a seasonal pattern, most often beginning in late fall and easing when spring returns.

SAD is more than "the winter blues." It can include fatigue, changes in sleep, increased cravings for starches and sweets, loss of interest in activities and a persistent low mood. These symptoms can interfere with daily life, but the good news is that there are steps to reduce the impact. Making the most of natural light, keeping active, eating balanced meals and maintaining a regular sleep routine can help. In some cases, light therapy treatment, vitamin D or counseling may be beneficial. If symptoms return year after year, it may be time to talk with a health care professional about longer term solutions.

While SAD is tied to seasonal changes, it often overlaps with another reality of winter, the holiday season. The holidays are often portrayed as joyful and carefree, but for some, they bring a very different set of emotions. Loneliness during the holidays can be especially difficult, whether it stems from distance, loss, strained relationships or simply the pressures of the season itself. Feeling isolated in the midst of celebration can intensify stress and sadness, making an already challenging season feel even more overwhelming.

The connection between seasonal affective disorder and holiday loneliness is clear. Both can leave individuals feeling disconnected at a time when expectations run high. Yet both can also be met with proactive steps that encourage hope and restore perspective.

Staying in touch with supportive people, creating new traditions when old ones feel too difficult and volunteering in the community can help foster a sense of purpose. Paying attention to personal health by resting well, eating mindfully and staying active also builds resilience. Seeking help through trusted resources, whether it's a chaplain or spiritual care provider, a member of the Member Assistance Team or the Veteran Member Assistance Team, or a mental health professional, can provide the encouragement and support needed to move forward.

The Patrol has the opportunity to support each other in ways that matter. Headquarters and posts can be natural places of connection, whether that means going out for coffee together, organizing a potluck or simply checking in on a co-worker who seems quieter than usual. Small actions, when done with care, can go a long way toward reminding one another that no one is ever truly alone.

No matter the source, feelings of sadness and loneliness are not signs of weakness. They are reminders of our shared need for care, support and connection. The Patrol's wellness resources are here to ensure that no one has to navigate these challenges in isolation. Taking small, intentional steps now can make the winter months and holidays more manageable – meaningful.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Share how you're making the season brighter or building connections this winter. Whether it's participating in a turkey trot, volunteering or hosting a post gathering, send your photos to the Public Affairs Unit at oshp@dps.ohio.gov, and they may be featured to inspire others.

NEED HELP? If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988, or chat [988Lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) for 24/7, confidential support.

If you are a current OSHP employee, visit the link to "Mental Health & Wellness" under The Gateway.

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