

# PATROL NEWS

March-April 2021

“Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”



See cover page 3.

# From the Staff ...

**Major Michael A. Turner**  
**Support Services Bureau**



In law enforcement tactical training an important quote by Archilochus serves as a guiding principle, “We don’t rise to the level of our expectations, we fall to the level of our training.” Over time, iterations of this quote may have included “sink” rather than “fall.” The version I hear most often is, “We don’t rise to the occasion, we sink to the level of our training.” This is a very important concept we must instill in our employees.

We often assume that when the time arrives and we must act, we will “rise to the occasion” and summon the ability and strength required to handle whatever life throws our way. In my experience, when we are faced with a situation demanding we act, rather than rise, we “fall” or “sink,” we *rely* on our level of training. This underscores the need to constantly train, to be dedicated to our physical and mental fitness, to plan for the unexpected, to be aware of our surroundings, etc.

I recently overheard a public official praise the Patrol. In their remarks, the official stated that the Patrol always “rises to the occasion” and “gets the job done” when called upon. I began to ponder if it was possible for an organization to “rise to the occasion.” I believe the answer to that question is directly proportional to the organization’s level of preparation and training; however, and most importantly, this is determined by the quality and caliber of its employees.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol has a storied history of always performing at a high level and getting the job done when called upon. Whether it’s responding to a natural disaster, administering driver tests and inspecting vehicles during a global pandemic, holding the line during civil unrest, keeping our fleet going, or simply performing our duties every day, our employees do “rise to the occasion.” This is the reason government officials and members of the public turn to the Patrol during times of need and uncertainty.

Regardless of the situation, mission, or task we are assigned, the reason we as an agency “rise to the occasion” is simple. The level of training, dedication, and ability of our employees, both civilian and member is extraordinary. Our people are the reason the Patrol can handle anything we face.

*Michael Turner*



The official publication of the  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

*Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News*

## PATROL NEWS

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State of Missouri

Sandra K. Karsten, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Eric T. Olson, Superintendent  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

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Managing Editor

Cheryl Cobb  
Editor

Erin Center  
Design-Layout

Meghan Basinger  
Social Media

Chad Buschjost  
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Photography

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# PATROL NEWS

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“Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”

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## Social Media Snapshot

Missouri State Highway Patrol • February 25 at 4:21 PM

🔥 UPDATE: With the help of the [Warrior Dog Foundation](#), Hugo will begin his transition from law enforcement K9 to new retirement lifestyle.

👉 K-9 Hugo is retiring after 7 years of dedicated service in Troop D! In his career (teamed with handler, Corporal Barrett), Hugo has detected and seized 660 lbs of marijuana, 55 lbs of meth, 5 lbs of cocaine, and \$355,000 in currency! #HesAGoodBoy

180,918 People Reached      19,239 Engagements      Boost Unavailable

👍❤️😄 7K      428 Comments 601 Shares

## Cover

*This photo was taken during Missouri's Bicentennial Inauguration January 11, 2021. (Missouri Division of Tourism. Used with permission.) Story on page 8.*

# DPS Honors Threet's Resourcefulness, Initiative

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

In mid-May 2020, during the pandemic, a longtime employee of the Patrol's Driver and Vehicle Safety Division retired, leaving the full-time position vacant. The duties included processing emissions and safety inspections records from stations around the state to meet time-sensitive deadlines and promptly fulfilling orders for a variety of motor vehicle safety inspection stickers and decals.

Clerk Typist III Kim J. Threet, whose own full-time position is quite demanding, researched the responsibilities of the vacant position. After learning the necessary processes and procedures, she juggled both full-time positions for five months, until a new employee could be brought on board. Kim met the challenge by prioritizing issues and finding a way to balance the needs of both positions. She worked overtime and with extreme efficiency. Kim met the deadlines for the most time-sensitive requirements and took the initiative to cross-train other employees so responsibilities could be shared in the future when necessary.

As a result of her dedication and initiative, Clerk Typist III Threet was named DPS Non-Sworn Employee of the Month for February 2021. At the award presentation February 9, DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten congratulated her. "I'm proud of how you filled the gap and your resourcefulness." The director then gave her a DPS challenge coin. "We believe you showed excellence. Thank you."

"This is an outstanding example of the Patrol's core values," said Colonel



Clerk Typist III Kim Threet (Q/DVSD) stands with (l) DPS Director Sandra Karsten and Col. Eric Olson after the award ceremony.

Eric T. Olson, who presented Clerk Typist Threet with a superintendent's challenge coin. "I don't think there was any division more affected by the pandemic. I want to thank you, Capt. Clardy, and your division for all you do for this organization."

Clerk Typist III Threet thanked those who attended, saying, "This was a wonderful and unexpected surprise. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I work with a dedicated group of people. We work together well as a team and have exceptional leadership. I am so proud to work in this division."

Both Major Mike A. Turner (Q/SSB) and Captain Darewin L. Clardy

(Q/DVSD) spoke at the nomination, offering their congratulations to Clerk Typist III Threet and complimenting the Driver and Vehicle Safety Division.

"This nomination came from a fellow employee in the office, which says a lot about the people in our division," said Capt. Clardy. "While she was doing extra work, Kim was also taking the bulk of the phone calls. If you could have heard her take just one of those, and many were not very fun, you'd see the caliber of employee she is. She also provided great training once the vacancy was filled."

*Congratulations, Kim!*



# TEN COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OFFICERS COMMISSIONED

By Chief CVO Brandon S. Whittington (Q/CVED)

On Friday, October 30, 2020, 10 commercial vehicle officers were commissioned as part of the 10th Commercial Vehicle Officer Class. The ceremony took place in the Waggoner Building's second floor conference room.

The class arrived on July 1, 2020 for 18 weeks of POST training. Training included firearms, defensive tactics, de-escalation techniques, vehicle stops, policy and procedures, and the North American Standard Inspection Part A and Part B courses.

At the mostly virtual graduation ceremony, Captain Kevin C. Kelley (Q/CVED) served as emcee and wel-

comed everyone. He then expressed his appreciation to the Honorable S. Cotton Walker, 19th Judicial Circuit of Missouri, for being present to administer the Oath of Office. He expressed his appreciation for the sacrifice the officers and their families made for them to attend the training. Colonel Eric T. Olson addressed those in attendance and spoke to the importance of commercial vehicle enforcement to both the Patrol and the public. Col. Olson presented each officer with their certificates and congratulated them.

Throughout the 18 weeks of training, the officers accumulated points toward graduation in the categories of

firearms and academics. The person with the highest number of points in each category earned the respective award. CVO II Gary W. England (D) earned the firearms award and CVO I Jeremy P. Hawkins (C) earned the academics award.

CVO II Joe P. Curtright (A), the class chaplain, provided the invocation and benediction, while CVO II Brenda K. McIntyre (E), class commander, addressed the class.

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division wishes to congratulate the 10th Commercial Vehicle Officer class!



*The 10th CVO Class picture included: (front row, l to r) Training Coord. CVO II Darin Jones (Q/CVED), Major Michael Turner (Q/SSB), Col. Eric Olson, Capt. Kevin Kelley (Q/CVED), Asst. Dir./Sr. Chief CVO Jeff Sims (Q/CVED); (second row, l to r) CVO I Sean Butler (C), CVO II Gary England (D), CVO II Brenda McIntyre (E), CVO I Robert Cowherd (A), CVO I Jeremy Hawkins (C), CVO I Jessica Burton (G), CVO II Gabrielle Herzberg (C), CVO II Joseph Curtright (A); (third row, l to r) CVO II Matthew McGraw (D), CVO II Ryan Aldrich (E), and CVO Chief Brandon Whittington (Q/CVED).*



# Corporal Ashby Accepts DPS Award

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

One minute Corporal Jason A. Ashby (Q/DDCC) was enjoying a ride in a boat with four others on the Lake of the Ozarks, the next he was regaining consciousness. Another boat had struck the port side of the boat he was riding in near the 18-mile marker of the main channel. When he came to, Cpl. Ashby immediately began checking on the other three passengers, a mother, father, and their 13-year-old daughter.

Cpl. Ashby and the boat's operator found the mother had died in the crash. Cpl. Ashby shouted to a resident on shore to call 911 and request ambulances and a helicopter. The boat operator checked on the girl's father, who had a weak pulse and shallow breathing. Cpl. Ashby checked on the teenager and found she was not breathing and had no pulse. After moving her to the rear bench of the boat, he began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. He then directed the operator to restart the boat and take them to the dock where he carried her off the boat. Laying her on the dock, he continued to perform CPR for several more minutes. Eventually, the girl began breathing again.

When emergency medical services arrived, Cpl. Ashby and another man carried the girl from the dock up a steep flight of stairs. EMS took over her care and then flew her and her father to a hospital. Cpl. Ashby was later transported to a hospital to be treated for injuries suffered in the crash. The operator of the other vessel was charged with boating while intoxicated. Cpl. Ashby's quick thinking and decisive action saved the young girl's life.

On December 16, 2020, Department of Public Safety Director Sandra



*Pictured (from l to r) after the ceremony are Capt. Paul A. Kerperin (Q/DDCC), Blake Ashby, Easton Ashby, Cpl. Jason A. Ashby, DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten, and Col. Eric T. Olson. (Cpl. Ashby's son, Zach, is currently deployed with the U.S. Air Force and was unable to attend the ceremony.)*

K. Karsten recognized Cpl. Ashby for his quick thinking and decisive action in saving the young girl's life. In a special presentation in the Division of Drug and Crime Control's conference room, the director presented him with the DPS Sworn Employee of the Month award for December 2020. Both the director and Colonel Eric T. Olson congratulated him during the ceremony.

"Jason's commitment that evening saved a young girl's life," said Col. Olson.

"I am very proud of Jason's actions in this incident," said Captain Paul

D. Kerperin (Q/DDCC). "Although he himself was injured in the boating crash, he quickly composed himself, solicited the help of another individual, and provided first aid and CPR to the severely injured young lady. Jason then helped direct first responders to the incident, helping to ensure the survival of the young lady and her injured father. His actions speak highly of him and are consistent with many of the Patrol's Core Values."

*Congratulations, Cpl. Ashby!*



# DPS Recognizes CITS Wansing

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

A child is missing and an AMBER Alert is sent to the public, leading to the child's safe recovery. A crime victim is provided an update regarding the criminal case affecting them. In both cases, the media reports on the original incident and brave actions of law enforcement or the public when the cases are resolved. But, there are others working hard behind the scenes to ensure these alerts and notifications happen consistently and efficiently.

Computer Information Technology Specialist II Drew M. Wansing (Q/CJISD), who has worked as an application developer for 14 years, is one of those people. He was integral in the success of the new MO Alerts app, which gets updated AMBER Alert information to the public. The new MO Alerts handles traffic volume the previous system could not have handled through an interface with the national Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). The Patrol's work in this area received recognition from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in July.

CITS II Wansing has done excellent work to create a new Missouri Victim Automated Notification System (MOVANS) interface, which provides updated criminal justice case information to crime victims. He has also done outstanding work updating MULES 5 systems that allow law enforcement agencies to share criminal history information. A recent project he led set up a new web service to bring electronic warrants online, which has been a valuable addition for Missouri law enforcement agencies and courts.

CITS II Wansing ensured these computer applications improved performance and assisted the public. He worked nights, weekends, and holidays to meet

critical deadlines. He also mentors junior staff members, sharing his expertise and experience as well as setting an outstanding example for others.

To recognize his dedication and exceptional work, DPS named CITS II Wansing DPS Non-Sworn Employee of the Month for December 2020. The award presentation took place January 7, 2021 at General Headquarters.

"It is important that we all understand how we contribute toward fulfilling the Patrol's mission," said Colonel Eric T. Olson. "It is quite clear to me that Drew's commitment to enhancing public safety through his work on MO Alerts, MOVANS, MULES, and many other projects not only supports our mission, but makes Missouri a safer place to live. Great work, Drew!"

"Receiving the DPS Non-Sworn Employee of the Month Award is very

fitting for Drew," said Captain Chris S. Jolly, director of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division. "He has been a key member of a team that has been responsible for working on our most critical applications directly related to public safety, including MO Alerts. Minimizing the time from when a child is abducted to notifying the public through their cell phones has always been a challenge. Through Drew's persistence and hard work, the Patrol is now in control of that time element, which has resulted in the recovery of several children already. The MO Alerts application will continue to save precious lives and reunite children with their loved ones. I am very proud of Drew for his dedication to the Patrol's mission and the citizens we serve."

*Congratulations CITS II Wansing!*



Col. Eric Olson congratulates CITS II Drew Wansing (Q/CJISD). Seated next to Drew was his wife, Kristen.



# Patrol Presence Part Of Missouri's Bicentennial Inauguration

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

They came from every troop and several divisions numbering 177 in all. Both uniformed civilians and members, each one was essential to security for Missouri Governor Michael Parson's inauguration January 11, 2021. The members looked sharp in their blouse and white shirt, and ranged in rank from trooper to colonel. Their assignments included dignitary escorts and protection, SWAT, Mobile Field Force, and building security. Although prepared to handle any civil disobedience, the day was relatively uneventful. Enjoy these photos of Missouri's Bicentennial Inauguration.

*Col. Eric Olson (l) and Lt. Col. Lance MacLaughlin (r) escort Gov. Mike Parson and First Lady Teresa Parson down the Capitol steps to the inauguration ceremony. Directly above the colonel at the top of the stairs is Lt. Thad Wilson (Q/GSD) keeping watch.*



*While Gov. Mike Parson addressed Missourians, (clockwise from top) Capt. Dusty Hoffman (Q/GSD), Sgt. Jason Riggs (Q/GSD), Tpr. Katie Bishop (C), Cpl. Wes Collins (Q/GSD), and Lt. Thad Wilson (Q/GSD) kept a close eye on those attending the event.*



*(foreground) Sgt. Neil Atkinson GSD and Lt. Tycee Williams (C) provide security to the speaker's left during the ceremony.*



*Members of the Troop A SWAT team provided an additional layer of security during the inauguration.*



# Patrol History Trivia

## First Assignment

*By Ret. Lt. Jim Ripley  
Special to the Patrol News*

The life of a trooper will provide many moments of excitement, anxiety, and stress. The duration of anxiety during a career may be unmatched by the anxiety while a trooper awaits the discovery of his first assignment. There is probably no decision that will have a greater effect on the officer's future, and the trooper has no input in that decision, at least not in times past.

Where will I live? To what troop will I be assigned? Who will be my field training officer? My zone sergeant? Will I be close to my family and friends or am I going to start a totally new life apart from all of them? I have lived around the city most of my life—will I be stationed in a small town? I've lived in a small town all my life—will I be stationed in Kansas City or St. Louis? Will my spouse find a job close to where we live? Where will our kids go to school? These thoughts pass through the minds of recruits who have totally dedicated themselves to making it through the Academy, yet must face the unknown regarding their first assignment.

It has been almost 41 years since my class was herded into a classroom for our assignments. It seems like yesterday. I remember exactly which classroom it was, where I sat, and the alphabetical announcement of our assignments. As we entered, I could see the nine troops listed on the chalkboard with a number beside each, indicative of how many of us would be assigned to each troop. My first choice had been Troop A and there was a four next to it. My second choice had been Troop D and there was a zero next to it. My third choice was Troop F and I

have no recollection of its numerical designation. We were to graduate on August 29, 1980. The importance of that date became paramount to the officers with school-age children, because schools would start before we graduated. I was single, so that consideration was not important to me, other than feeling the empathy for my classmates.

Captain Charlie Whitehead was the captain of the Training Division then and announced our assignments. Capt. Whitehead had a unique pattern of speaking in which he enunciated each syllable as if he was announcing a homerun in the bottom of the ninth. He methodically announced the last name of the recruit, which choice he had received, and to which troop he had been assigned. Just prior to hearing him call my name, I had calculated that only two names had been called for Troop A. Thus, there were two recruits left being assigned there and we were nearing the end of the list alphabetically. I can still hear his words with his unique diction, "Rip Ley. None of his choices, Troop H."

I felt like I had been shot. I'm sure I was not the only one stunned by his assignment. If I recall correctly, the recruit who finished first in the class academically ended up being the recruit stationed farthest from home. When the roll call finished, we were told to contact the troop commanders who would give us our specific assignments within the troop.

At that time, the troop commanders told you to what county you would be assigned and in which town within that county you would live. We left

the classroom and headed to lunch. I would say that was the low point of my Academy experience. After lunch, those of us assigned to Troop H telephoned the troop commander for our assignment. The conversation was short and to the point. I was given the town I would live in, Oregon, in Holt County. Additionally, we were provided with the names our FTOs and sergeants. Despite learning all the counties and county seats I had no idea where Oregon was located. The fact that the captain told me my sergeant resided in Tarkio gave me an idea of the general vicinity.

I'm sure that when I drove to Oregon at my first opportunity it was the first time I had been there in my life. Certainly, the same was true for some of my classmates. At that time, the rule was that you had to stay in your first assignment for five years before you could request a transfer, so I figured I needed to learn to love it. Ultimately, my time spent there left me with many great memories and friends I have to this day. My FTO located a pink house on the main street of town I could rent for \$125. Good thing. Although, pink would not have been my chosen hue of an exterior paint. The second choice for housing was to sleep in my car. There was no second choice.

I know there were tougher acclimations for others. I'm not sure if the years have made the anticipation and announcement any easier. It is a defining moment in the life of a recruit. However, I am sure I'm not the only former trooper that recalls that day in his or her career.

# Patrol Welcomes 31 New Troopers

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

“Hail, Hail State Patrol” echoed throughout an almost empty gymnasium as members of the 110th Recruit Class filed in. After 25 intense weeks of training, 31 recruits were about to become troopers on January 20, 2021. There was no crowd present for this auspicious occasion due to the need to social distance. So, family, friends, and coworkers attended via Facebook live. The empty chairs were spaced six feet apart, and only three active employees with family members in the class could be considered guests. The majority of those present were part of the Training Division, Public Information and Education Division, and Patrol Command Staff.

Although much different than the Patrol’s traditional graduation ceremony, there was still a feeling of anticipation and accomplishment. Once the procession had wound its way through the room and recruits had taken their places for graduation, the Troop F Color Guard presented the flags with professional precision. Recruit Cole P. Justice’s powerful voice reverberated through the room with the crescendos and swells of America’s national anthem, making everyone stand a little straighter.

Although they were not present at the ceremony, Captain Joe Armistead

(Q/TND) acknowledged and named the Patrol’s nine troop commanders. He also introduced each instructor.

Governor Mike Parson gave the keynote offering his congratulations to the new troopers. He told the class to remember they are public servants and as individuals they represent something much larger than themselves. He told them that each of them would need to balance career and family. “Protect yourselves,” Gov. Mike Parson said. “Rely on your training for every situation you get into. I believe in the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance ... I can be because of you. Remember the training and leadership you have in the MSHP you will be just fine. Stay the course. We need you out there.”

The Honorable Cotton Walker, 19th Judicial Circuit Civil Judge, state of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the new troopers. Provost Roger K. McMillian, vice president of College Affairs for Mineral Area Col-



*Tpr. Andrew Gordon hugs his wife, Tpr. Sadie Gordon, after accepting his diploma.*

lege, conferred an associate of applied science degree to 12 of the new troopers.

Captain Joe Armistead served as emcee of the event. In his remarks, he acknowledged the additional challenges of training during the coronavirus. Schedule changes, masks, and several COVID tests added to the expected challenges of the rigorous Academy to transform recruits into troopers. “I commend the 31 of you for rising to

*Continued on the next page.*



*Tpr. Alex Philipps accepted the Superintendent’s Award from Col. Eric Olson (l). Gov. Mike Parson is also pictured.*



*Tpr. Delandis Gillespie signs his Oath of Office under the watchful eye of Capt. Joe Armistead (Q/TND).*



# — Troopers

Continued from page 10.

the challenges as you prepared to become part of the best law enforcement agency in the U.S.," he said.

Three of the new troopers joined family members currently working for the Patrol. Trooper Andrew M. Gordon accepted his diploma from his wife, Trooper Sadie D. Gordon (F). Trooper Cole T. Hinshaw's wife, DE II Jordan N. Hinshaw (B) presented his diploma to him. Lt. Jon Pruiett (E) presented his son, new Trooper Landon C. Pruiett, with his diploma.

Lt. Pruiett said he told his son what he would tell anybody. "Rely on the core values of the agency. Like the colonel said, live them on and off duty. Also, if you have the opportunity to help someone, do it."

About following in his father's footsteps and becoming a member of the Patrol, Trooper Pruiett remarked, "It's all I ever wanted to do." He said throughout his training, his father was a resource and provided helpful information to make Academy life easier. Tpr. Pruiett then shared this information with his classmates.

Trooper Gordon worked in law enforcement prior to joining the Patrol. "Our life is a lot about work, but we do know how to separate work and home. We bounce stuff off each other, and our dinner conversation may or may not be case law," he said.

After the new troopers were commissioned, Col. Olson expressed his appreciation to both the Academy staff and the new troopers' families before speaking directly to the class. "It is exactly times like these where you see a lot of bad news and hear controversial things that we must see ourselves through our values. You'll hear many opinions about how you should do your job and about law enforcement in general. Change is part of our world. We must remain professional. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, 'The time is always right to do what is right.' These words from Dr. King are great guidance both on duty and off duty. Thank you for your hard work and commitment. I wish each of you prosperity."

# Congratulations to the 110th Recruit Class!

The 110th Recruit Class reported to the Academy on August 3, 2020 and graduated January 20, 2021. The new troopers reported for duty in their assigned troops on February 16, 2021. The names (hometowns) and first assignments of members of the 110th Recruit Class are listed below:

## Troop A

*John P. Blinkinsop* (Joplin, MO), Zone 5, Ray/Carroll Counties

*Derek M. Bradshaw* (St. James, MO), Zone 11, Cass County

*David T. Craig* (Nixa, MO), Zone 7, Jackson County

*Michael A. Ebeling* (Iberia, MO), Zone 12, Johnson County

*Samuel L. Edwards* (Springfield, MO), Zone 12, Johnson County

*Hazen J. Groves* (Jefferson City, MO), Zone 15, Henry County

*Matthew J. Hickman* (Wheaton, MO), Zone 15, Henry County

*Jackson D. Hood* (Springfield, MO), Zone 12, Johnson County

*Tristen D. Jackson* (Sedalia, MO), Zone 10, Saline County

## Troop B

*Cole T. Hinshaw* (Shelbyville, MO), Zone 6, Clark/Scotland Counties

*Nicholas C. Keller* (Philadelphia, MO), Zone 4, Putnam/Sullivan Counties

*Cody J. Snyder* (Kirksville, MO), Zone 4, Putnam/Sullivan Counties

## Troop C

*Kyle G. Barba* (Lakewood, CA), Zone 1, North St. Louis County

*Zachariah P. Beckerman* (Jackson, MO), Zone 12, Jefferson County

*Thomas W. Brewer* (Belle, MO), Zone 13, Jefferson County

*Delandis O. Gillespie* (Charleston, MO), Zone 2, North St. Louis County

*Bradley T. Gregory* (Jonesburg, MO), Zone 1, North St. Louis County

*Cameron L. Kurtzman* (Chesterfield, MO), Zone 12, Jefferson County

*Eric J. McBride* (St. Clair, MO), Zone 9, St. Charles County

*Rudo K. Stone Jr.* (Chicago, IL), Zone 2, North St. Louis County

## Troop D

*Zachary T. Costley* (Lamar, MO), Zone 15, Stone/Taney Counties

## Troop E

*John M. Tomaszewski* (Sikeston, MO), Zone 10, Dunklin County

## Troop F

*Andrew M. Gordon* (Montgomery City, MO), Zone 4, Audrain County

## Troop G

*Landon C. Pruiett* (Braggadocio, MO), Zone 6, South Howell/Oregon Counties

*Zachary L. Ricker* (Van Buren, MO), Zone 8, Carter/Reynolds Counties

*William A. Wadlington* (Oran, MO), Zone 5, Douglas/Ozark Counties

## Troop H

*Samuel S. Base* (Coffeyville, KS), Zone 1, Atchison/Holt Counties

*Benjamin L. Gregory* (Jonesburg, MO), Zone 3, Harrison/Gentry Counties

*Cole P. Justice* (Smithville, MO), Zone 2, Nodaway/Worth Counties

## Troop I

*Keaton P. Hunt* (Rolla, MO), Zone 1, Phelps/Maries Counties

*Alex C. Philipps* (Jackson, MO), Zone 4, Pulaski/Maries Counties

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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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**Greg T. Curnes**  
Sergeant  
Q/FOB



*Retired February 1, 2021.  
27 years, five months  
of dedicated service.*

**H. Dale Hicks**  
Lieutenant  
Troop G



*Retired February 1, 2021.  
31 years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*

**Gary S. Horton**  
Sergeant  
Troop D



*Retired February 1, 2021.  
31 years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*

**Dave L. Hughes**  
Corporal  
Q/GD



*Retired February 1, 2021.  
31 years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*

**Ruth A.  
Montgomery**  
Criminalist Sprv.  
Q/CLD



*Retired February 1, 2021.  
18 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*

**Mike E.  
Broniec**  
Sergeant  
Troop C



*Retired March 1, 2021.  
25 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*

**Tim Crowe**  
Sergeant  
Q/GD



*Retired March 1, 2021.  
29 years, two months  
of dedicated service.*

**Troy D. Linneman**  
Sergeant  
Q/DDCC



*Retired March 1, 2021.  
27 years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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**Shannon L. McGowan**  
Section Chief  
Q/CommD

*Retired March 1, 2021.  
33 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*



**Jeff B. Myers**  
Corporal  
Q/GD

*Retired March 1, 2021.  
27 years, six months  
of dedicated service.*



**Sharon A. Shively**  
DE Sprv.  
Troop B

*Retired March 1, 2021.  
13 years, five months  
of dedicated service.*



**Jeff H. Thompson**  
Sergeant  
Troop H

*Retired March 1, 2021.  
30 years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



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## **How Others See Us**

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This picture arrived in the mail to General Headquarters in early February 2021. The sender was a little boy who lived in Eldridge, AL. He didn't include a note, but none was needed. His picture said it all.



# MSHP Assists During Presidential Inauguration

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

Thirty-nine members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol traveled to Washington, D.C., January 18, 2021, to assist with security during the inauguration of President Joe Biden. The group returned to Missouri Thursday, January 21. The group enjoyed one “leisure day” on Tuesday January 19, and although most of the nation’s capital was locked down, members could visit Arlington National Cemetery, Georgetown, or the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Captain Norman A. Murphy (Q/FOB) served as the officer-in-charge of the detail. On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, the day of the inauguration, Missouri’s detail assisted along the presidential motorcade route. Their day began at 3 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m.



*Members of the Patrol stand watch along the motorcade route in front of the press area.*



*The Washington, D.C., Metro Police liaison briefed the MSHP detail on the first day of the assignment.*



*This group includes Cpl. Lieke Dancy (A), Tpr. Catlynn McKinney (F), Tpr. Mayela Barron (G), Tpr. Tpr. Emily Westmoreland (E), Tpr. Ralicia Tyler (I), and Cpl. Katie Bishop (C).*



*Every detail needs a group photograph!*



# Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

## 5 years ago

*March/April 2016* — Below 100 training was featured. This training reminds officers to adhere to simple safety measures in an effort to decrease annual line of duty deaths. On the cover: Sgt. John H. Lueckenhoff spoke to youngsters at Nixa, MO, Elementary School about “stranger danger.” He, Sgt. Jason M. Pace, Cpl. Mike P. McClure and Bumper covered many safety topics that day.

## 15 years ago

*March/April 2006* — The Academy welcomed the 85th Recruit Class. The Patrol recognized Schwieder Ford as part of the agency’s 75th anniversary. Schwieder Ford was the dealership that sold the Patrol its first vehicles in 1931. The Patrol sent two details to Cameron,

LA, to assist the sheriff’s department there after Hurricane Rita. Sgt. Tom R. Walley (F) found a rocket full of meth in the trunk of a vehicle he stopped. The vehicle occupants planned to launch the rocket full of meth and pills if they were stopped by law enforcement to avoid being arrested.

## 25 years ago

*March 1996* — The cover showed the Patrol and other law enforcement agencies escorting an F4-J Phantom jet from the Mississippi River Port in Marston, MO, down U.S. Highway 61 on its way to the airport in Sikeston, MO. An article by Marla Mills, MOSTA staff, explained the function and history of the Missouri State Troopers Association.

## 35 years ago

*April 1986* — The back cover included a photo showing the

remains of Corporal Paul D. Parmenter’s patrol car. A 16-year-old driver traveling the opposite direction reached down to pick up an article she had dropped, her car jumped the concrete divider and made salvage of the patrol car. Cpl. Parmenter credited his unscathed condition to good luck and a strong seat belt.

## 45 years ago

*March 1976* — This issue reported a tornado hit the West Plains area and destroyed the zone office in Troop G, Zone 2. No officers were injured. A photo on the back cover showed employees making the initial entries into the Patrol’s new Arrest-Booking System at Troop D. The article stated that, “Eventually all arrests will be entered into the system at the troop level and stored at General Headquarters. Each troop will later have access to arrests made by other troops on the computer terminals.”

# T-REX TAKES THE PLUNGE FOR SOMO

By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)

On March 6, 2021, Troop B employees formed the Troopersaurus Rex team, which welcomed spouses and local law enforcement, to take the plunge for Special Olympics Missouri. The Troop B team joined teams from other law enforcement agencies and local supporters to help raise funds for SOMO. Once again, the SOMO Polar Plunge took place at Thousand Hills State Park in Kirksville, MO. It was another successful year and much fun was had.



# Death

## Henry E. Maness Jr.



Henry E. Maness Jr. died December 31, 2020. Hank grew up in California, MO. He joined the Patrol in 1967, and served in the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division and Motor Vehicle Inspection Division in various positions at Troop F and General Headquarters. He retired as MVI Chief on June 1, 2001. Hank is survived by his children and grandchildren. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Maness family.

## Kerry N. Klein



Kerry N. Klein, 69, of Saint Joseph, MO, died Friday, January 8, 2021, at his home. He married Patsy Welch on May 22, 1971, and she survives of the home. After high school, he graduated from Missouri Western

State University, where his major was criminal justice. He retired from the St. Joseph Police Department after 20 years of service, then retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol as motor vehicle inspector after 13 years of dedicated service. He served in the United States Air Force and the Missouri Air National Guard. Rupp Funeral Home handled cremation arrangements. A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family suggests memorials be sent to the Blue Knights Missouri X for scholarships. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Klein family. For more information about Kerry, visit the Rupp Funeral Home website at <https://www.ruppfuneral.com/obituary/kerry-klein>.

## Francis L. Staggs



Francis L. "Vern" Staggs, 98, of Kirksville, MO, died at his home on January 8, 2021. Vern graduated from high school in 1939 at the age of 16. He attended Kirksville State Teachers College before enlisting in the United States Navy in 1942. He bravely served in the Pacific Theatre. Vern married Lora Faye Robertson on March 28, 1942, and they were together for 71 years until her death in 2013. After World War II, Vern joined the Missouri State High Patrol in 1946. He retired at the rank of lieutenant in 1977. Vern is survived by his son, daughter, four

granddaughters, 11 great-grandchildren, and his companion Georgina Taylor. A memorial service will be held a future date. The family suggests memorials be made to the First Christian Church in Kirksville. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Staggs family. To learn more about Vern, visit the David-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home website at <https://www.davisplaylehudsonrimer.com/obituary/francis-staggs>.

## Thomas L. Siebert



Thomas L. Siebert made his final steps to Heaven on January 16, 2021, surrounded by family. After high school, Tom joined the United States Air Force and was stationed in Seoul, South Korea. He served overseas as a helicopter mechanic until the end of the Korean War. Tom married Eileen Bowman on July 31, 1954. In 1956, he was honorably discharged after he attained the rank of staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. In 1960, he joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a driver examiner. Tom entered the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy as a member of the 27th Recruit Class in 1964. He retired in 1990 as a sergeant. Tom is survived by his wife, Eileen Siebert, of Carthage, MO, their son, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one great-great grandson,

*Continued on the next page.*



# Death

## – Siebert

*Continued from page 16.*

and two brothers. He was preceded in death by two grandsons. The family suggests memorials may be made to Mercy Hospice in care of Ulmer Funeral Home. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Siebert family. To learn more about Tom, visit the Ulmer funeral home website at <https://www.ulmerfh.com/obituaries/Thomas-Siebert-3/#!/Obituary>.

## Robert W. Grable



Robert W. Grable, 74, of St. Joseph, died January 18, 2021. Robert married Alice (Lipira) Grable on June 16, 1973. She survives of the home. Robert served in the Navy on the USS John W. Thomason from 1967-1968, and was honorably discharged in May 1972. He retired May 1, 2000, from the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a driver examiner III. He later worked for the St. Joseph School District for eight years as a delivery driver. Survivors include his three children, five grandchildren, two brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter.

The family suggests donations be made to St. Francis Xavier Church, Mir House of Prayer, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences

es to the Grable family. To learn more about Robert, visit the Legacy.com website at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/robert-wire-grable-obituary?pid=197544272>

## Robert L. Heald



Robert L. Heald, 76, of Jefferson City, died Friday, January 29, 2021, at his residence.

He was married on June 14, 1969, in Neosho, MO, to the love of his life, Carol A. O'Hara. Carol died suddenly in 1988. After high school, he earned an Associate of Arts in biology from Crowder College in Neosho in 1965. He was a member of the Missouri National Guard while a resident of Southwest Missouri. Bob joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a radio and telecommunications engineer in 1973, and was stationed at the Patrol's Troop A Headquarters in Lee's Summit. He would retire as the chief training engineer assigned to the Patrol's General Headquarters in Jefferson City, in 2004. Bob is survived by his half-brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, and godchildren. Memorials are suggested to the Knights of Columbus, 737 Shawn Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Heald family. To learn more about Bob, visit the Dulle-Trimble Funeral Home website at

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/19856888/Robert-Lee-Bob-Heald>.

## James E. Bacon



James Edward Bacon, 84, of Rolla, MO, died Saturday, January 30, 2021. On July 1, 2010, he married Mary (Glenn) Colvin Bacon who survives of the home. In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his first wife, Marge (Atkins) Bacon; one son, Randall Bacon; sisters-in-law, Helen Bacon and Fay Bacon; and a stepson, Donald Colvin. In 1963, James began a 30-year career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and faithfully served until his retirement as a sergeant on September 1, 1993. James is survived by his wife, Mary Bacon, two sons, three stepsons, two stepdaughters, many special grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and one brother. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to The MASTERS (Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society) or Clifty Cemetery. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Bacon family. To learn more about James, visit the Null and Son Funeral Home website at <https://www.nullandsonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Edward-Bacon?obId=19858297>.

# Death

## Cynthia G. Evans



Cynthia G. Evans, 66, of Poplar Bluff, died Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021, following a lengthy illness, and is now resting in peace. At the age of 15, she met the love of her life, Teddy K. Evans, whom she married three years later. Soon after marriage she began a career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, retiring after almost 30 years. Cindy is survived by her daughter, son, a brother, two sisters, two grandsons, great-grandson, and numerous dearly loved cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. The Patrol family extends its sincerest

condolences to the Evans family. To learn more about Cindy, visit the Cottrell Funeral Service website at <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/19904546/Cynthia-Cindy-G-Evans>.

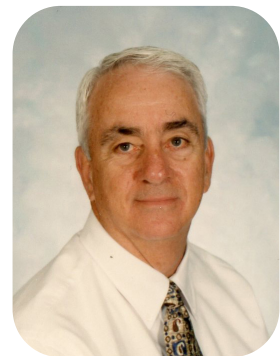
## Andrew B. Geisert



Andrew B. Geisert (known to most as Andy), 75, of St. Clair, MO, died Thursday, February 18, 2021, at his home surrounded by the love of his family. Andy was proud to have served his country during the Vietnam War in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving

from 1965 until being honorably discharged in 1967. He served his country another four years by joining the Army National Guard in St. Clair. On Feb. 17, 1968, he was united in marriage to Diane Ruth Brown. During his working years, Andy was a commercial vehicle officer for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop C, St. Louis. He served in this capacity from December 31, 1967 until he retired on July 31, 1998, as a chief commercial vehicle officer. Andy is survived by his wife, Diane, of the home, two sons, seven grandchildren, a brother, two sisters, many extended family members and friends. Memorials can be made to the St. Clair R-13 Alumni Association Scholarship Fund or Paw Stoppers of Franklin County. To learn more about Andy, visit the Russell Colonial Funeral Home at <https://www.russellcolonialfuneralhome.com/obituary.php?id=1797>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Geisert family.

## Walter R. Wilcox



Walter R. "Dick" Wilcox, 83, of Republic, MO, died Thursday, February 18, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Dick graduated from Dexter High School. After graduation, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1957 and served honorably until his discharge in 1961. He then attended the Univer-

*Continued on the next page.*

## Sympathy

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:*

Program Sprv. Loretta C. Mitchell (Q/PRD) - husband's stepmother	Tpr. Dennis W. McCormick (F) - father
Chief DE Nancy A. Stefanus (C) - mother	Lt. Jeff A. Bair (G) - father
Ret. CVO Sprv. Allen D. Steele - mother	DE III Jim W. Little (C) - mother-in-law
Tpr. Jared O. Prater (D) - grandfather	MVI Sprv. Regina C. Brown (C) - sister
CJIS Specialist II Jason R. Buschjost (Q/CJISD) - grandmother	Ret. Comm. Oper. III Lalah M. Gregory - mother-in-law
Ret. Desig. Prin. Asst. Charlene R. Buschjost - mother-in-law	MVI Sprv. Janna K. Clamme (I) - mother
Sgt. Roger A. Sherman (H) - father-in-law	DE III Denene C. Gross (C) - father
Cpl. Tim S. Craig (C) - grandfather	Ret. Clerk Typist Jackie E. Childs (C) - sister
Ret. Cpl. John J. Koch - father-in-law	DE Sprv. Percy S. Childs (C) - aunt
	Capt. Clark N. Stratton (H) - father
	Tpr. Jeremy W. Miller (A) - father-in-law



# Death

## – Wilcox

*Continued from page 18.*

sity of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO. Upon completion, Dick became a trooper with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, serving primarily in Southeast Missouri. He married Patsy Leirer on May 4, 1963. Dick is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Patsy, two sons, five grandchildren, and many extended family members and friends. Memorial donations may be made in Dick's honor to The MASTERS organization (780 Country Road 383, Whitewater, MO 63785).

To learn more about Dick's life, visit the Meadors Funeral Home website at <https://www.meadorsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Dick-Wilcox?obId=20032697#/obituaryInfo>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Wilcox family.

## Neil Hanks



Neil Hanks, 87, of West Plains, MO, died Friday, February 19, 2021, at Brooke Haven Healthcare in West Plains. Neil graduated from Willow Springs High School and Central Technical Institute in Kansas City. On July 2, 1952, he married Helen C. Hudson in Mountain Home, AR. They remained happily married for

68 years until her death. Neil proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. He was employed in communications with the Missouri State Highway Patrol from April 7, 1957 until he retired on June 29, 1991 as a chief telecommunications engineer. Neil is survived by two daughters, two grandsons, one granddaughter, four great-granddaughters, his sisters, several nieces and nephews, and a bunch of good ole buddies from the Willow Springs Golf Course, who called him "High Dollar." The family respectfully requests donations in Neil's memory be made to Willow Springs Scholarship Club, P.O. Box 484, Willow Springs, MO, 65793. To learn more about Neil, visit the Willow Funeral Home website at <https://www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Neil-Hanks/#!/Obituary>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Hanks family.

# ~ Thank You ~

We would like to thank the Patrol family for the support we received after the passing of our father, James Dyke Jr. The presence at the visitation created an ever-lasting memory for our family. Your prayers and condolences will never be forgotten.

*PRC III Sherry T. Lewis (Q/HRD) and family  
Clerk IV Deanna L. Sherwood (Q/FFD) and family*



Thank you to all who sent sympathy cards, emails, and expressions of sympathy after the death of my husband's stepmother, Shirley Mitchell. Your thoughts and prayers were appreciated.

*Program Supervisor Loretta C. Mitchell (Q/PRD)*



*To my Patrol family:*

On behalf of the Stratton family, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers, and memorial donations to Immanuel Baptist Church after the loss of my father, Robert Stratton. A special thanks to everyone who attended the visitation and funeral service during a snow storm. I feel blessed by the support shown to my family by the Patrol family during this time. God bless and thank you.

*Captain Clark N. Stratton (H)*

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

— Maya Angelou

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: [mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov) • Home Page: <http://www.statepatrol.dps.mo.gov>  [www.facebook.com/motrooper](http://www.facebook.com/motrooper)



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## Huff's Empathy Saves Teen's Life

By Sgt. Andrew J. Bell, Troop A

Family and co-workers gathered at 1 p.m., Thursday, February 11, 2021, at Troop A Headquarters to congratulate Corporal Jeffrey W. Huff. Department of Public Safety Deputy Director Kevin C. Bond presented the DPS Employee of the Month award for February 2021 to Cpl. Huff for his empathetical approach to a critical and sensitive incident involving a suicidal teenager. The boy's mother has credited Cpl. Huff with saving her son's life.

On a Sunday night in August 2020, Cpl. Huff stopped a vehicle traveling 113 mph on Interstate 70 just east of Kansas City. When he learned the driver was 16 years old, Cpl. Huff asked the boy to call his parents. While the young man was on the phone, Cpl. Huff learned the teen was experiencing depression and was suicidal.

Cpl. Huff decided to share his own personal experience with loss related to his brother's death by suicide. He explained to the teen how the loss of his brother had affected his entire family. Cpl. Huff further explained the benefits of talking with others and working with medical professionals.



*(l to r) Major Greg Smith (Q/FOB), DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond, Cpl. Jeffrey Huff (A), Lt. Col. Lance MacLaughlin, and then-Captain Scott Shippers (A) are pictured.*

The teen's parents responded to the scene of the traffic stop, spoke with Cpl. Huff, and then informed him they would take their son directly to a hospital.

Later, the young man's mother contacted Cpl. Huff. She told Cpl. Huff she could never thank him for what he had done for her son. She said that as they had driven away from the scene, her son explained his plan to take his own life. The young man then told his parents, "That trooper saved my life tonight."

Late at night on the side of an interstate, Cpl. Huff epitomized the Patrol's core value of compassion. He took the time to listen to a teenager in crisis and intervened in a very personal way by sharing his own story of loss. His actions showed empathy and helped a young man decide he wanted to live.

"We all have tragedies in our lives, like you have had," said Deputy Director Bond, "but we can turn those into silver linings. They don't always have meaning at the time, but later down the road when you can do good for someone else, you can appreciate that."

On behalf of Colonel Eric T. Olson, Lt. Colonel Lance M. MacLaughlin presented Cpl. Huff with the colonel's challenge coin. "What you did that night didn't just change one life, it changed many lives and many lives to come," said Lt. Col. MacLaughlin.

Major Greg K. Smith also spoke at the presentation. "Not only did you reflect the Patrol's core value of compassion, but also empathy and care for the kids we're coming across nowadays. This is a very much deserved award."

Congratulations, Cpl. Huff!