

# PATROL NEWS

July-August 2021



"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



See cover page 3.

# From the Staff ...

**Major Scott A. Shippers**  
**Executive Services Bureau**



Approximately 90 years ago, Mr. Moe Dribben, personnel manager for the Highway Department, and three secretaries were sent to the governor's office. There, they processed letters from prospective applicants for the newly created Missouri State Highway Patrol. They found a filing cabinet filled with over 5,000 letters requesting applications. It was July 1931, and the bill creating our agency would become effective September 14 that year. There was a lot of work to be done.

I am sure there are days when each of you arrive at the office to a day resembling that over-stuffed filing cabinet. There is always much to do in service to and protection of our fellow citizens. But, imagine for a moment being one of those four people. How interesting would it have been to read about prospective employees and organize the letters into those who might qualify and those who wouldn't? How exciting it would have been to be at the beginning of the journey we now think of as Patrol history.

As much as things have changed in the past 90 years, the most important has remained the same: Our employees are held to the highest standard and meet that standard consistently.

In the Patrol's 1939-1940 Biennial Report, the preface recognized the agency's 10th year of operation. That introduction included this sentence, "The Highway Patrol has made every effort to conduct its work on such a high plane that the respect and confidence of the people of Missouri in the organization will not be unjustified. ... the goal of each member is strict impartiality and fairness in the conduct of his office." This approach still applies today and can be seen in our interactions with the people we serve and protect.

This year, I would encourage you to take time to reflect on the role you've played during the Patrol's 90 years of service and protection. On behalf of the command staff, I'd like to recognize and extend our appreciation to our retirees and current employees for their contribution in shaping the agency's future.

Happy 90th anniversary Missouri State Highway Patrol!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. A. Shippers". The signature is stylized and fluid.

The official publication of the  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

*Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News*

## PATROL NEWS

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# PATROL NEWS

July-August 2021

“Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”

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## Social Media Snapshot

### Instagram



Photo Credit: Jessica Naugle

*This social media post welcomed the first day of summer. It offered excellent photography and an important reminder to be safe while enjoying Missouri's lakes and rivers. Life jackets save lives!*

## Cover

*Tec divers prepare for a deep dive ... see story pages 10-12.*

# LEADERSHIP ENCOURAGES PARTNERSHIP

By Sgt. Andrew J. Bell (A)

On March 1, 2021, the Patrol partnered with the Sedalia Police Department to provide leadership training during challenging times. Dr. Dave Mather, retired police commander and owner of Police Leadership: The West Point Model (PLWM), was consulted and with the help of the Patrol's Command Staff, the Sedalia (MO) Police Chief Matthew Wirt, and current Patrol certified PLWM instructors, the three-week course was successfully taught over a period of two months (March 1-5, March 29-April 2, April 26-30).

The PLWM course is comprised of 120 hours of in-person learning. The leadership training covers four main areas: leading individuals, leading groups, how the leader influences the overall leadership environment, and leading organizations. Students are challenged to intently read 29 chapters

of curriculum and be prepared each day to engage in open discussions. It is the role of the instructors to facilitate discussions combining scientific theories and strategies with personal and professional experiences.

This particular class included 12 officers of the Sedalia Police Department and six Patrol employees, with a mix of ranks and a uniformed civilian in the group. Feedback from the students provided insight into the design of the classroom, highlighted diversity, shared values, and respect among the different agencies.

When asked to share his experience and thoughts after attending the training, Chief Wirt said, "The PLWM course was a positive experience within our organization that provided an unprecedented opportunity to put all of the Sedalia Police Department leadership team on the same page. During this critical time in our country it is important to train operational aspects

of policing, but we cannot forget how important a role leadership plays in the success of our people and communities. The PLWM course reminds law enforcement leaders the fastest way to improve our organization is through advanced leadership, positive relationships with the community, and leading quality people. Sharing the course with a highly respected and quality organization like the Missouri State Highway Patrol added another positive dimension by allowing different perspectives to be discussed and shared throughout the course."

"This course is for anyone," said Driver Examiner III Teresa L. Darrah (A). "You do not have to be in a supervisory position to benefit from this course. The PLWM course taught me ways to be a better co-worker, trainer, follower, and leader."

"Change in an organization is constant and leadership is knowing how to handle change," said Lieutenant Nate C. Ahern (A). "One can't imitate leadership. Experience and study are both necessary to be good leaders. This training helps us with both experiences and study, by sharing experiences with other students and providing us with scientific concepts to help leaders find solutions to issues within their organizations. Additionally, leadership is about knowing your people and building positive relationships."

On April 30, 2021, the students received their PLWM certificates after Dr. Mather properly adjourned the class. During the adjournment, the students shared their intentions as they return to their respective roles and to lead others. Dr. Mather's final comments centered on the potential impact the students would have upon their return to their respective agencies. As I listened to the adjournment, it reminded me that it is up to the student to reflect on the curriculum and artfully lead others through development and influence. The science lies within the chapters and are bound together as one book.



Top Row – Left to Right: Sgt. Don Jones (Q/DDCC), Sgt. Aaron Berry (Sedalia PD), Sgt. Michael Elwood (Sedalia PD), Cpl. Kevin Tylar (Sedalia PD), Lt. Nate Ahern (A), Sgt. Russ Shaul (A); middle row (l to r): Lt. Darron Blankenship (Q/DDCC), Sgt. John Comfort (Sedalia PD), Chief Matthew Wirt (Sedalia PD), Commander Josh Howell (Sedalia PD), Cpl. Steve Gates (A), Sgt. Preston Hesselbacher (Sedalia PD); front row (l to r) Sgt. Kevin Klein (Sedalia PD), Sgt. Brad Beard (Sedalia PD), DE III Teresa Darrah (A), Commander Adam Hendricks (Sedalia PD), Commander David Woolery (Sedalia PD), Sgt. Casey DeVorss (Sedalia PD), and Dr. Dave Mather (PLWM).

# Patrol University Program Connects MSHP, Lincoln Students

By Lt. Jason M. Pace (Q/RCOD)

The Recruiting and Community Outreach Division hosted its Patrol University program during the spring semester at Lincoln University. Lincoln University criminal justice students learned about the Patrol and the opportunities it provides each Wednesday during nine sessions from February 3, to April 28, 2021. The classes took place on the LU campus in Jefferson City, MO, where the students learned from 21 Patrol employees.

The presentations provided not only instruction, but showcased the diverse law enforcement opportunities within our organization. These sessions familiarized the students with many Patrol policies and procedures, and utilized teaching techniques employed when troopers attend classes at the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy.

Tpr. Kordel Gibson (Q/RCOD) described the different career opportunities within the Patrol.

One goal of the program was to foster a better understanding of the Patrol and the services we provide. Representatives from the Recruiting and Community Outreach Division, Aircraft Division, Division of Drug and Crime Control, Missouri Information Analysis Center, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, the Crime Laboratory Division, and Major Crash Investigation Team #2 joined Troop F's road officers, SWAT team, K-9 unit, and marine operations troopers to provide presentations on their duties and responsibilities.

Another goal of the program was to give students hands-on experiences and showcase the tools of our trade. These presentations included: Patrol vehicles/



Col. Eric Olson presented certificates at the Patrol University's closing ceremony.

equipment, major crash investigation techniques, criminal interdiction, water enforcement, the Patrol museum, and the various laboratory disciplines (fingerprinting, DNA, toxicology, and drug chemistry). Students participated in mock vehicle stop exercises where they learned the responsibilities of troopers when making enforcement contacts. Also, the Patrol's Public Information

*Continued on the next page.*



Students participating in the Patrol University program listened to Tpr. Mike Malone (F) as he described the equipment in a trooper's vehicle.



Students were quite interested in the commercial vehicle enforcement display.

## — University

Continued from page 5.

and Education Division provided a presentation utilizing the Multiple Interactive Learning/Training Objectives simulator, which helped the students to better understand the various use-of-force issues troopers may face.

A third goal of the program was to provide an opportunity for the students to build relationships with the Patrol employees in a different setting. The students became comfortable with Patrol personnel as they had the opportunity to interact with them over the nine sessions, which led to a positive experience.

The Patrol University program concluded with a graduation ceremony where Colonel Eric T. Olson and Captain Ben C. Jones (Q/RCOD) presented a certificate and challenge coin to each student. Following the ceremony, many students expressed their gratitude and commented how much they learned about the Patrol through this program. Some stated they were now interested in exploring a career with the Patrol after graduation. Plans are already underway for additional Patrol University programs to include: University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO, Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO, and Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

“The Patrol University program serves as an educational opportunity designed to enhance the Patrol’s recruiting efforts,” said Capt. Jones. “More importantly, this program helps us build relationships with college-aged students and allows them an opportunity to learn more about the Patrol’s role within the communities it serves.”

The Recruiting and Community Division would like to thank all the Patrol employees who participated in the Patrol University program at Lincoln University. Your impact was immeasurable. A special thank you goes to Lincoln University and its instructors, Mr. Joe Steenbergen and Mr. Melvin Herrington, for collaborating with the Missouri State Highway Patrol on this valuable program.

# Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

## 55 years ago

*July 1966* — It was the inaugural issue of the *Patrol News*! That’s right, both volume number and issue number showed “1.” The front cover celebrated Governor Warren E. Hearnes dedicating the main building of General Headquarters as the Hugh H. Waggoner Building in memory of the late superintendent. The issue was four pages long and included a column titled “Around The Troops” to tell readers what was happening across the state. In Troop C, a man arrested for DWI said, “A tree passed me and I ran off the road.”

## 45 years ago

*August 1976* — A letter from Gov. Christopher S. Bond commending the Patrol was included. Gov. Bond was expressing his appreciation for the security provided by troopers during the Republican National Convention held in Kansas City. A photo in this issue showed the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Troop D Satellite Headquarters (now referred to as Troop D Service Center) in Carthage, MO.

## 35 years ago

*July 1986* — It was reported that Missouri had become the 18th state to become a member of NCIC’s III. The Interstate Identification Index allowed states to share criminal history record information. An article stated a new “field uniform” would soon be approved for use in man-hunts, various inspections, and marijuana eradication assignments.

## 25 years ago

*August 1996* — The 71st Recruit Class graduation was featured. Stories celebrated the Aircraft Division’s 50th anniversary and the work of the Violent Crime Support Unit. The 25th Annual Missouri State Highway Patrol Employees’ and Retirees’ Golf Tournament took place in Lebanon, MO.

## 15 years ago

*July/August 2006* — Troop D SERT participated in the World SWAT Challenge in Little Rock, AR. The St. Louis Auto Dealers Association presented a “skid monster” to the Patrol. The skid monster was a set of castoring wheels capable of rotating 360 degrees. The device was attached to the rear wheels of a vehicle after the two rear tires were removed. This device allowed the driver to experience a temporary loss of control similar to what could happen when driving on ice or when a vehicle hydroplanes. The Patrol planned to use the skid monster at the emergency vehicle operations course during recruit training and other police schools hosted by the Academy.

## 5 years ago

*July/August 2016* — The director of the Department of Public Safety honored Sergeant Michael Broniec, Trooper Jose Sanchez, and Trooper Derek Mason (all Troop C) for their part in rescuing a young girl from a sex trafficker. The Patrol escorted the Bava family to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Service. The centerfold feature celebrated the graduation of the 102nd Recruit Class. Another story told how the Troop E Honor Guard competed in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week.

# Patrol History Trivia

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*[Editor's Note: Colonel Allen S. Whitmer delivered this message to the Missouri Peace Officers Association on August 5, 1981.]*

## A Citizen Gets Involved

*By Colonel Allen S. Whitmer*

Much has been written and voiced that citizens do not wish to become involved in assisting others in danger, particularly if it is a law enforcement officer who may need help. But, such was not the case of [one gentleman] of Mountain Grove, MO.

On the afternoon of July 6, 1981, Trooper Billy J. Matthews was southbound on U.S. highway 63 en route to Rolla, MO, after completing a car trade in Jefferson City. He was in uniform, and since he was assigned to night shift duty, Tpr. Matthews was conducting routine patrol.

At approximately 4:35 p.m., he crossed from Maries County into Phelps County and observed a white Datsun coach with no front license plate and an out-of-state inspection sticker parked on the east shoulder of U.S. 63 facing north. A man was observed urinating outside and near the vehicle. Tpr. Matthews parked his patrol vehicle on the west shoulder of the road facing south and the man crossed the roadway to meet him. The trooper asked for a driver's license and the man stated that it was in his car. He returned to his vehicle and took a small, brown bag from the car, the type of which is becoming increasingly common and stylish for men.

The man returned and when he got close to the trooper he pulled a .380 semiautomatic pistol from the bag and pointed it at Tpr. Matthews' chest. Tpr. Matthews struck the gun down with his left hand, deflecting it to the point that when he fired, the bullet struck the trooper in the left side. He was not seriously hurt.

Tpr. Matthews struggled with the man for a few seconds, and finally pinned the man to the ground. After a while, the man gave up and let the gun go limp in his hand. [the gentleman], accompanied by his wife, observed the struggle with the man holding a pistol in his rearview mirror. He turned his vehicle around as soon as possible with the intention of helping the officer. When [the gentleman] arrived at the scene, Tpr. Matthews had pinned the subject to the ground. [the gentleman] picked up the assailant's pistol. Tpr. Matthews then handcuffed the attacker and radioed his headquarters.

While direct physical assistance was not needed of [the gentleman], the fact remains that this good citizen was willing to get involved. He was willing to place his life in danger to help a police officer. [the gentleman] did not have to turn his vehicle around and return to assist the officer. He could have continued down the highway minding his own business. However, [the gentleman] did return and did what he could to assist Trooper Matthews.

The assailant has numerous aliases and no permanent address. He is wanted in East Moline, IL, for armed robbery; in Chicago, IL, for parole violation; in Omaha, NE, for strong arm robbery; and by the FBI in Omaha for kidnapping. The car which the man was driving had a Louisiana license. A check with Louisiana revealed that the vehicle was apparently stolen, as the owner's body was discovered with a bullet wound in the head. The weapon used in this incident was a .380 semi-automatic pistol.

Charges have been filed against the man for indecent exposure, carrying a concealed weapon, and first-degree assault with numerous holds from other law enforcement departments.

Tpr. Matthews spent a few days in the hospital, but is now back on duty.

There are two things to be learned from this incident. One is that law enforcement personnel should be on the alert for every person they come in contact with in the performance of their duties. The second is that there are concerned citizens who are willing to get involved and do what they can to assist us. Certainly, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Tpr. Matthews are grateful to [the gentleman] for his willingness to become involved in a dangerous situation. The courage this citizen displayed in his decision to get involved to perhaps save another person's life will long be remembered. It might be well for all of us to keep this incident in mind as we go about our job of law enforcement.

# Family, Friends, Co-workers Honor Missouri's Heroes

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

Family and friends gathered May 1, 2021 at Missouri's Law Enforcement Memorial on the Capitol grounds to honor Missouri's fallen officers. It was a time to remember and a time to connect with people who understood what it meant to lose someone in the line of duty. Please take a moment and reflect on the photos from this important event.

*Troop F Honor Guard gave a 21-gun salute to Missouri's fallen heroes.*



*(foreground) Col. Eric Olson and (background) Capt. Phil Gregory (E) accompanied Mrs. Brenda Sullivan and sons, Justin and Brandon, family of Sgt. Randy V. Sullivan (EOW Feb. 17, 1996), during the memorial ceremony.*



*Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe spoke at Missouri's Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony.*



*Mrs. Erica Smith-Linegar and sons placed flowers in the memorial wreath honoring Tpr. Jimmie L. Linegar (EOW April 13, 1985). (Captain Justin McCullough (D) and Tpr. Jimmie Linegar's son, Cpl. J. Michael Linegar (D), served as their escorts.)*



# NEED A SNAKE WRANGLER? CALL ME!

By Cpl. Nicholas W. March (F)

Call me crazy if you want, but I like snakes! Anyone that knows me knows it's a borderline obsession for my family and me. Almost all our family outings revolve around nature and finding animals of some sort. We even made several drives from Missouri to Arizona to—you guessed it—look for snakes. So, my wife Jenna and I routinely get messages and phone calls from people wanting us to identify snakes for them.

However, on May 2, 2021, I experienced a first. I was off duty when Trooper Brandon L. Harris (F) called me. He said, "I have the perfect call for you!" He was on his way to a stranded motorist. The car had been evacuated by its three occupants after the driver felt something on his leg. The driver looked down and observed a black rat snake exiting the dash. Jenna and I loaded our girls into the car and headed to the scene.

The car containing the snake had been shut up in hopes the quiet would coax the snake into the open. The snake's head was protruding from a hole between the steering column and the lower portion of the dash. I slowly opened the car's door and the snake retreated into the dash. I quickly reached up under the dash and felt the snake's tail disappear up into the dash. Laying on my back on the car's floor, I observed the snake on a metal support high up in the dash. I wriggled my arm into the area and could feel the snake's cool scales with my fingertips. After channeling my inner contortionist, I was able to reach my hand into the area containing the snake. There was no snake to be found.

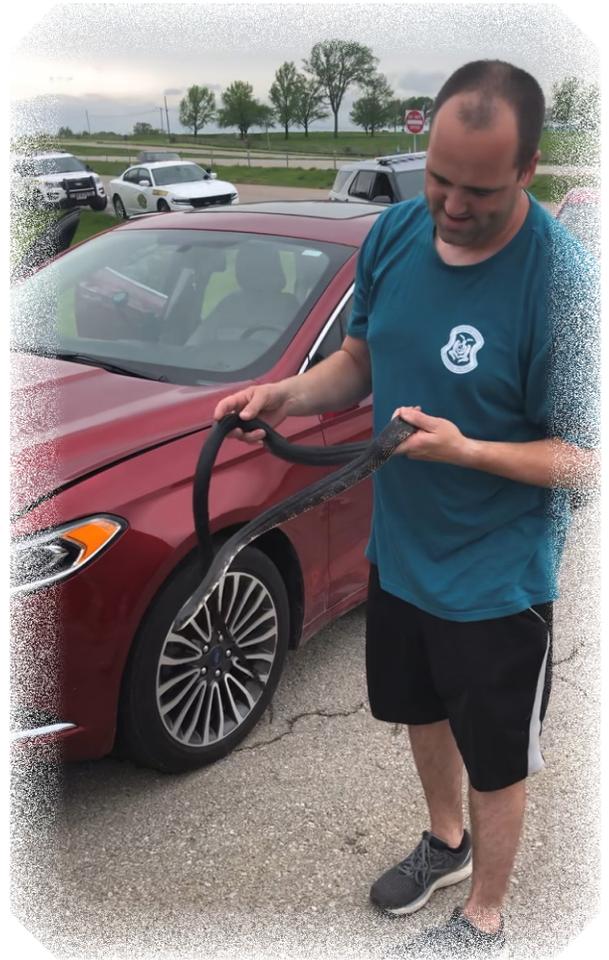
I looked and felt around for a few more minutes and was unable to find the snake. We opened the car's hood

and found the snake was in front of the firewall, coiled on the car's transmission. There's something you should know about Jenna. I'm pretty sure she takes pride in being bit by a snake. While I'm not afraid of being bit, I would not say I enjoy it. I'll just say, I was OK with it when Jenna quickly volunteered to reach into the tight area and grab the snake. The car's owner gave permission for her to climb into the engine compartment, and up she went. As her arm became wedged, and stuck, she yelled that the snake was moving away from her. I laid on the ground beside the car and saw the snake starting to go toward the car's wheel. This was the first good glimpse I had of the snake, and the first time I realized this was one was probably in the top five for biggest rat snakes I had ever seen.

As the snake came into the open, I reached up and grabbed its upper body. It quickly tried retreating into the engine compartment once again. I kept steady pressure on the snake and worked on getting it to release its hold from the car, eventually pulling it from under the car. As I stood up, the snake bit my hand. Even a snake of that size does not cause much bleeding, although I'll admit, the idea of getting bit is the hardest part to get over. It did not hurt at all.

Jenna freed her arm with only a little burn from the engine and could

barely wait her turn to hold the serpent. She showed it to the occupants of the car, and a female passenger requested to hold the snake. Jenna showed her how to properly hold it, and the lady released it into a nearby field. It's always a pleasure to help others, but when I can mix it with animals, especially reptiles and amphibians, it does not get much better in my mind. The best part may be: I think there are now several people who have a better appreciation for one of my favorite groups of animals ... snakes!



*Off-duty Cpl. Nicholas March holds the snake he helped coax out of a stranded motorist's dash.*

# Up From The Deep

## Dive Team Provides Valuable Service

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

In 1960, four troopers were trained in scuba diving to serve part time with a Water Rescue Recovery Unit. The team recovered four bodies that first year. Other officers would join the unit within two years and a four-wheel drive pickup truck with camper, boat, and other special equipment would be purchased. At some point, the unit became known as the Underwater Recovery Team and boasted its own patch. Six years after inception, the Patrol discontinued this service. Fast forward to 2011, when the Missouri State Water Patrol was merged into the Missouri State Highway Patrol. In addition to marine enforcement responsibilities and around 100 more employees, the Patrol welcomed a Dive Team.

Today, the Patrol's Dive Team includes 13 members assigned throughout the state to both marine operations and highway functions. Sergeant Kurt Merseal (Q/WPD) serves as the coordinator. Since its inception, Patrol divers have assisted local, state, and federal agencies. Their operations included searches for bodies, weapons, vehicles, and stolen items, as well as public safety-related dives. I had an opportunity to chat with Corporal Dean A. Bartlett (F), Corporal Billy V. Cole (A), and Corporal Logan B. Monahan (G) to learn about their experience as a member of the Patrol's Dive Team.

### **Cheryl: How did you get into diving?**

*Cpl. Bartlett:* I did not have any dive experience, but wanted to add to my toolbox of ways to help people. Once my kids were grown and in high school, there were openings on the team, so I applied, interviewed, passed PT test, survived the five weeks of training, and became a member in 2008.



*Cpl. Logan Monahan (G) prepares to dive.*

*Cpl. Cole:* I never dove before joining the MSHP Dive Team. I did grow up around lakes and pools in Arizona, and have always enjoyed swimming and watersports. I'm very comfortable in the water. I remember when I was going through the recruit process for the Patrol, I met a Dive Team member while doing our physicals. I was extremely impressed with him and the way he presented himself. He spoke very highly of the Dive Team and that inspired my desire to join the team. I joined the team in May 2014.

*Cpl. Monahan:* I started diving for a marina at one of the area lakes when I was younger doing salvage and dock maintenance (before I was on the Patrol). This is my 14th year diving for the Patrol.

The Patrol's Dive Team earn all of their certifications through PADI, a professional diver organization recognized worldwide. All three corporals have earned their technical diver qualification allowing them to dive to a depth of 300 feet using a mixture of breathing

gases. Cpl. Bartlett is a dive master and able to recertify open water divers who haven't dived for a while. Cpl. Cole recently became certified as one of the team's dive instructors. Dive Team members earn multiple specialties due to the various water conditions in which they dive. One such specialty is cave diver certification, which is held by Cpl. Monahan.

### **Cheryl: For those of us who do not dive, please describe the experience.**

*Cpl. Bartlett:* You are entering a realm where people are not meant to enter without specialized equipment to keep them alive. If, for any number of reasons, just one part of your equipment fails, you could die if you don't make it to the surface for air. During technical diver training, the whole first chapter was about all the different ways you were going to die. Even if you do everything right, you could still die. Probably about 90% of the dive call outs we handle are in zero visibility. We are searching by feel or

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a metal detector using a Jack Stay search pattern (a rope stretched between two anchors on the bottom, with a rope to the surface on a float to mark the search rope's location).

*Cpl. Cole:* When I joined the dive team, I was told, "You'll never look at any body of water the same way again." Diving in Missouri waters is not what you see on TV. The water is not clear, and often we can't even see the light from our flashlight underwater. We often dive in farm ponds, drainage ditches, city ponds, etc. When we train, we try to pick the clearest water we can get. However, diving in Missouri waters offers as much variety as anyone could want. We can dive deep, in fast current, clear water, black water, under ice, and through obstacles, etc. We also get to dive in places that most people will never get to see, at least not under water. I have learned so much about Missouri just by the different bodies of water I have been able to dive in.

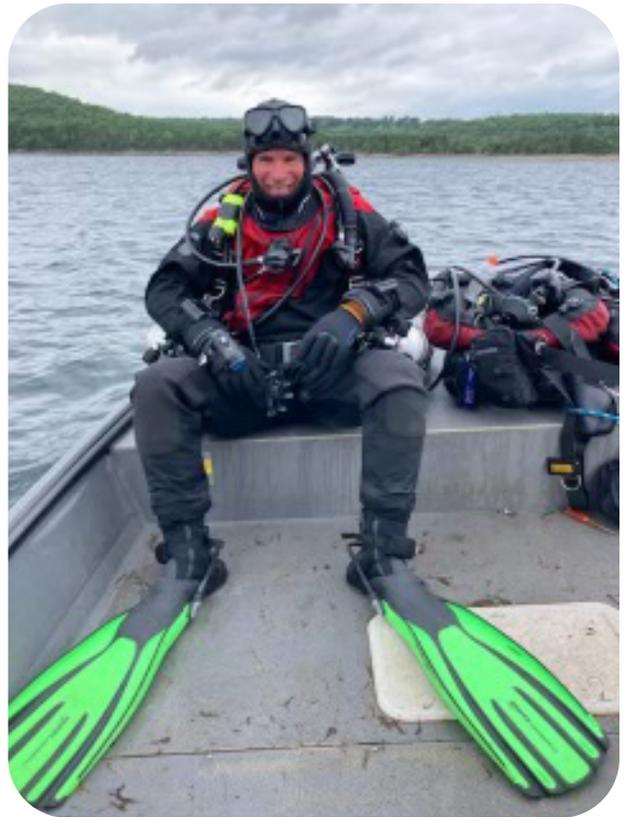
*Cpl. Monahan:* Most of our dives are cold and dark where you can't see anything. We seldom get to dive the nice places like you see on TV in the Caribbean.

### **Cheryl: Describe a dive that left an impression on you.**

*Cpl. Bartlett:* We were going to dive on the Missouri River below the Noren Access, which is under the U.S. Highway 54 Bridge north of Jefferson City. This dive was for a witnessed suicide where a male subject drove his vehicle into the river off the boat ramp. The vehicle was seen hitting the large brush pile of trees in front of the barges secured to the shore at Capitol Sand Company. We located the vehicle on sonar in the middle of a

huge pile of trees on the bottom in 25-foot of water. We used a grappling hook on a tree near the vehicle and secured the rope to a tree on the shore as a guide rope for a diver to find the vehicle. I volunteered to dive in the zero visibility, with current and in a log jam, because I did not want another diver with less experience to risk their life to make the recovery. Trooper Brandon Butler (D) also volunteered.

I went down the rope first and encountered the large brush pile, and climbed over it and out into the current of the river. I located the vehicle with my fin and then transferred from the rope to the vehicle, which was upside



*Cpl. Dean Bartlett (F) is ready for a Tec dive.*



*Dive Team members train for a vertical entry into the water. This technique is often used with wells, caves, etc.*

down. Before moving around the vehicle, I tried rocking it back and forth to see if it was going to move on me. The passenger's side was blocked with a tree so big that two people could not wrap their arms around it and touch on the other side. I moved over the vehicle and down the driver's side and landed on the sandy bottom of the river. There was a lot of current on the outside part of the vehicle. The driver's side window was down and I searched inside the vehicle as far as I could reach, but did not locate the male subject. I did locate his book bag he used in school. I returned to where Tpr. Butler was holding onto the rope and we returned to the surface with his book bag.

We returned to the vehicle with a cable to remove it. Once the cable was secured around the axel of the vehicle, I went back to the driver's side and secured a rope between the head rest and steering wheel, so if he was still in

*Continued on the next page.*

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Continued from page 11.

the vehicle, he would not be able to come out the window. The vehicle was removed from the water and he was not in the vehicle. He was located a few days later floating on the surface of the water in the same general area.

The reason this dive left an impression was the high level of danger involved.

*Cpl. Cole:* I was a part of the recovery efforts for the Duck Boat tragedy in 2018. As bad a situation as that was for those involved, our efforts brought closure to the families involved by recovering all those that were lost and assisting in gathering all evidence necessary for a thorough investigation. We collaborated with several different agencies and organizations to bring a successful conclusion to this incident. I was able to help find several of those lost underwater. I was chosen to learn the technical parts of the duck boat, so that I could take apart the camera system and retrieve the memory card and hard drive on the boat in 90 feet of water. I was also involved in the rigging of the duck boat underwater to a lifting system used to raise the boat in a manner that preserved all the evidence. This left an impression with me, not just because of the scale and importance of this incident, but also because it showed how prepared our team was for something as large and complicated as that operation.

*Cpl. Monahan:* A memorable dive of mine took place at Table Rock Lake. Growing up in the area, I always heard stories about the old Kimberling City Bridge that was left in place when they built the dam and flooded the lake. I always saw images of it with my sonar when I was growing up fishing. The old bridge was deep around 150 feet to 170 feet at the time we did the training dive. It was neat to finally be capable to dive to those depths and see the old bridge

structure still in place all these years later.

Cpl. Cole provided additional insight into the Patrol's Dive Team saying, "I think this team, and the work we do, is extremely valuable to the Patrol and the citizens of Missouri, but often gets overlooked, undervalued, or misunderstood. Not on purpose, but I think a lot has to do with people not knowing what we do or not knowing that the Dive Team exists. Often, the work we do gets reported as another agency's work. Of the three of

us in this article, I have the least experience by far, but the great thing about the Dive Team is we are all treated as equals. There is no "seniority" when it comes to work, call-outs, or responsibilities."

## The MSHP Dive Team

Capt. Mike Petlansky (Q/WPD)  
Sgt. Kurt Merseal (Q/WPD) — Dive Team supervisor  
Sgt. Charles Hoff (Q/WPD)  
Cpl. Billy Cole (A)  
Tpr. Steve Peterson (B)  
Sgt. Chris Patton (C)  
Cpl. Adam Smith (C)  
Tpr. Rob Garrett (D)  
Tpr. Andy Ward (D)  
Cpl. Dean Bartlett (F)  
Cpl. Logan Monahan (G)  
Cpl. Jason Hurt (I)  
Tpr. Colby Tierney (I)

## Wear Your Life Jacket To Work Day!

**By Capt. Mike Petlansky (Q/WPD)**

May 21, 2021 was "Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day." It coincided with Safe Boating Week and our courtesy boat safety inspection stations set up around the state May 22. We are proud of the dedication shown by our marine mechanics and automotive technicians. They ensure our marine troopers have vehicles and vessels in serviceable condition, ready to respond to the rigors of the water!



Our marine mechanics in Jefferson City prepare our patrol boats, motors, and trailers for the busy boating season and keep our vessels running throughout the year. Pictured are (l to r) Assistant Garage Superintendent Curtis P. Jansen, Marine Mechanic Tony Luebbering, Capt. Mike Petlansky, and Marine Mechanic Jack A. Thomason.

(l to r) Automotive Technician III Josh T. Hughes, Auto. Tech. III Nick W. Veltrop, Auto. Tech. III Kyle P. Schaefer, and Assistant Garage Superintendent Adam J. Feltrop (all Q/FFD) prepare and maintain the fleet of patrol trucks assigned to marine troopers.



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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## **Peggy L. Brookshire**

Admin. Office  
Support Asst.  
Troop I

*Retired June 1, 2021.  
18 years, 11 months of  
dedicated service.*



## **Karen S. Hohne**

DE III  
Troop A

*Retired June 1, 2021.  
11 years, 1 months of  
dedicated service.*



## **Paul E. Kennedy**

Captain  
Q/PRD

*Retired June 1, 2021.  
31 years, four months of  
dedicated service.*



## **Robert C. Savage**

Corporal  
Troop C

*Retired June 1, 2021.  
24 years, five months of  
dedicated service.*



## **Mark G. Broniec**

Sergeant  
Troop F

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
27 years of dedicated service.*



## **Mark A. Huhn**

Technical Support Mgr.  
Q/CJISD

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
30 years, 10 months of  
dedicated service.*



## **Karen L. Lute**

Criminal Intel. Analyst II  
Q/DDCC

*Retired July 1, 2021  
12 years of dedicated service.*



## **Tim J. Meyer**

Asst. Chief Oper.  
Troop G

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
30 years, five months of  
dedicated service.*



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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**Mary A. Reid**  
CJIS Technician III  
Q/CJISD

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
12 years of dedicated service.*



**Dave L. Schwalm**  
Sergeant  
Troop A

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
31 years of dedicated service.*



**Karen R. Smith**  
DE Sprv.  
Troop C

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
28 years, three months of  
dedicated service.*



**Laura L. Van Tress**  
DE III  
Troop F

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
18 years, 11 months of  
dedicated service.*



**Warren W.  
Wiedemann**  
Sergeant  
Q/DDCC

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
33 years of dedicated service.*



“ Law: An ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community. ”

— Saint Thomas Aquinas, friar, philosopher, priest

# GSD: A Unique Way To Serve, Protect

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

Members of the Governor's Security Division represent the Patrol as they quietly go about their duties. Every trip the governor takes involves detailed planning, yet requires much flexibility. The Governor's Security Division members must be ready to handle anything.

For example, Sergeant Jason E. Riggs (Q/GSD) began 2020 by handling the advance preparation for Governor Mike Parson's trip to the Super Bowl to see the Kansas City Chiefs take on the San Francisco '49ers.

"It was nice to go to Miami in February," said Sgt. Riggs. He was there four days, from the Friday prior to the game until the Monday after. Sgt. Tony Helfrecht accompanied Gov. Parson and First Lady Theresa Parson to Miami on the day of the Super Bowl. Sgt. Riggs explained that the Governor's Security Division team connected with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Miami Dade Police Department, which served as "hosts," and worked with NFL security.

"It was necessary to coordinate which gates we would use and routes we'd walk to enter the stadium with the governor and first lady. The Super Bowl includes several VIPs, including foreign diplomats. The two governors met, so we coordinated when and where the greeting took place." Sgt. Riggs said the team makes sure events are smooth for the governor and first lady, but something unexpected may come up during the detail, which can happen at any planned event. The Chiefs beat the '49ers 30-20 at Super Bowl LIV in 2020. The governor's security team coordinated the "after celebration" visit, too.

"I'm sure the San Francisco celebration wasn't as much fun as the Chiefs," said Sgt. Riggs. He said that

although there were a lot of moving parts, everything went well during the trip. "Our main goal with the governor and first lady is that they have a smooth trip. It was a great experience. All of the agencies involved and the NFL worked well together and cooperated."



*Gov. Michael Parson and First Lady Teresa Parson are pictured with members of the Governor's Security Division.*

"The KC Chiefs Super Bowl parade and rally was incredible," said Cpl. Stacey L. Mosher. "There are so many moving parts to any type of public appearance. It gets more complicated when you add in freezing temps and over 500,000 people dressed in heavy coats and Chiefs jerseys. I'm also a huge fan, so trying to stay focused when Mahomes and Hill and Kelce were 10 feet away was a challenge. I was impressed with all the agencies who worked together that

day. Anytime you have a crowd that large and emotional you are going to have some conflict, with the potential for violence. I left there feeling very confident about the professionalism and skill level around me. Proud to be a part of KC Chief's Nation, but even more proud to be a part of our profession."

A few weeks later, the state and country found itself in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sgt. Riggs indicated there were a couple of quick trips to Washington, D.C., regarding the coronavirus. However, in a matter of weeks, out-of-state travel ceased. "We didn't know how the coronavirus was going to unfold for the country," said Sgt. Riggs. "We didn't travel as much in state either. But, we still had to do our jobs and deal with COVID. We wore masks and tried to give the governor a little more space. The few events we did attend, we had to protect them. Six feet isn't that far, until you're trying to protect someone. We normally give them space to walk, but stay within arm's reach in order to step in when needed. So, COVID did cause us some issues. We handled what travel occurred much as we normally do, but with masks and hand sanitizer. Also, people social distancing from the governor worked for us."

"It [the virus] changed the type of activity," said Cpl. Mosher. "Instead of traveling, the governor and his staff worked extremely long days in the office, on the phones, and on video conferences. We maintained our coverage. Being exposed was inevitable, as were the swab tests and quarantines. I think we all dealt with it like most essential employees: being mindful about the CDC recommendations while accepting the risk."

Tpr. W. Robert Plumley pointed out that precautions were taken at

*Continued on the next page.*

Continued from page 15.

campaign events and fundraisers during the 2020 gubernatorial campaign. The coronavirus also affected training for the division. Although they worked as a group on protection drills, defensive tactics, and completed firearms qualifications, there were no outside agency training opportunities. Even training at the Academy was limited for the division.

“Coronavirus changed a lot in 2020,” said Sgt. Riggs. “We completed the training we had to get, and did so with masks and distancing.”

Missouri’s bicentennial gubernatorial inauguration occurred January 11, 2021, with Gov. Mike Parson saying the oath of office. The Patrol provided the Governor’s Security Division with officers from every troop and several divisions. The entire detail included 177 employees, both uniformed civilians and members. 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.

“Inauguration details include several departments along with our people, and the security is good. You always try to keep an eye on everything you see. You can’t really pay attention to what is going on regarding the inauguration. Your right ear is listening to the event while the left ear is listening to the radio,” said Sgt. Riggs.

“The 2021 bicentennial inauguration was historic,” said Cpl. Mosher. “Being able to stand on the Capitol steps and witness an inauguration was an awesome moment, especially when the stealth flew over!”

“One of the neat things about this job is you get to see things you wouldn’t otherwise,” said Sgt. Jason Riggs.

Toward the end of first quarter 2021, the Governor’s Security Division returned to routine operations. In-person meetings and travel have resumed with the recent trips being to Nashville, TN, and Aspen, CO.

“Gov. Parson is a great guy that loves doing his job, which makes our job easier. Seeing him work hard makes me want to do better at my job,” said Tpr. Plumley. “The Governor’s

Security Division has a strong work ethic. This team is cohesive and works well together. Everyone takes their job seriously.”

## GSD Through The Years

The protection of Missouri governors has come a long way since 1881, when Governor Thomas Crittenden kept a .44-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver in his desk drawer. He had offered a \$5,000 reward for the arrest and delivery of Frank and Jesse James, and kept the weapon handy to guard against retaliation. In less than a year, Jesse James had been killed, and in October 1882, Frank James surrendered, handing his .44 Remington revolver to Governor Crittenden in the governor’s office.

In 1939, eight years after the creation of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, several troopers were assigned to escort and chauffeur Governor Lloyd Stark, and provide security at the Governor’s Mansion for the first family following death threats by Kansas City mobsters. Governor Stark had joined federal authorities in efforts to topple political boss Tom Pendergast. Within a year, Pendergast and 100 of his followers were indicted.

In early 1963, Colonel Hugh Waggoner called Trooper Richard D. Radford into his office one afternoon. He told Tpr. Radford to report to him at 8 a.m. the following morning in civilian clothes. At that time, he would accompany Tpr. Radford to the governor’s office. The trooper was introduced to Governor John Dalton and was assigned to full-time security following several threats. Since security for the governor was in its infancy, Tpr. Radford had to develop procedures as he went along. There was no formal protection training available, and Tpr. Radford’s “equipment” consisted of a suit, concealed weapon, and an unmarked car.

Fast forward to 1972 after the election of Governor-elect Christopher “Kit” Bond, who became the target of a death threat. Following a nationwide trend, Gov. Bond issued an executive order in 1973 creating a “unit” of officers within the Patrol who would provide around-the-clock protection. In April 1973, the Executive Security Unit was formed and placed within the Criminal Investigation Division. When the Division of Drug and Crime Control was formed by state statute in 1983, the Executive Security Unit became the Governor’s Security Division within the newly created Criminal Investigation Bureau. Currently, the Governor’s Security Division is part of the Executive Services Bureau.

Their training and equipment has become specialized over the years. However, the Governor’s Security Division mission remains the same: To provide security for the governor and his immediate family, visiting governors, and other dignitaries.

*[This historical information came from the Governor’s Security Division written history found on the Patrol’s website.]*



Col. Eric Olson walks with Gov. Mike and First Lady Teresa Parson to the Academy gymnasium for the 110th Recruit Class graduation ceremony on January 20, 2021. Governor Security Division members Cpl. Matt Rice and Cpl. Stacey Mosher accompany them.

# Deaths

## Harvey L. Harris



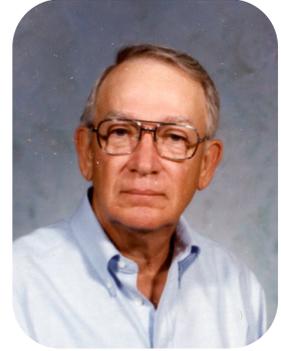
Harvey L. Harris, 95, of Kansas City, MO, died April 18, 2021. Mr. Harris was born in Fulton, MO, and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps after high school at the age of 17. He flew missions over France during World War II and lived in Germany, Japan, and Thailand during his military career. He retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years of honorable service. On July 1, 1979, Mr. Harris joined the Patrol as its photographer. During his years of service, he created the curriculum used by the Academy to teach photography and served as instructor for the class. He also taught forensics at Westminster College in Fulton, MO. Mr. Harris retired from the Patrol on December 31, 1993. He is survived by his son, daughter, and three grandchildren. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Harris family.

## Charles E. Statzel



Charles E. Statzel, 92, of St. Louis, MO, died May 13, 2021. Mr. Statzel was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. He was appointed to the Patrol on July 1, 1961, as a member of the 23rd Recruit Class. He served and protected the people of Missouri in the Troop C area. He was promoted to corporal in 1970 and sergeant in 1976. Mr. Statzel retired on February 27, 1986. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan. Mr. Statzel is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Statzel family.

## John S. Zvolanek



John S. "Stan" Zvolanek, 93, of St. Joseph, MO, died Sunday May 16, 2021 at a St. Joseph health care center. He was born in Rulo, NE. In 1957, Stan moved his family from Nebraska to Macon, MO, where he went to work for the Patrol as a Troop B radio operator. In 1971, they moved to St. Joseph, MO, where he would retire in 1989 as Troop H chief radio operator. Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Joann (Mount) Zvolanek, four children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. His son and daughter-in-law (Chief Radio Operator Steve Zvolanek and Chief Driver Examiner Patti Zvolanek) also retired from the Patrol. His grandson, Mike Zvolanek, serves as a trainer/auditor in the Criminal Justice Information Services Division at General Headquarters. The family suggests memorials be made to the St. James Catholic Church Renovation Fund. Visit the Rupp Funeral Home website <https://www.ruppfuneral.com/obituary/john-stan-zvolanek> for more information about Stan. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Zvolanek family.

“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.”

— C.S. Lewis, writer/lay theologian

# Deaths

## Bruce A. Hamilton



Bruce A. Hamilton, 83, died May 21, 2021. Bruce graduated from Tarkio College before becoming a member of the Patrol. He joined the Patrol on January 12, 1963, as a member of the 26th Recruit Class. He was assigned to Troop C throughout his career, working as a road officer and assigned to the front desk. Bruce also served as a radar instructor and Type II Breathalyzer operator during his career. He retired as a sergeant on August 1, 1993, after 30 years of dedicated service. Bruce is survived by his wife, Kathleen (Smith) Hamilton, of Wright City, MO, one son, and two grandsons. The family suggests memorials be made to the charity or organization of the donor's choice in care of Pitman Funeral Home, P.O. Box 248, Wentzville, MO 63385. For more information about Mr. Hamilton, visit the Pitman Funeral Home website <https://www.pitmanfuneralhome.com/obituary/Bruce-Hamilton>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Hamilton family.

## Edward B. Spear



Edward B. Spear, 75, of Louisburg, MO, died May 24, 2021 at Cox South Hospital in Springfield, MO. He graduated from Halfway High School in Halfway, MO, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Edward served for four years and earned the rank of E-5 (sergeant). He was a Vietnam Veteran. He began his career as a trooper on the Missouri State Highway Patrol on June 1, 1968, as a member of the 36th Recruit Class. His assignments included Webster County, Troop D Headquarters, Dallas County, and Hickory County. He retired September 1, 2002, after 34 years of dedicated service. Edward was preceded in death by his wife, Donata. Survivors include five children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends. The family suggested memorial contributions may be made to the Stargazer Garden Club in care of Pitts Funeral Home. To learn more about Edward, visit the Greenlawn Funeral Home website <https://greenlawnfuneralhome.com/obituary/edward-barry-spear/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Spear family.

## Ruby P. Williams



Ruby P. Williams, 92, of Seminole, FL, died Wednesday, May 26, 2021. The family suggests memorial donations be made to First Baptist Church of Lee's Summit.

Ruby attended school in both Holden, MO, and Knob Noster, MO. Ruby and her husband, Mel, operated many businesses throughout their lives. She retired from Don Kahan Chevrolet. Ruby then went back to work, joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a driver license examiner on August 17, 1975. She was assigned to the Kansas City Driver Examination Station and the Raytown DE Station during her career. Ruby retired as a driver examiner supervisor on September 1, 1990. Ruby was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Melvin, her parents, and a daughter. She is survived by her son, a son-in-law, seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends. To learn more about Ruby, visit the Royer Funeral Home website at <https://royerfuneralhome.com/ruby-p-williams/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Williams family.

# Deaths

## Donald D. Horn



Donald D. Horn, 82, of Dexter, MO, died Saturday, June 5, 2021. Mr. Horn graduated from Lutheran High School in 1957 and attended Harris Teachers College. He began his career as a driver examiner on May 16, 1962, and served in the St. Louis area. Mr. Horn retired as a driver examiner supervisor

on February 1, 2000. His passions were horses, his beloved dogs, restoring toy cars and trains, faith, guns, good friends, and family. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Horn family.

## Ethel M. Caldwell



Ethel M. Caldwell, 69, died peacefully June 18, 2021. She was

preceded in death by both of her parents; her loving husband of 50 years, Mr. Clarence Burnell Caldwell, a granddaughter, a daughter-in-law, and several siblings. She graduated from Gray High School in 1970. Ethel joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a driver examiner and worked in the Troop A, Lee's Summit, area. After 29 years, she retired as a driver examiner supervisor on February 28, 2003. Ethel is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren, and a host of family and friends. To learn more about Ethel, visit the Carson Speaks Chapel website at <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/21476195/Ethel-Mae-Caldwell>. The Patrol family extends its condolences to the Caldwell family.

## Sympathy

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

Tpr. John M. Tomaszewski (E) - grandfather  
Ret. CVO II Kevin W. Levart - mother  
MVI III Jeffrey J. Ellis (H) - father-in-law  
Ret. Chief Radio Oper. J. Steve Zvolanek - father  
Ret. Chief DE Patti R. Zvolanek - father-in-law  
CJIS Trainer/Auditor IV Mike S. Zvolanek (Q/CJISD) - grandfather  
Comm. Oper. III Bill S. Conner (D) - father

Ret. DE Sprv. Judy G. Mulholland - father  
Ret. Lt. P. Mike Mulholland - father-in-law  
Comm. Oper. III Amy M. Fly (D) - stepmother  
Tpr. Shelby W. Wulser (C) - grandfather  
Ret. Sgt. Danny J. Primm - brother  
Sgt. Bill P. Bremer (A) - mother  
Ret. Cpl. Dave L. Hughes - mother-in-law  
Ret. Grnds. & Maint. II F. Keith Mathis - mother

Cpl. Coby G. Holzschuh (F) - mother  
Chief DE Tammy K. Harris (E) - grandmother  
Ret. Capt. Juan O. Villanueva - mother  
Cpl. Emilio J. Villanueva (A) - grandmother  
CVO II Matthew C. Hodges (E) - mother  
MVI Sprv. Lloyd G. Richards (D) - mother  
Ret. Sgt. Lonnie L. Hickman - sister

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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# Annual Patrol Golf Tourney Turns 50!

## Winners

*By Exec. Dir. Kemp A. Shoun  
Missouri State Troopers Association*

The 50th Annual MSHP Golf Tournament welcomed 62 players on June 14, 2021. The 28 retirees and 34 active employees met at the Tanglewood Golf Course in Fulton, MO. This year all participants received 50th Anniversary MSHP Golf Tournament commemorative golf balls, a 90th Anniversary MSHP challenge coin, and a few other goodies. A barbecue lunch and random prizes were also part of the tournament. The Missouri State Troopers Association sponsored the event again this year. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2022. Prizes were awarded to first, second, and third place in three flights. Golfers hitting the longest drive, making the longest putt, and getting their ball closest to the pin accepted prizes, also.

*Congratulations to the winners!*

### A - Flight

- 1) Sgt. Neil R. Atkinson (Q/GSD) & Tpr. Adam M. Kinney (Q/GD) **(64)**
- 2) Ret. Cpl. Jeff B. Myers & Sgt. Chris M. Turner (Q/GD) **(64)**
- 3) Ret. Lt. Harold W. Stanfield & Lt. Les D. Thurston (Q/HRD) **(66)**

### B - Flight

- 1) Tpr. Taylor Leftwich (A) & Lt. Greg Leftwich (B) **(74)**
- 2) CJIS Trainer/Auditor IV Bruce D. Snider (Q/CJISD) & Chief Oper. James M. Parks (F) **(74)**
- 3) Comm. Oper. III J. Pat Callihan (C) & Asst. Chief Oper. Dave R. Axelrod (C) **(75)**

### C - Flight

- 1) Ret. Capt. Ron Walker & Major Greg Smith (Q/FOB) **(78)**
- 2) Ret. Sgt. Ron Hedrick / Lt. D.J. Hedrick (H) **(78)**
- 3) Ret. Garage Superintendent Paul R. Becker & Auto. Tech. III Chris M. Cutler (D) **(79)**

**Closest to the Pin:** Asst. Chief Oper. Dave R. Axelrod (C)

**Longest Drive:** Tpr. John I. Cobb (Q/GD)

**Longest Putt:** Auto. Tech. III Chris M. Cutler (D)