

MINNESOTA TROOPER

Volume 39 • Number 2 • June 2023



TROOPER OF THE YEAR

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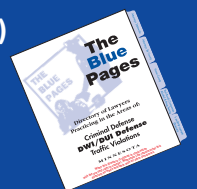
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MINNESOTA TROOPER

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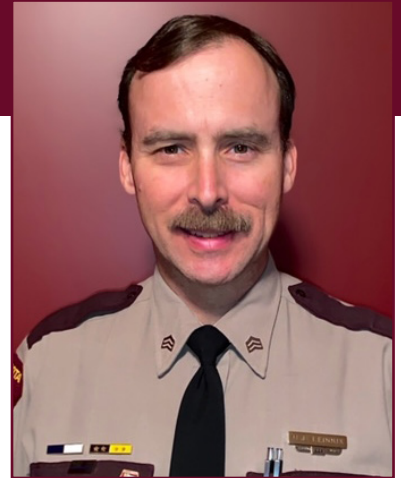
This is what your \$30 per paycheck provides:

- Negotiate the MLEA Contract
- Representation during an Internal Affairs Investigation
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- Lobbying at the Capitol
- Representation in the Grievance Process
- Guidance on Worker's Comp Issues
- Education in Retirement Planning
- The *Minnesota Trooper* Magazine
- Quarterly District Association Meetings
- Hardship fund for members who experience a unique hardship such as a natural disaster, illness, or loss of home due to a fire
- Membership into the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association including the Legal Defense Fund
- Membership into the National Trooper Coalition
- A voice on the State Patrol Equipment and Safety Committee



Mike LeDoux • MSPTA President

President's Report



The Power of Misplaced Compassions: Lessons from an Ancient Proverb

Compassion is a noble trait that we often aspire to embody in our daily lives. It is a quality that can help us connect with others, feel their pain, and provide comfort and support. However, as the proverb "He Who is Compassionate to the Cruel Will Ultimately Become Cruel to the Compassionate" suggests, misplaced compassion can have unintended and harmful consequences.

While the origin of this proverb is uncertain, it has been associated with various religious and philosophical traditions, including Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism. In each of these traditions, the saying highlights the importance of balancing justice with compassion, mercy, and avoiding extremes in our actions and thoughts.

In today's society, the meaning of this proverb remains just as relevant as ever. It serves as a reminder that when we show excessive kindness or leniency towards those who behave cruelly or unfairly, we risk mistreating those who are kind and compassionate in return. This can lead to a vicious cycle of harm and suffering that is difficult to break.

A recent court case in Minnesota exemplifies this ancient proverb. Despite the atrocious nature of the crime, the family's emotions were disregarded. Thankfully, the collective voice of the family and others prevailed, and justice will hopefully be served in that case.

While some might argue that this decision lacked compassion, the family and other public safety professionals saw it differently. Despite the shooter's youth, the senseless and premeditated act of violence necessitates holding them accountable and ensuring justice for the victim's family. It also serves as a message that we will not tolerate this type of violent crime.

As a trooper, I have seen firsthand the importance of balancing compassion with justice. While we must be compassionate towards those in need, we also have a duty to protect society from those who pose a threat. We cannot allow misplaced

compassion to cloud our judgment and put innocent people in harm's way.

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary"

-Vince Lombardi

I have encountered individuals who have committed heinous crimes, and it can be easy to become jaded and cynical. However, we must resist the urge to become callous, which requires a willingness to learn and grow from our experiences while maintaining a sense of compassion and empathy towards others.

I have also seen cases where misplaced compassion has led to tragic outcomes. For example, I have seen individuals released on parole who have gone on to commit even more heinous crimes, causing harm to innocent people. While it's important to provide second chances and support rehabilitation efforts, we must also recognize when the safety of society is at stake and take appropriate action.

As law enforcement officers, we must balance our desire to be compassionate with the need to protect ourselves from those who would do us harm. We must recognize when compassion may be misplaced and when our actions could lead to unintended consequences. We must strike a balance between compassion and self-protection. We must be willing to make tough decisions, even when they may not be popular, to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of society. Let us strive to embody compassion in a way that benefits both ourselves and those around us, while also recognizing the need for self-protection and justice.

This past winter was like a never-ending snowball fight, but our troopers persevered through the blizzardy chaos patrolling, preventing, and protecting. Duluth decided to show off and set a new snowfall record, beating the previous record set in '95-'96. Thank you for your service and sacrifice, and for surviving this wild winter on behalf of all Minnesotans! ♦

Mike #88



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Colonel Matt Langer

Colonel's Message



Welcome to Summer

It was a long, hard winter. The ice, snow, wind, and cold, just seemed to come wave after wave. Even delaying our switch to short sleeve shirts by a couple of weeks did not feel like quite enough time given this year's unusually cold spring. Thank you for what you endured on the road, on the street, or behind the radio console. It was exceptionally busy and difficult at times. Through it all, the perseverance and dedication of the State Patrol was on full display.

Spring brought tragedies to the policing community with the homicide of two peace officers in Wisconsin just a week before the murder of Pope County Deputy Josh Owen. These horrific tragedies hit hard. They are reminders of how fragile life is and how drastically things can change in the fraction of a second. While the State Patrol had a strong turnout of support at Deputy Owen's funeral, nothing eases the pain for those who lost him as a beloved family member or those who worked with him. In the weeks, months, and years that come, let us commit to honoring his life by remembering those he left behind. Deputy Owen's service to our country and to our state was nothing short of remarkable, which can make his ultimate sacrifice all the more senseless.

During the same period of time that we were working through grief with the above, members of the State Patrol were also recognized for their exemplary work. Trooper Megan Boser received the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers

Association Officer of the Year award. She also received the Minnesota Association of Women Police (MAWP) Valor award. Retired Trooper Rachel Jurek received the MAWP Officer of the Year award. Trooper Ben Uzlik received the Special Operations and Training Association Trainer of the Year award. These three Troopers represent the tip of the iceberg when it comes to talent within our ranks. At the same time, their recognition is not only well deserved, but also a source of pride for all of us.

As the legislative session wraps up, we will have clarity on our budget and other asks. With about a month to go before the end of session, we are sitting in great position. The long tradition of bi-partisan support of the State Patrol at the Capitol continues to be intact. As we enter the summer months, I want to thank you for your continued dedication toward our mission. Traffic fatalities were down in 2022 (vs. 2021) and are trending down again in 2023. A variety of factors are in play, but your contributions are certainly a large reason why lives are saved on our roads.

I hope to see many of you at the usual summer meetings. They are a time to listen and learn while in the districts and in smaller groups. Most of all – I hope you have great summer plans to be with friends and family. Rejuvenating off-duty will only make you better while on-duty. Thanks for what you do! ♦



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Honoring you as your Commissioner

Late last month, more than 4,500 of us gathered to lay to rest Pope County Sheriff's Deputy Josh Owen, who was killed in the line of duty.

In the swirl of emotion that always accompanies services like his and other celebrations of someone's life and legacy, there is a lot of time for self-examination and reflection. For me, that included spending time thinking about what it means to serve as your commissioner.

It means honoring your hard work by uplifting it. It means publicly acknowledging that even on your most difficult days, the hearts and souls that live within your uniforms are brave and compassionate. It means making sure people know that each civilian who works within the division does so with dedication, to our state, to our sworn troopers and to each other.

It means I get to tell those who would otherwise disparage or belittle law enforcement about the troopers who are out there serving with dignity and with passion to keep our roadways safer for all Minnesotans and those who visit our state. I get to tell them about the women and men in your ranks who defy danger, bravely and courageously answering the call whenever needed.

It means making sure that we honor your efforts by giving you the tools you need to keep all of us and yourselves safe. When people ask you to help curb speeding, impaired driving,

drug trafficking, or street racing, we need to continue giving you the most effective training and tools to do that safely.

It means making sure to support you caring for yourselves. And I don't just mean your physical health. I mean caring for your mental and emotional health too. For any of us to be our best selves, the best public servants and best humans we all want to be, we must care for our entire selves.

As I sat in the Minnewaska Area High School gymnasium listening to heartfelt memories from Deputy Owen's loved ones, I scanned the sea of law enforcement uniforms and just across the aisle I found our state troopers. As always, I was struck with pride. I took a breath, took a moment, and reinvigorated my commitment to you all to do everything within my ability as your commissioner to uplift the work you do.

As Deputy Owen's services concluded, Taps played, a touching flyover took place with the plane circling the event trailing a stream of blue smoke, and the final call of Deputy Owen's end of watch came across the public address system. It carried a promise to Deputy Owen's legacy, but also to those he served in Pope County and across our state. It was a promise that I am appreciative you all fulfill every day:

"Rest easy, sir," the voice scratched across the system, breaking the silence. "We'll take it from here." ♦



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The State Patrol Training Unit continues to detail the history of the Minnesota State Patrol. Photos and general orders are from the State Patrol Archives.

When we left you in the inaugural issue of *Minnesota Trooper*, Earl Brown, the patrol's initial chief, had resigned to run for governor. Replacing him as acting chief was Captain George Kuch, who served in this capacity until the early spring of 1933, when John P. Arnoldy assumed the reins of the organization on a full-time basis.

The "Great Depression" was taking its economic effect as is reflected in the lack of personnel increase and a pay reduction in July of 1933. The complement of officers and supervisors remained at 75 men for the following several years.

Minnesota citizens were beginning to feel the impact of the newly organized Highway Patrol as evidenced by the troopers' visibility on the trunk highway system. The following excerpts of 1932/33 General Orders continue to tell the story of "Minnesota's Finest."

Bulletin #22 February 17, 1932

You will notice that some of the new uniforms are equipped with a red star on the left sleeve. This is to inform you that the star on the left forearm is considered a service emblem to represent the length of service. A red star denotes two years' of service; a gold star, five years. For example, after a patrolman serves two years, he may wear one red star; after four years, two red stars. After five years, the two red ones are replaced by one gold star; and after seven years, one gold and one red, etc.

Bulletin #25 June 20, 1932

My attention has been called to the fact that several patrolmen have equipped themselves with tear gas and, in some cases, fountain pen guns. The use of tear gas or carrying the same is forbidden. The Department has considered this equipment on various occasions, and has decided it inadvisable, which accounts for this equipment not being supplied. As a result of tear gas, one of our patrolmen has been laid up for about a month, and no telling how much longer it will be. Until further order received from this



Administering first aid, circa 1934.

28/MINNESOTA TROOPER



Troopers Parker Erickson and Jim Frazier (right).



(right) model the Class "A" uniform in 1931.

office, you will not permit tear gas to be a part of your equipment.

Bulletin #27 **July 25, 1932**

You are again cautioned against driving at high speed with either car or motorcycle. This is particularly true in hot weather, as it is harmful to the motor and dangerous to the occupants of the car, inasmuch as tire blowouts in hot weather are frequent.

Bulletin #28 **August 22, 1932**

Don Sheldon, at the central shop, has informed me that he has a supply of riding glasses, and that he is able to furnish them to any of the patrolmen or their friends at \$1.50 per pair. In case you are interested in this, it would be well for you to get in touch with Mr. Sheldon at the shop.

Bulletin #31 **March 16, 1933**

Statistics show that the present period of depression has made it necessary for a great many persons to drive old cars when, under former circumstances, they would be driving new ones. Since older vehicles would naturally be in a worn condition and

require much more care than newer cars, your attention is called to the added hazard and possibility of this type of vehicle being instrumental in accidents.

Bulletin #32 **July 11, 1933**

Effective July 1, 1933, and until further notice, all employees, both office and field, paid at a monthly rate of salary will be required to take a reduction in pay according to the following schedule:

- \$105 or under - no reduction
- Over \$105 to \$130 - \$5.00 per month
- Over \$130 to \$140 - \$7.50 per month
- Over \$140 to \$150 - \$10 per month
- Over \$150 - \$10 per month plus 10% per month on amount of salary over \$150 per month.

This order is issued in connection with the requirements set forth in Section 37, Chapter 413, Laws of 1933.

Effective at once, the members of the patrol will be allowed four days a month off instead of the three days formerly permitted. You will make your applications on the regular form 33-2, and such arrangements as your commanding officers make on these days off are to be abided by. Leave of absence will not be permit-



Officer Nestor Pontius and his 1931 Ford Model "A" patrol vehicle. Photo was taken in December of 1933 between Elbow Lake and Herman. Trooper Pontius noted that he could get a top speed of 72 miles per hour with the car's high-compression head and ethyl gasoline. The double-breasted leather jacket was for cold weather and motorcycle duty.

MAY 1985/29



The patrol's first pistol team? Does anybody out there recognize these faces?

ted on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays at any time.

Bulletin #33 August 23, 1933

On September 7 at 4:30 p.m., you will report to the Central Office to rehearse the motorcycle rodeo to be held at the State Fair grounds on September 8. You will wear the best uniform and equipment you have in your possession. All patrolmen riding motorcycles will bring their motorcycles with them. On Friday morning, September 8, at 9:00 a.m., the patrol will have its semi-annual meeting in the Assembly Room at the highway building, and in the afternoon of September 8 the patrol will demonstrate its activities before the grandstand at the Minnesota State Fair.

Bulletin #34 September 14, 1933

Effective September 15, 1933, the State will be divided into four districts instead of three as at present. The supervisor of each district will carry the title of lieutenant. The districts and lieutenants are as follows:



Troopers Parker Erickson (left) and Nestor Pontius were two of Governor Floyd B. Olson's "black shirts" in 1934. The shirt was worn through the heat of the summer and was the occasion of much warm weather discomfort. Only one was issued per man so each trooper had his dry cleaned on his day off. Fortunately, the shirts weren't around long.

District #1—

Lieutenant J. G. Dahl, Minneapolis

District #2

Lieutenant Neil Gordon, Brainerd

District #3

Lieutenant E. M. Larimer, Willmar

District #4

Lieutenant R. F. Potvin, Mankato

The lieutenants will establish offices in the headquarters of their respective districts. All orders for supplies, with the exception of gas books, you will send directly to the lieutenant of your district. The gas books will be requested from central office by the patrolmen. Your lieutenant will advise you when he has completed his stock of supplies, and until that time, you may order from the central office as you have been doing.

Bulletin #35 October 2, 1933

Effective October 1, all patrolmen now receiving \$145 per month will be increased to the maximum

Remember when

salary for patrolmen, namely, \$150 per month. This salary is of course subject to the temporary reduction, which has been in effect since July 1, 1933.

The Browning-King Company, both in Minneapolis and St. Paul, recently called to my attention the fact that they have a stock of highway patrol shirts. If there are any of the patrolmen who wish to purchase shirts, they can supply them at a price of \$1.95.

Bulletin #37 November 13, 1933

Patrolmen Thrun and Pursley have recently been issued new 38 / 44 Smith & Wesson pistols, on account of the fine showing they made in the State Rifle and Pistol Match held at Fort Snelling. Thrun scored 256 out of a possible 300 in slow, timed, and rapid fire; and Pursley was a close second with 248 over the same ranges.

It has become necessary to set a speed limit for patrolmen while patrolling. Do not drive more than 35 miles per hour, except when an emergency arises, such as pursuing a vio-

lator. It is my opinion that a patrolman driving faster than the above limit is not in a position to note violations, and conditions on his beat.

Bulletin #38 November 20, 1933

You have, no doubt, noticed that \$10 gasoline coupon books are now being issued instead of books amounting to \$25. This is for the purpose of dividing the business with the various companies. You may order more than one of these books at once, but please designate different gasoline companies when doing so.

On account of vacation period, there will be no more days off granted until further notice. These days will be made up at a later time.

Bulletin #39 December 11, 1933

One of the highway patrolmen recently had an interesting experience. After attending an accident one evening, his partner had taken the people involved into the patrol car to give them a lift to town, leaving

our patrolman to flag a ride with some motorist. He flagged a large car and rode with the occupant of the rear seat to the town in which the patrol station was located. Upon arriving at patrol quarters, and turning to thank the motorist for his ride, he was astonished to see, when the top light was turned on in the car, that he had been riding and visiting with Governor Olson.

The Artistic Cleaners & Dryers, 820 8th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will clean highway patrol uniforms for 50 cents each.



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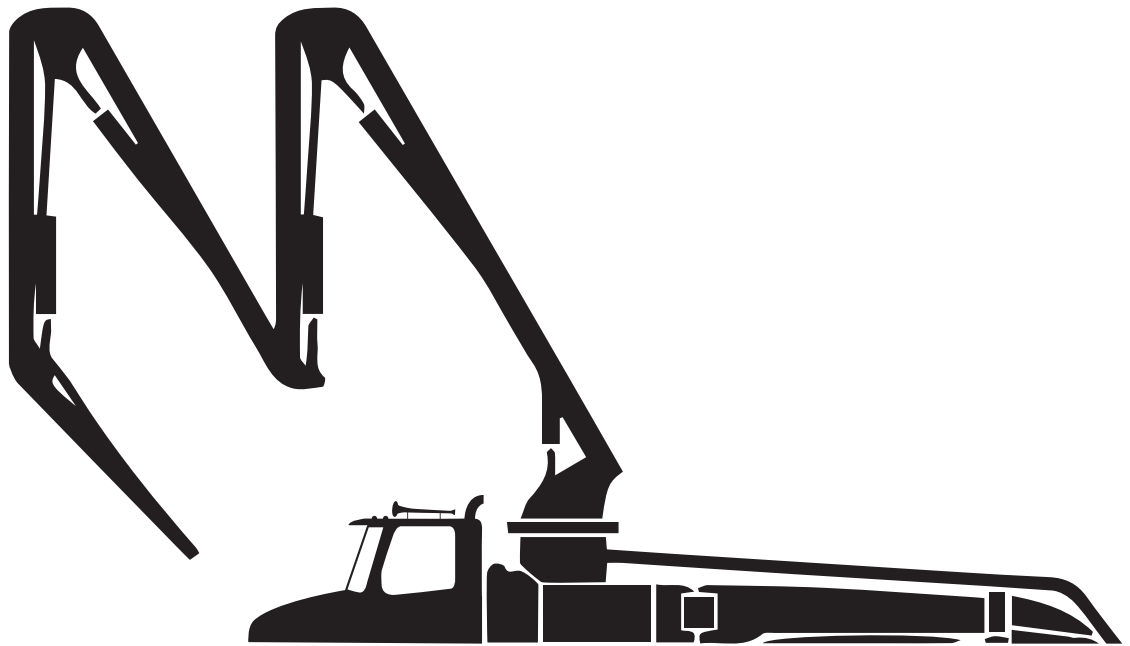
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NTC

Contributed by Trooper Jason Theel SP100

I recently had the honor of attending the National Trooper Conference in Detroit, MI. It is always good conversation when Troopers from around the nation get together.

Once the meeting started, we broke into regional groups to discuss what is good and what could use improving.

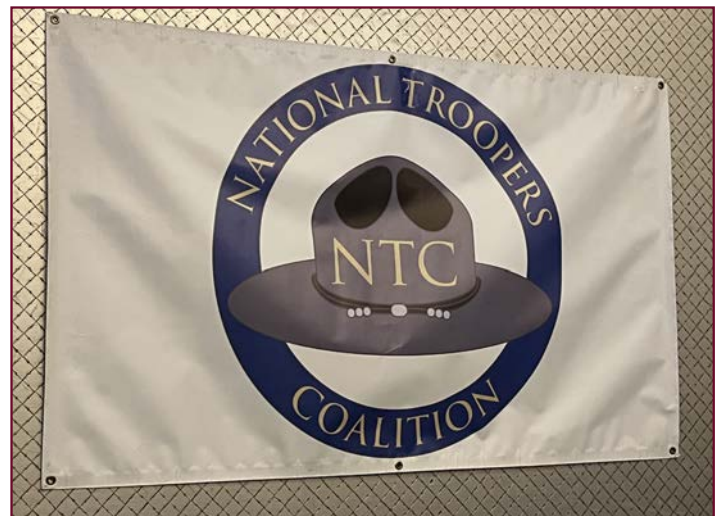
Pay, recruitment and retaining Troopers were the biggest topics that we discussed. Troopers in Iowa just settled on 6.5 and 6.5% topping out at \$101,525, in hopes not to lose any to other departments. Ranges for pay increases were 6% to 34%. Indiana with the 34% is still below us if you can believe that.

There was also lots of talk about lateral academies and hiring bonuses. We are all struggling to hire and retain Troopers.

It is always interesting listening to how other states are manage things. For example, Missouri upgrades there fleet once you hit 55,000 miles, selling their cars to other Police departments and getting 72% of their investment out of them.

There was some talk about peer support programs and with that we are leading the way. We had good discussions the entire week and took some great things away from these meetings that will be valuable to our members.

On a national level there seems to be some push to get WEP revisited. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) is a formula that can reduce the size of your Social Security retirement or disability benefit if you receive a pension from



a job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes. Such a “non-covered” pension might have been earned, for instance, by work for a state or local government agency that does not participate in FICA payroll-tax withholding. This would be great to get tossed out and I believe would help get recruits that are older with life experience to become Troopers.

Please get involved and talk to the people that represent you locally and nationally. You need to talk with the politicians that represent you so they are hearing your voice. The union works hard building relations at not only the state level, but also the national level. They need to hear from you when you agree and disagree with what they are doing. We need to continue to educate our leaders on the hill to make sure they are aware of our issues and how they can help.

Thanks again, stay safe..... *Jason Theel SP100* ♦



Pictured Left to Right:
Southern Delegate Jason Theel, MSPTA
Treasurer Richard Orpen, MSPTA President
Mike LeDoux



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Academy Staff Officer, Trooper Jeremiah Lund

Academy Staff Officer, Trooper Brandon Lindemoen

Academy Staff Officer, Trooper Kristian Jensen

Administrative Support, Holley Gries

THE OATH OF A MINNESOTA STATE TROOPER

I _____, do solemnly swear,

To support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the State of Minnesota, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of State Patrol Trooper employed and designated under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 299D, and all acts amendatory thereto;

To serve the State of Minnesota and the United States of America honestly and faithfully and at all times fulfill my oath as State Patrol Trooper;

To be loyal to my supervisors and fellow Troopers and obey and enforce the law without fear, favor or discrimination as to class, color, race or creed;

To help those in danger or distress and, if necessity arise, lay down my life rather than swerve from the path of duty; and

To conduct myself at all times in accordance with the highest moral standards and never commit any act that will reflect discredit on the Minnesota State Patrol or any member thereof.

All this I solemnly swear to the best of my knowledge and ability, so help me, God.



The 66th Academy of the Minnesota State Patrol

Colonel Matt Langer's message to the graduating class

It is always such an honor to be part of a Minnesota State Patrol graduation ceremony. The excitement in the air is palpable, along with feelings of pride and the joy that comes with reunification after spending 10 weeks at Camp Ripley. To say that a lot goes into planning an academy would be an understatement. We could not be successful without support from many people. That support starts at the top with the Governor and extends down to our Commissioner's office, human resources staff, fiscal staff, and the many members of the State Patrol who are involved with the planning and execution phases. It should also be mentioned that none of it is possible without strong support from the legislature who indeed is responsible for funding our work.

It doesn't seem that long ago when I stood in front of

all of you at family orientation day. The feeling in the air that day was palpable as well, but not exactly like it is today. It was about nerves, stress, and given the fact that you were all licensed peace officers, there was a little, "What did I get myself into" also in the air. Your families were equally nervous as they drove away on that Sunday night. But if you listened to what everyone told you that day, you now realize – it was all worth it. The joy of graduation is only made sweet because of the fact that you earned your spot on the stage today. And your families earned their spots in the audience as well. None of us are successful on our own – not at home – not during the academy – and surely not during our work as State Troopers.

We are awfully proud of our core values. As I often say, they are not just words on a page. No. They are



values that we believe in. Values that are part of the entire selection process, the entire academy process, and yes – they will be part of your career. But that should not be difficult because you have proven that the values are within you. They are who you are, and that is why we hired you.

Respect. Simply put, we treat people with respect. This includes the people you interact with inside the organization as well as the people you interact with while on the road. Sanctity of life is a newer term of art for the policing profession that has garnered a lot of attention over the past few years. Often times it is part of use of force training and policies. But, I actually think it should be part of an organization's core values. The way we treat each other during every interaction is just as important as the critical incidents captured on film. Sanctity of life, treating people as they have inherent value as a human being, is what we capture in our core value of respect.

Integrity. We tell the truth. That is as simple as it gets. Three years ago I received a letter from a man

who lost his son and daughter-in-law in a crash that injured several others. Three years later he sent me a letter after sitting through the court trial that led to a conviction against the at-fault driver for two counts of criminal vehicular homicide as well as other charges. "Anyone who sat through the seven days of that court proceeding would have been impressed, as I was, with the accurate and professional testimony of the many Troopers involved. The immediate work by the Troopers on the scene, the subsequent investigation, and the painstaking reconstruction of the crash, all reflected credit on the Troopers involved." Remember one thing. Your integrity cannot be taken away from you. It can only be given away by you. Never give it away.

Courage. The academy process requires cadets to dig deep and discover courage they perhaps never knew they had. This can be in the traditional policing courses like firearms and defensive tactics. But it also can be found by people who have never stood up and led a group before. Or stood up and led a group with 10% of the information you'd like to have – as





is the case with the first class leaders. It also took courage to come back on Sunday nights. And for you all, it took courage to leave a job where you had some seniority and were probably a lot more comfortable than you were during your academy experience.

Honor. We honor those who have gone before us. This includes the eight Troopers who have given their life while protecting others, but it also includes every member of the State Patrol who has worked hard to make the agency proud and then retired. We have the daunting responsibility of taking great care of the Minnesota State Patrol so future generations are equally as thrilled to look up to our organization and to consider joining our workforce.

Excellence. Vince Lombardi coached a pretty good football team just a little east of here. He once said, “Perfection is not attainable, but if you chase it, you will catch excellence.” None of us are perfect. We just aren’t – we are human beings. But, we believe in our core value of excellence. We are never satisfied with “good enough.” We thrive on attention to detail. We want things done really well – we want to be part of excellence by trying as hard as we can. While we will never be perfect, if we are chasing perfection, we are sure to be catching excellence – and others notice things that are excellent.

Our core values are who we are. We have a big policy manual full of general orders that guide your every action. They are important policies that each of us must know and understand. But, I will submit that the policy that will keep you out of trouble the best is policy 15-10-001, the one that has our mission, vision, oath of office, and yes – our core values.

Not that long ago we had our annual awards ceremony. It was a time to celebrate many of the heroic actions taken by State Troopers, the other valued members of our organization, our allied agencies, and

the public. I could easily, and happily, recite a lot of those heroic acts today as part of this commencement address. They would be incredible stories of courage under incredible circumstances. They would demonstrate exactly the best of the best at some of the worst times. But, I want to focus on the other end of the spectrum. The regular opportunities for members of the State Patrol to show up, and make things better. While I could never guess how many of you will be part of incredible acts of heroism (certainly some of you will be), I do know that each one of you will have an opportunity to provide excellent service to those in need, before lunch on your first shift as a State Trooper.

Sometimes it is the small stuff that matters most. In fact, I think it is almost always what matters most. Let me give a few examples:

Like when someone was pulled over after dropping their son off at college. They were emotional and happened to be speeding. After being stopped by a Trooper, the driver sent a note saying they appreciated the wake-up call and that their driving was putting others in danger. "I respect the work you do and appreciate you keeping people safe."

Or the driver who got stopped for texting while driving and lied about it. "I deserved the ticket I received and you didn't deserve the answer you received. I was doing exactly what I teach my older son with a license not to do. Thank you for stopping me today."

Or the person who hit something in the road on I-94, blew a tire and was scared while stuck on the shoulder of the interstate. The Trooper showed up, made sure the spare tire was good, moved luggage out of the way, and asked people to stay safely in the car while the tire was changed. "You were so kind! You stayed with us until we could safely get on the road again."

Or the Trooper who stopped a vehicle for passing in a no-passing zone. "Her approach was professional and curious – she didn't come across as accusatory or rude, and sought to educate us on a few things. What she didn't know is we had three kids under 6 in the vehicle. What could have been a scary experience for them became an educational opportunity on why there are laws and the importance of following the rules. Our interaction with her created a positive memory for our kids."

Or the time when a Trooper assisted someone who's



car was totaled by a drunk driver. The Trooper did the important work of holding her dog while she gathered belongings before her car was towed away.

Or the time when someone sent a note to a Trooper, after calling in an erratic driver, saying “You pulled up and when you saw the behavior, lit them up and immediately tears of relief were flowing from my eyes. I am certain you saved a life or more tonight and I am beyond grateful.”

Or the countless times this winter when Dispatchers and Troopers have helped people through the never ending snow. Like when a parent thanked a Trooper for transporting their son away from his vehicle in the ditch until it could be safely towed. The Trooper drove him to a gas station, worked with the tow truck later on to winch the vehicle out, then went back to the gas station to pick up the driver and return him to his vehicle. “Went over and above to assist my son to ensure his safety, to make sure he was able to get out of a bad situation, and that he wasn’t left to fend for himself.”

So, none of these stories are all that exciting, I guess. They could easily just become white noise in a sea of critical incidents covered in the news each day. But

these are exactly the interactions that have built who we are. It isn’t new. It has been what is expected of us since 1929. If you visited with each of the Troopers involved, they would all say the same thing – just doing my job. And they were. But, to the people involved, the service provided (through our core values) – these interactions were transformational and brought relief.

You have an opportunity now to go forth and do great things. In some cases, to go out and do exactly what you have already been doing – but now as highly trained State Troopers. Never take for granted the power you have to transform lives for the better. To make our roads safer, and to do everything you can to continue improving upon a legacy that started long before any of us took the Oath of a Minnesota State Trooper.

Let me be one of the first to say what started over here as “if” and on the other side was “when” – meaning if and when you graduate, has in fact become RIGHT NOW. Congratulations on your accomplishment. I care about you. We care about each other. And I look forward to seeing what you can accomplish with the Minnesota State Patrol.



Trooper Seth Kuhn's Message

Good morning, and welcome to the long-awaited conclusion of ten intensive, challenging, and life-changing weeks of training. Before you on stage sits the soon-to-be graduates of the 66th Minnesota State Patrol Academy. These seats are filled with:

- 12 experienced cadets
- 103 years of combined law enforcement service
- The parents of 12 children and one on the way
- 1,800 individual meals enjoyed
- 1,200 individual inspections passed. That is a lot.

Fellow cadets, take in this moment. Over the past two and a half months, we all learned how much we could accomplish in only one minute: Shower, get dressed, make your bed, shave, open your blinds, shine your brass, and even get your boots on the right foot. We learned that we can get every item in our room packed and moved to an entirely different billet, in a short period of time, with team work and determination.

Some of us learned about the chain of command, and learned there is a time and place to ask for certain things; like a snack. That time is not right after the captain informs us we will be able to call our families for the first time since the start of the academy.

We were shown we can push our bodies past what we thought were our physical limits. Did you ever think you would be able to complete 50 8-count body builders, 200 alternating crunches, or row 2000 meters in under 8 minutes? I didn't. Now, relax and take a moment to reflect on your graduation. Instructors and staff would often mention, "If and when" we graduate... well, "When" just became "now."

Ten weeks ago, we were individuals, separate from the team. When inspections started up, our uniforms and rooms were all slightly different and we were not communicating as a group yet. Looking back, we now know this was by design. The Academy environment required us to come together, work on each other's rooms, fix up our uniforms, and make plans as a team, instead of



only worrying about ourselves.

As staff noticed us improving together, we moved to the Teamwork Phase and were given extra responsibilities. Two of the most memorable responsibilities we were tasked with, were to name our class, and design our banner. I have mentioned how much we appreciated having any spare time during the academy, so when we were given an evening to discuss the class name, with no staff officers present, our class truly came together. The conversation was mostly on topic—we came up with a few ideas and presented them to staff. During that time, we also bonded, made plans, and got to know one another that much better.

We are the Experienced 66th. Each one of us made the life-changing decision to leave a full-time job and apply for the Experienced Traffic Safety Officer Academy, also known as the ETSO Academy. During the application process, we proved ourselves by tallying our impaired driving arrests, traffic stops, and crashes investigated over the past three years; showing a true desire for traffic safety. We represent twelve prior departments, have over 103 years of combined service,

countless DWI arrests, thousands of reports written, and the list goes on.

Our banner is maroon and gold—the colors of the Minnesota State Patrol. Our cadets' home states of Minnesota and Iowa are represented in the background, and each of the twelve cadets are represented with a star at the bottom. The top ten stars represent the ten weeks of Academy training each cadet finishes today. We could not be more proud to have marched as a team underneath this guidon and banner.

Governor Walz, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us this morning, and thank you for your continued support. We will strive to provide quality work in protecting the people of our great state.

Commissioner Jacobson: Congratulations on your new position at the beginning of the year and thank you for being here today. We know the State Patrol is only one of many important divisions you oversee, and we appreciate the hard work you put forth to allow us to do the job we are called to do.



Colonel Langer: Thank you for giving us this opportunity with the ETSO Academy. Many of us have been waiting for an opportunity such as this and are excited to do great work for your agency. We appreciate you coming to speak to us during our time at Camp Ripley and look forward to working for you.

To our dedicated academy staff officers, Trooper Lund, Trooper Jensen, Trooper Lindemoen and Trooper Koenen: Thank you for taking your time away from your own families to make us better, and to teach us to always strive for excellence. It has been a pleasure to get to know you the last two weeks and we look forward to being your partners.

To the devoted instructors: Thank you for taking time with us, and passing on your knowledge. Even with our years of combined experience, we all learned many things during our time at Camp Ripley. For every improvement we made, we acknowledge the effort and thought required from you to get us here.

To Sergeant Buggs: I commend you for your hard work and dedication you have for training. Some of you may not know, but at the start of our sixth week of training, the 67th training academy also began. So, Sgt. Buggs not only had to manage our academy, but

the 67th academy at the same time. This is no small feat. To have to figure out scheduling between the two academies and ensure there were no “conflicts” on the physical training pad, or in the chow hall. When I would feel sorry for myself being away from my family, I would think about you, Sir, being away from your family for twice as long, all to make sure the State Patrol is receiving the best candidates for the job.

To our loved ones who stayed home: Thank you for allowing your cadet to be away for two and a half months, to fulfill their desire to be a Minnesota State Trooper. Being away from your loved one is stressful in and of itself, but also having to do everything on your own is no small task. Not only did you have to run the household while we were gone, you were also our therapist for a day and a half on the weekends. Thank you for pushing us to leave on Sundays, to go back to Camp Ripley, as hard as it may have been. I know the academy was stressful for us, but I can imagine doing all of this was just as stressful for you. For that, we thank you.

To my fellow cadets: It has been a great honor to march side-by-side with you. Thank you for being great partners, and I look forward to the lifelong friendships we will have.



I can tell you, we are all excited to transition from the title of “Cadet” to the title of “Trooper”. We are eager to begin the next phase of training, which is field training. We look forward to getting back in the saddle.

Throughout our new career, we will always show respect; we will be the definition of “integrity”; we

will always be courageous and never back down from danger; we will always honor those who have fallen before us; and we will always strive for excellence while keeping our roadways safe and protecting the people of our state.

Before I leave the podium, I have one last question for Captain Barthel... “Sir, may I have a banana?”



Minnesota State Patrol's 66th Graduating Class



RESPECT ★ INTEGRITY
COURAGE ★ HONOR ★ EXCELLENCE



Trp. Adam Bergeron SP238

I am from Bemidji, MN where I graduated high school in 2015. My wife and I live in the Laporte, MN area with our one year old daughter. I went to school in the metro and earned my Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement. Shortly after graduation, I was employed by the City of Bemidji as a police officer. I worked there for three years on patrol. My family and I enjoy hiking, fishing, and motorcycle riding. I am assigned to the Walker station.



Trp. Brett Collins SP71

I grew up in Underwood, MN. After high school, I joined the MN Army National Guard and served for eight years. I attended Alexandria Technical and Community College for law enforcement and started working for the Morris Police Department in 2013. I was involved as the TZD coordinator, a SWAT member and an FTO. In 2018, I was hired by the Stevens County Sheriff's Office. My passion is hunting and I even run a hunting YouTube page. I live in Morris with my wife Brittany and son Beckett. I will be stationed in the same area.



Trp. Luke Dohman SP473

I am originally from Shoreview, MN and graduated from Mounds View High School in 2017. I attended Century College where I earned an Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement. Prior to joining the State Patrol, I worked at the White Bear Lake Police Department and have three years of sworn law enforcement experience. I currently live in Hugo, MN and am assigned to the St. Paul station.



Trp. Dylan Jensen SP273

I am originally from Nebraska, but now live in Park Rapids, MN. My career in law enforcement started in 2012. I have been married to my wife, Mallory, since 2017. In 2021 we were blessed with twins, Knox and Brixton. In my free time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with my family. I am assigned to the Walker station.



Trp. Seth Kuhn SP31

I grew up in Remer, MN, and graduated from high school in 2004. I attended Itasca Community College, where I received an Associates of Applied Science Degree. From there, I attended Hibbing Community College where I received my law enforcement certificate. I started with Pike Bay Township Police Department in 2009. I was hired by Hubbard County Sheriff's Office in 2017. I am married to my wife of thirteen years and we have two children, ages six and four. I am assigned to the Bemidji station.



Trp. Daniel Lewis SP519

I am originally from Dawson, MN, but now live in Granite Falls. My wife is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at a nearby clinic. We have two daughters (age ten and seven) and one son (age three). I have been in law enforcement for almost fifteen years serving with sheriff offices and police departments. I have a brother and brother-in-law who are both troopers and encouraged me to join the State Patrol. I am assigned to the Montevideo station, which is Lac-Qui-Parle and Chippewa counties.



Trp. David Lindell SP230

I was born and raised in southern Minnesota. I graduated from high school in 2010 and then attended college at UW-Stout, where I played football. I graduated with a degree in mental health and disabilities in 2014. I began my law enforcement career with Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement/DOT. I focused on commercial motor vehicle traffic for the seven years I was there. I spend my free time outdoors hunting or fishing, staying active in the gym, or seeing family. I am assigned to the Albert Lea station.



Trp. Joshua Neumann SP175

Coming from Central Minnesota, I always found the North Shore interesting. I now call Duluth home and am humbled to be part of such a unique area. I do my best to access what the north woods has to offer, whether on skis, a surf board, or a mountain bike trail. I began my law enforcement career at the UMD Police Department. After five years there, I made the switch to the Minnesota State Patrol to broaden my training and patrol opportunities. I am currently assigned to the Carlton station.



Trp. Cody Schwinghammer SP153

I am originally from Saint Stephen, MN. After graduating high school, I attended the law enforcement program at Alexandria Technical and Community College. I now live in Aitkin, MN. I had five years of law enforcement experience prior to attending the academy. I am currently engaged to my fiancé Katie, and have a black lab named Riggs. In my free time I enjoy hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. I am assigned to the Aitkin station.



Trp. Alexander Tokar SP40

I grew up in the Elk River area and currently reside in the Princeton area. I have ten years of law enforcement experience with Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, Worthington Police Department and Nobles County Sheriff's Office. I am married with a four-year-old son (Nolan) and a newborn boy (Grant). I enjoy spending time with family, fishing, hunting and being outside. I am assigned to the Buffalo station.



Trp. Darin Vossen SP217

I was hired through the Experience Traffic Safety Officer program and have nineteen years of law enforcement experience. The last twelve years were with the St. Cloud Police Department. DWI enforcement has been my focus throughout my career and I am a DRE/SFST instructor and a phlebotomist. I am married and a father of two teenaged boys. I enjoy bass fishing and competing in Olympic weightlifting. I have been assigned to the St. Cloud station.



Trp. Chelsea Yeager SP517

I am originally from Ramsey, MN. I received my law enforcement degree in 2017 and was soon hired with the Fairmont Police Department. I worked for the Fairmont Police Department from October 2018 to January 2023 before joining the Minnesota State Patrol. I am assigned to the Fairmont station.

“THE EXPERIENCED 66TH”



EXPERIENCED TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICERS (ETSO)



Trooper of the Year [Pictured Left to Right]:
Sgt. Rachel Jurek, and MSPTA President Mike LeDoux



Trooper of the Year [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Sgt. Rachel Jurek, and Colonel Matt Langer



Trooper of the Year

This award is presented to the trooper who best demonstrates outstanding work performance, initiative, leadership and effective interpersonal relations.

Sgt. Rachel Jurek (West Metro District) Sgt. Rachel Jurek is this year's Trooper of the Year recipient. She is currently assigned as a district investigator in the west metro district. Her performance during 2022 was exemplary and reached all corners of the agency. Some notable contributions Sgt. Jurek made to the State Patrol in 2022:

- Managed over 300 incidents including street racing, violent weapons offenses and criminal vehicular homicide cases.
- Managed the intake of over 2,200 individual items of evidence, with 136 of those being guns.
- Spent numerous hours gathering data, researching best practices, reviewing internal policies and developing lesson plans that has enabled the State Patrol training program to become one of the best in the state.
- Made multiple presentations at all levels of command and developed safer roadside procedures, which were both important given the uptick in violent crime
- Sgt. Jurek worked tirelessly on a fatal crash that resulted in criminal vehicular homicide charges. For weeks, she was in contact with the victim's family and provided them case updates. The amount of professionalism and comfort that Sgt. Jurek provided to these victims in a time of tragedy is hard to put into words.

BIGELOW HOMES

Tradition. Excellence.

Sgt. Jurek is a sought-after mentor within the agency who lives by the State Patrol core values on and off duty. She puts the agency's mission at the forefront of everything she does and constantly shows compassion for the victims in her case.

Sgt Jurek's speech:

I'd like to congratulate all the recipients here today. Listening to the accounts of the bravery, leadership, and courage that these individuals have displayed is nothing short of remarkable. Thank you all for the great work that you do. I am truly honored and humbled to receive this recognition. When I learned that I would be the recipient of this award I thought to myself, why me? I am not special. From my very first shift as a trooper I have done what hundreds of other troopers have done before me and continue to do every day. To provide the highest possible service of public safety to the people of Minnesota. And that was my realization of every trooper before me that supported me and brought me to where I stand today. My mind immediately flashed to a collage of visual images of calls for service and incidents that I have responded to throughout my career. Some routine and rather insignificant and others of such significance that they rarely leave my mind. Through this visual journey what I saw were the faces of colleagues, partners, peers, and mentors that guided me and shaped my career. These people are the reason I am standing here today. And there it was... the...why me? Because it's not just me standing up here, it is all the people that have shaped and molded my career as a trooper. People that have provided me with the more obvious things such as job knowledge but more importantly encouragement, guidance, and leadership to give the people of Minnesota the best version of oneself every single day, regardless of the

challenges and obstacles. These people have instilled in me the drive to work tirelessly every day, building on the successes and more importantly learning from the more challenging days. These people are the embodiment of the Minnesota State Patrol core values and individuals who contributed to my success. I picture all of these people standing beside me right now, supporting and encouraging me. Thank you to my family for all your relentless support as all of you navigate through the challenging world of having a loved one in a law enforcement career. Most importantly thank you to my wife. If it were not for you I can unequivocally say that I would not be the person I am today. While this speech has been noticeably void of my day to day work as an investigator, what it is I do and accomplishments achieved, I hope my message is evident that me standing up here receiving recognition is not about those things. I am simply here to support the great work that troopers do day in and day out. It is about the collective achievements of this team of amazing troopers that I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be a part of. I am honored to accept this recognition as a servant to the people of the State of Minnesota and I am proud to stand here in this uniform and represent the Minnesota State Patrol. ♦

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2022 Awards



Job Well Done!

Meritorious Citizenship Award:

This award is presented to individuals other than State Patrol employees who have assisted the Minnesota State Patrol in providing a significant service to the public.

Ryan Huso and Kyle Rohlfs

April 17 – Ryan Huso and Kyle Rohlfs were driving when they saw a vehicle upside down in a water-filled ditch. The driver had lost control on the slush-covered road. Huso and Rohlfs went into the chest-deep water and partially opened one of the submerged vehicle’s doors. They found the driver and pulled her to safety.

Jason Wiskow

May 7 – Off-duty paramedic Jason Wiskow was driving when he saw an injured motorcyclist on the shoulder of the road with his leg amputated above the ankle. Wiskow administered emergency medical care to the victim until paramedics arrived.

Derrell Mitchell and Lashila Roberts

May 21 – Derrell Mitchell and Lashila Roberts witnessed a vehicle go off the roadway, roll over multiples times and start on fire with two people inside. Mitchell and Roberts pulled the unconscious passenger from the vehicle. The driver got out on her own before the vehicle became engulfed in flames.

Robert Martinka

June 6 – Robert Martinka jumped into action when the driver of the bus he was riding on experienced a medical

emergency. The bus was transporting 37 passengers, 26 of whom were special-needs adults. When Martinka, a volunteer that day, noticed the driver become disoriented, he grabbed the steering wheel and helped the driver bring the bus to a stop on the shoulder.

Kyle Johnson

Sept. 22 – Kyle Johnson was driving when he noticed a vehicle that rolled and started on fire. Once stopped, he found the driver unconscious and still belted in the driver’s seat. Johnson pulled her to safety before fire consumed the vehicle.



**Meritorious Citizenship Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Derrell Mitchell, Lashila
Roberts, and Colonel Matt Langer**

Life Saving Award:

This award is presented to members of the State Patrol who distinguish themselves by performing acts that prevent the death of another.



**Life Saving Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Sgt. Kelly Phillips, and Colonel
Matt Langer**

Sgt. Kelly Phillips (Investigative Services Section)

Oct. 17 – Sgt. Kelly Phillips was off-duty at her home when her neighbor knocked on her door holding a limp, lifeless infant. Sgt. Phillips quickly determined the child was in cardiac arrest. She began chest compressions and administered back blows. The infant regained a pulse and began breathing.

Trooper Nick Otterson (Brainerd District)

Jan. 17 – Trooper Nick Otterson was responding to a 911 call from a man saying he was driving and thought he was having a heart attack. During the call, the man became unresponsive. Trooper Otterson located the vehicle and found the driver slumped over. Working from an upright/seated position, Trooper Otterson administered lifesaving efforts until medics arrived on scene.

Trooper Bronson Wehr (Duluth District)

This presentation is combined with a Minnesota State Patrol Commendation for Sgt. Chris Durfee and Officer James Stracek of the Fond du Lac Police Department.

April 27 – Trooper Bronson Wehr was first on scene to a medical call for a man who had overdosed and was unresponsive. While a woman at the residence performed chest compressions, Trooper Wehr administered a dose of Narcan and applied his AED. Sgt. Chris Durfee and Officer James Stracek arrived on scene and assisted with rescue efforts until medics arrived.

Trooper Kristina Hernandez (West Metro District)

March 3 – Trooper Kristina Hernandez responded to a crash where she found the driver unconscious and turning blue. Suspecting a narcotics overdose, Trooper Hernandez

administered Narcan and assisted paramedics in performing CPR. The driver regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital.

Trooper Marshall Freeman (East Metro District)

May 10 – Trooper Marshall Freeman was the first to arrive on the scene of a man who was reportedly going to jump off a bridge. The man was sitting on a concrete barrier wall over Highway 61. When the man became distracted by another officer arriving on scene, Trooper Freeman rushed up, pulled him off the wall and secured him on the ground.

Trooper Eric Maikkula (East Metro District)

May 12 – Trooper Eric Maikkula responded to a pickup that went off an entrance ramp and crashed into several trees. The passenger said that the driver had lost consciousness while driving. Trooper Maikkula and a deputy pulled the driver out, began CPR and quickly applied an AED.

Sgt. Travis Pearson (Virginia District)

May 24 – Sgt. Travis Pearson responded to a call of a man threatening to jump off a bridge. While Sgt. Pearson was talking to the man, a Hibbing police officer arrived on scene, distracting the man so Sgt. Pearson could pull him off the barrier to safety.

Sgt. Mike Hill (Brainerd District)

July 29 – Sgt. Mike Hill arrived on scene of a medical call where a man had collapsed and stopped breathing while building a fence. Sgt. Hill took over chest compressions while another officer applied the AED and administered two shocks. He continued chest compressions until EMS arrived.

Trooper Vincent Wren (East Metro District)

Aug. 8 – Trooper Vincent Wren was driving while off duty and saw a car go off the road and into a drainage pond. He went into the pond and rendered aid to the driver who had suffered a seizure. He continued to monitor the driver's airway and comforted the passenger until medics arrived.

Trooper Darren Ficek (West Metro District)

This presentation is combined with a Meritorious Citizenship Award for Matthew Fennema and Collin Murray.

Aug. 22 – Trooper Darren Ficek responded to a call of a multiple-vehicle injury crash. At the scene, he could see smoke coming from the cab of a truck. Mathew Fennema and Collin Murray told him that there were two people trapped inside. Trooper Ficek and Murray pulled the passenger from the truck while Fennema attempted to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher. Tragically, the cab became fully engulfed before they were able to free the driver. Their quick actions and collaborative effort resulted in saving the life of the passenger.

Trooper Nathan Tupy (Brainerd District)

Sept. 5 – Trooper Nathan Tupy responded to a rollover injury crash where a 3-year-old was trapped in a vehicle

upside down in a ditch full of water. Once first responders extricated the child, Trooper Tupy immediately began lifesaving efforts. After multiple rounds of CPR, the child regained a pulse and was transported to the hospital. The child slowly recovered over the next several weeks and returned home Oct. 30.

Trooper Nick Kammerer (West Metro District)

This presentation is combined with a Meritorious Citizenship Award for Mitchell Bollig.

Sept. 23 – Trooper Nick Kammerer responded to a report of a vehicle fire. Mitchell Bollig was driving by and had stopped to help. Due to heavy smoke, they couldn't see if anyone was in the vehicle. Bollig reached inside and confirmed there was a person in the driver's seat. Trooper Kammerer and Hennepin County deputies pulled the driver from the vehicle and began lifesaving measures.

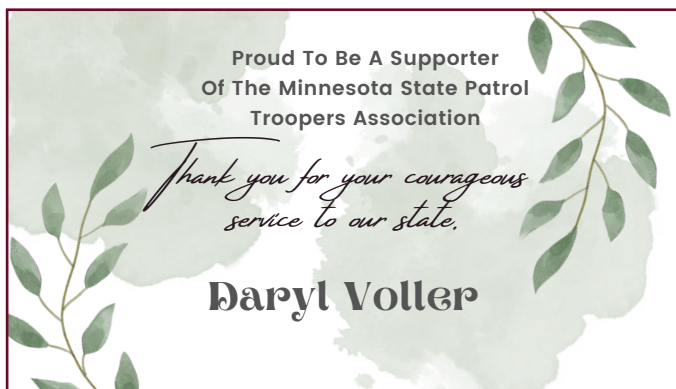
Trooper Matt Vatsaas (Detroit Lakes District)

This presentation is combined with a Minnesota State Patrol Commendation for Deputy Dave Cochran of the Clay County Sheriff's Office and Deputy Ryan Grant of the Wilkin County Sheriff's Office.

Oct. 26 – Trooper Matt Vatsaas was responding to a driving complaint of a vehicle that went off road and into a field when another report was received that the same vehicle had pulled into a farmstead and the driver was having a seizure. Trooper Vatsaas, Deputy Dave Cochran and Deputy Ryan Grant arrived to find the driver unresponsive with a weak pulse and blue in color. They coordinated lifesaving care until medics arrived.

Trooper Michael Lundeen (Detroit Lakes District)

Dec. 7 – Trooper Michael Lundeen assisted in the search for a missing 90-year-old woman with dementia who was last seen leaving a care facility not properly dressed for the weather conditions. He concentrated his efforts on an area the woman was known to walk with a friend. He found footprints in the snow and tracked them to the shoreline of a lake where he found her laying in the snow. Trooper Lundeen held the woman to warm her until medics arrived.



Chief's Commendation Award - Communications/911:

This award is presented to radio communications operators who provide vital lifesaving services that lead to the rescue of a person, provide outstanding performance during a special event or provide a consistent, sustained high level of customer service.



**Chief's Commendation Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Kaci Cavallaro, Katie Geissler,
and Colonel Matt Langer**

Radio Communications Operators (RCOs) Kaci Cavallaro, Katie Geissler and Nick Selness (Statewide Communications - Regional Transportation Management Center [RTMC])

Jan. 17 – RCO Nick Selness answered a 911 call from a driver who was unable to speak clearly. He recognized the caller was gasping for breath and dispatched medics. RCO Katie Geissler pulled up the map, located the caller and radioed a nearby trooper. When the caller became unresponsive and medics had not yet arrived, RCO Kaci Cavallaro determined another EMS was closer and dispatched them. A trooper arrived on scene and began lifesaving measures until EMS arrived. The caller later recovered from the medical event.

RCS Jamey Kime (Statewide Communications - Southern Regional Communications Center [SRCC])

Aug. 19 – RCO Jamey Kime received a call from Freeborn County that a vehicle had been stolen and the suspect had run over the driver's foot as he fled. Kime reviewed MnDOT cameras and located the suspect vehicle. He continued to track its progress and provide location updates. The vehicle was ultimately stopped by allied partners.

RCO Don Hakes (Statewide Communications - SRCC)

Oct. 20 – RCO Don Hakes dispatched troopers to a non-injury crash. Soon after, the responding trooper radioed that he was in a physical altercation and needed assistance. Hakes quickly advised troopers and other responding agencies of the location and notified supervisory personnel. He continued to monitor the event until it safely concluded.



Commissioner Bob Jacobson

Meritorious Service Award:

This award is presented to employees for acts involving personal risk posing hazards which could lead to serious injury or loss of life to the employee.



**Meritorious Service Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Jacob Miller, and Colonel Matt Langer**

Trooper Jacob Miller (East Metro District)

April 5 – Roseville Police Department dispatched an “all-call” for an officer-down shooting. A man had been firing rifle rounds into the air and striking nearby homes. A responding Roseville police officer was shot in the face. The exact location of the suspect was unknown. Trooper Jacob Miller was one of the first troopers to arrive on scene. He was met by a Roseville police officer and firefighter who were evacuating the injured officer to an ambulance stationed a few blocks away. With his squad nearby, Trooper Miller made the decision to drive the injured officer out of the chaotic scene and rush him to the hospital. Trooper Miller then returned to the scene to further assist. Trooper Miller’s quick thinking and concern for others before self is commendable.



**Meritorious Service Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Marc Verrill, James Noxon, and
Colonel Matt Langer**

Trooper James Noxon (East Metro District)

This presentation is combined with a Minnesota State Patrol Commendation for Officers Luke Dohman and Marc Verrill of the White Bear Lake Police Department.

June 5 – Trooper James Noxon attempted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle on Interstate 35E in St. Paul. While in pursuit, Trooper Noxon saw a flash of gunfire from the driver’s side of the vehicle. The State Patrol Flight Section and White Bear Lake Officers Luke Dohman and Marc Verrill took over monitoring the vehicle as it fled at high speeds on city streets. State Patrol pilots saw the driver slow down and fire multiple shots at the officers. The vehicle eventually crashed and two occupants fled on foot, and the driver was seen throwing a gun over the freeway fence. Both occupants were taken into custody and the gun was recovered. The driver later pleaded guilty to two counts of drive-by shooting and was sentenced to 82 months in prison. Trooper James Noxon’s decision making and coordination of resources assisted in the safe resolution of a dangerous situation.



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Trooper Matt Carlson (St. Cloud District)

Sept. 29 – Trooper Matt Carlson responded to a call of wrong-way driver on Highway 10 near Sauk Rapids. The conduct of the vehicle indicated the driver was likely impaired and several attempts by other agencies to stop the driver were unsuccessful. Trooper Carlson made the decision to use his squad to physically stop the vehicle. As the vehicle approached him, Trooper Carlson reduced his speed and was struck head-on by the wrong-way driver. The suspect was taken into custody and processed for criminal vehicular operation. Trooper Carlson was taken to a local hospital where he was treated and released for his injuries. Trooper Carlson placed himself in harm's way with the greater goal of protecting the public.

Exceptional Service Award:

This award is presented to employees who have provided extraordinary service in the performance of their duties.

Lt. Abigail Burch and Trooper Elijah Allen (Virginia District)

While temporarily assigned to the Highway Enforcement for Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) campaign, Lt. Abigail Burch and Trooper Elijah Allen developed an enforcement plan that created momentum with station troopers and collaboration with partner agencies. Their work undoubtedly contributed to safer roadways.

RCO Katie Geissler (Statewide Communications - RTMC)

RCO Katie Geissler answered a 911 call from a distraught father on this way to the hospital to see his infant son who was critically ill and near death. Geissler showed great empathy and kindness as she explained to the father an escort was not possible, but that his route appeared clear. With her guidance and support, the father got to the hospital in time to say goodbye to his son.

OASS Holley Gries (St. Cloud District)

Holley Gries regularly balances her district duties with added responsibilities including trooper training academies and statewide deployments. With her large area of responsibility and heavy workload, Gries consistently maintains a positive attitude and produces an excellent work product.

RCOs Don Hakes and Hope Harmon (Statewide Communications - SRCC)

Troopers responded to three separate events involving the same person who was experiencing a mental health crisis. In discussing recent events that occurred throughout the district, RCO Hope Harmon remembered a specific descriptor related to the vehicle. In collaboration with RCO Don Hakes, they linked the three events together to create a stronger case and assist the individual in getting the help they needed.

RCO Tim Jensen (Statewide Communications - SRCC)

RCO Tim Jensen aired a trooper's request for a second squad on a traffic stop. When the routine traffic stop quickly turned into a pursuit, he remained calm and utilized all his resources to regularly update responding troopers and partner agencies. Jensen did a phenomenal job of coordinating resources, which led to the safe apprehension of all suspects.

RCS Sarah Johnson (Statewide Communications - RTMC)

RCS Sarah Johnson is highly knowledgeable in her field and consistently provides exemplary service. She has been recognized by dispatchers on multiple occasions for her leadership, especially during critical events. Sarah deftly manages the complexities of payroll and scheduling for a 24-hour 911 center. She is dedicated to the mission and consistently displays the core values of the State Patrol.

Sgt. Alex Koepsell and Sgt. Adam Rochlin (Thief River Falls District)

June 17, 2022 – Officers were dispatched to a head-on collision resulting in two fatalities. Sgts. Adam Rochlin and Alex Koepsell began a comprehensive and in-depth investigation. Evidence revealed the at-fault driver was using a cell phone prior to the crash. On Oct. 5, 2022, the defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of third-degree murder and was sentenced to 330 months in prison. Sgts. Alex Koepsell and Adam Rochlin provided exemplary service to the state by using their investigative skills to hold the driver accountable for his actions.

Sgt. Tomasz Krolak (Commercial Vehicle Section)

Sgt. Tomasz Krolak is a leader in hazardous materials enforcement. He continually evaluates enforcement practices and training in an effort to provide excellence in commercial vehicle inspections. He is considered an expert in his field by partner agencies and industry partners and has developed valuable relationships locally and nationally. Sgt. Krolak takes the core values instilled in him and applies them on a daily basis.

Trooper Troy Larson (Brainerd District)

Trooper Troy Larson responded to a call of a wrong-way driver. When he located the vehicle he learned the elderly driver was lost. Trooper Larson contacted the family who told him the man was in the early stages of dementia. Trooper Larson gave the man a ride to family members and continued his service by bringing a grandson back to the traffic stop location so the vehicle could be returned without being towed. Trooper Larson exemplified the core values by demonstrating a high level of care and compassion.



Exceptional Service Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Sgt. Mike LeDoux, and Colonel Matt Langer

Sgt. Mike LeDoux (Duluth District)

Sgt. Mike LeDoux stopped a vehicle for expired registration. The driver gave him a Wisconsin driver's license that did not match any information in their system. After further research, Sgt. LeDoux determined the information on the license was not correct and detained the man for fingerprints. On the way to jail, the man gave his real identity. He had an active first-degree intentional homicide warrant out of Wisconsin. Sgt. LeDoux's instinctive skills and diligence led to the subsequent capture of this individual.

Lt. Andrew Martinek (West Metro District)

Lt. Andrew Martinek participated on a collaborative team with partner agencies to improve roadside safety. In addition to leading discussions on performance data and training, he conducted his own research, becoming an expert on traffic incident management and quick clearance. Lt. Martinek went above and beyond his normal scope of duties to improve the safety of troopers and partners and further enhance the efficient movement of traffic on Minnesota roadways.

Trooper Nick Otterson (Brainerd District)

Trooper Nick Otterson, along with his K-9 partner Busa, epitomize the values of the State Patrol. With his knowledge and experience, he is considered a subject matter expert in drug interdiction. Trooper Otterson is always actively learning and passes his knowledge on to others to ensure the highest level of service. He regularly appears at various events to educate the public on traffic safety and the effects of drugs on our roadways.

RCO Terri Prins (Statewide Communications - SRCC)

RCO Terri Prins provided exceptional service to troopers and partner agencies during the course of a pursuit. Her calm demeanor and professionalism were on full display as she anticipated next steps throughout the evolving event. At the conclusion of the pursuit, troopers and partners expressed their gratitude for her assistance.



Exceptional Service Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Body-Worn Camera Team, and Colonel Matt Langer

Body-Worn Camera Team

Lt. Nate Danley (Fleet), Lt. Jon Wenzel (Marshall District) Lt. Jason Hanson (Duluth District), Sgts. Rick Harjes, Jason Halvorson (Training and Development Section), Steve Bluml, Brent Jaeger, Pat Pueringer (Headquarters/MnIT)

The body-worn camera project team was developed to begin tackling the daunting goal of outfitting over 700 members of the State Patrol with body-worn cameras, fleet cameras, Tasers, signal sidearms and smartphones with evidence-gathering capabilities. On Dec. 1, 2021, the statewide deployment of Axon body-worn and fleet camera systems began. From that date forward, a team of instructors traveled to each district across the state to provide the training. In total, approximately 100 training sessions were conducted over a five-month period. Members of the State Patrol IT staff worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure the technology structure was in place. The issuance of new Tasers and signal sidearm technology and the necessary training fell to our training and development section, along with their group of dedicated firearms and Taser instructors. This was large-scale project that required collaboration from many areas of the organization and was completed in less than a calendar year. It was a true example of how teamwork and a common purpose all came together to ensure a successful deployment.

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Street Racing Team

Lts. Mike Lee, Pat Miles, Tyler Uthe (East Metro District),
Lts. John Fritz, Denise Lien, Andrew Martinek, Tiffani Nielson
(West Metro District), Lt. Jill Frankfurth (Capitol Security)
Lt. Craig Benz (Flight Section)

RCSs Justin Dejarlais, Katie Webb (Statewide Communications)

*This presentation is combined with a Minnesota State Patrol
Commendation for:*

Intelligence Analyst Deepak Kukade (BCA), Intelligence
Analyst Sonja Sivarajah (Ramsey County Sheriff's Office),
Sgt. Tyler Abrahamson (Fridley Police), Sgt. Dan Misgen
(Minneapolis Police), Officer Ben Campbell (Minneapolis
Police), Amy Tripp-Steiner (Minneapolis City Attorney's
Office), Kacy Wothe (Hennepin County Attorney's Office),
Michael Radmer (Hennepin County Attorney's Office)

To properly address the dangerous and unlawful activities associated with street racing in the Twin Cities metro area, it became very clear that a holistic, team approach was needed. These were large-scale enforcement details that included real-time intelligence assets, dedicated communications operators, flight resources, prosecutorial support and supervisory-led field operations. To put the work of this group into perspective, when the enforcement team was first formed, it was not uncommon for groups of 200 to 300 vehicles to "take over" an area for sliding events. In the late summer of 2022, the groups have struggled to gather more than 15 to 20 vehicles. The commitment each of these award recipients displayed is an example to many and raises the bar when it comes to unselfish service to the public.



Exceptional Service Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Street Racing Team, and Colonel
Matt Langer



Eagle Squadron Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Gustavo Culbeaux, and Colonel
Matt Langer

Eagle Squadron Award

*Each year, the Eagle Squadron Award is presented to the
Minnesota State Patrol trooper who arrested the greatest number
of impaired drivers the previous year.*

Trooper Gustavo Culbeaux (West Metro District)

Impaired driving enforcement continues to be job number one for every State Patrol trooper. Aggressive enforcement in this important area saves countless lives and injuries each year. In 2022, Trooper Gustavo Culbeaux arrested 171 impaired drivers. This is the fourth year in a row Trooper Culbeaux has earned this award.



Meritorious Service Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Megan Boser, and Colonel Matt
Langer



Leadership Award [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Tyler Uthe, and Colonel Matt Langer

Leadership Award:

This award is presented yearly to the employee who consistently exhibits outstanding leadership and excellence in public safety through their personal actions, guidance, direction and professional involvement.

Lt. Tyler Uthe (East Metro District)

Lt. Tyler Uthe is a sought-after leader in assisting, organizing and documenting operations. He always answers his phone and has a can-do attitude. His demeanor is calm and collected. During the past year, he has assisted with several special enforcement events on top of his regular duties and responsibilities of FTO, scheduling, community events and recruiting. He is a confident leader and his commitment is an example of unselfish service to the agency, his partners and the public.



Civilian Employee of the Year [Pictured Left to Right]:
Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Ray French, and Colonel Matt Langer

Civilian Employee of the Year:

This award is presented to the non-sworn employee who best demonstrates outstanding work performance, initiative, leadership and effective interpersonal relations.

Ray French (Headquarters)

Ray French has worked for the Department of Public Safety for 38 years, 20 of those with the State Patrol. Ray exemplifies the mission and positively impacts the people of our agency. Whether it is purchasing items for the warehouse, assisting districts with purchasing questions or acting as backup for the office phones, he is always willing to step up and do what needs to be done. His humility, commitment, honesty, integrity and resilience make him a true leader.

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Vintage Vehicles

Submitted By Lt. John Farmakes

What a great day to spend meeting members of the Twin Cities Model A Ford Club and to get acquainted with all of the vehicles! It was so nice to meet many of the people who helped build the Model A and hear how they worked together over twenty-five years ago with former state patrol troopers to make the car a reality.

Thank you to TC Model A Ford Club President Jerome Bokelmann for holding their club's coffee social meeting at the Fleet Shop. Please pass our gratitude on to your members for educating our group on the vehicle's history, proper maintenance and start up and operating procedures. We hope to continue this great partnership and meet annually to get our members together.

A special thanks to Kevin Bergstedt at MN DOT Fleet Shop for accommodating today's meeting and for all of his help assisting our members throughout the day.

Thank you to Blake Cederstrom and the Troopers Association for picking up many cleaning supplies which should last our group for a while (supplies are located in Harley trailer – remove them before trailering please)

Our members did a great job meticulously cleaning each of the vehicles and helping each other. It was great to see our members in action working together and enjoying conversations with members of the TC Model A Club - Thank you for coming and for all of the great work!

I will send a second email to our group which outlines some of the start-up and operating procedures for VVAC members who could not attend today.

Nice work everyone and thank you again!

John ♦





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Feb 24, 2023, Trooper Tony Nelson #566 and I (Brett Westbrook #167) participated in the annual Guns and Hoses charity hockey game held at the Super Rink in Blaine, hosted by the Lino Lakes police department. The event raises money for a selected non-profit and this year's beneficiary was Protectors' Peak. Protectors' Peak is a non-profit, faith-based organization focusing

on the wellness of 1st responders. Originating in MN, the non-profit occupies a conference center in the mountains of Calder, Idaho where numerous outdoor activities and recreational opportunities combine with great food and spiritual influence to help 1st responders through some of their stress. ♦



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Pre-registration preferred by
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The MPPOA D.C. Fly-In

The MPPOA DC Fly In is an annual legislative conference held in Washington DC over 3 days that is typically held in March of every year. Covid 19 has altered some of these conferences the last couple years but the 2023 conference was back on track. The MPPOA conference allows the MPPOA delegation from Minnesota to express and voice concerns relating to the police profession.

MSPTA President Mike Ledoux and I were the attendees this year from the MSPTA. Captain Chip Lemon and Lieutenant Pat Miles attended on the supervisors behalf.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 was an early morning flight from Minneapolis to Washington DC. Once we were in DC, we loaded onto a bus and headed to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. This Museum is a lasting tribute to the commitment and accomplishments, and sacrifices of U.S. Marines. There are many exhibits and things to see and it was impossible to take in every one during our time there. I found the Mount Suribachi Flags to be especially interesting. I did not know there were two flags raised over Mount Suribachi in 1945. A smaller flag was raised earlier in the day later replaced by the iconic wind torn flag that many of us can recognize from Joe Rosenthal's famous photo symbolizing victory and heroism.

After the Museum tour, we loaded back onto the bus and headed back into Washington D.C. and checked into the Phoenix Park Hotel. President Ledoux and I took some time before dinner and walked around looking at the many sights to see in D.C. We walked around the U.S. Capitol complex, the Supreme Court and the National Museum of the American Indian. The Phoenix Park Hotel hosted a very impressive dinner that evening featuring Dave Titus' favorite crab cakes. I have never eaten crab cakes before but I will say they were delicious.

On Wednesday, March 8, we walked over to the Capitol to meet Minnesota's delegation of Senators and U.S. Representatives. Throughout the day the MPPOA addressed its concerns to Minnesota's delegation and offered

ideas on what would be helpful and important to the Law Enforcement Profession back in Minnesota.

Most of Minnesota's delegation of Senators and Representatives addressed the MPPOA members this year. Representative Dean Phillips was out of the country in Vietnam on some personal business and was unable to address our group this year but has done so in the past. To nobody's surprise, Representative Ilhan Omar chose once again to not address our group which is a reoccurring theme with her.

The Phoenix Park Hotel again hosted an amazing dinner. I will be completely transparent and admit I overindulged in crab cakes and remoulade sauce once again.

Thursday morning, March 9 we flew back to Minnesota. This legislative conference was a very quick three days. Some might question the significance of this legislative conference being so short and the limited time with our elected delegation. I would offer that relationships in politics drive change and candid conversations face to face are important to achieving this.

Stay safe

Blake #425 ♦

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Law Enforcement Memorial

On May 18, the Southeastern Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation hosted its annual Law Enforcement Memorial Program in Rochester. ♦

Pictured at the unveiling of the Law Enforcement Memorial Wall (L-R):
 Trp. Nic Swanson, Trp. Anthony Kaiser, Jean Musgjerd (cousin of Fallen Trooper Corporal Ted Foss), Trp. Kara Schmidt, Lt. Sam Mielke, Lt. Heath Dienger



On May 20, Sgt. Mark Lund (2500) and Trp. Jake Miller (2400), members of the Vintage Vehicle Advisory Committee, attended the Back the Badge car show at the



Crossroads Mall in Saint Cloud. One of the many visitors taking a look at the 1979 Dodge St. Regis and the 1930 Harley Davidson was Sophia who is a frequent visitor of police departments across the state delivering homemade cookies with mom, Connie. Retired Trooper Dwayne Bernt (SP455) joined by his son, granddaughter and two great grandchildren also took a look at the St. Regis, which is a squad car he drove during his career. ♦

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Job Well Done!

Trooper Jake Miller (2400) received the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association's Medal of Honor award for his actions in rushing an injured Roseville Police Officer to Regions Hospital. Suffering a gunshot wound to the face, time was of the essence for Trooper Miller to get him to the hospital. Trooper Miller's quick action certainly contributed to the Officer's recovery. An example of remarkable resiliency, the injured Officer is back to work and was incredibly humble as he recognized all of the people who contributed to his recovery. ♦



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Pederson retires as a Minnesota State Trooper

Reprinted with approval. By Robin Fish | Park Rapids Enterprise

Trooper Sue Pederson has served with the Minnesota State Patrol at four stations, most recently as station sergeant for the Park Rapids-Walker station.

Contributed / Dion Pederson

State Trooper Sue Pederson has retired after a 33-and-a-half-year career with the Minnesota State Patrol (MSP).

Her name, she said, is near the top of the seniority roster for MSP road troopers, and she may be the last member of her academy class to retire.

“It’s been a good ride,” she said. “It’s been a good job. It’s provided for my family. I’ve met a lot of wonderful people along the way.”

Originally from the small town of Balaton in southwestern Minnesota, Pederson earned a two-year degree in law enforcement at Alexandria Tech in 1989, where she met her husband, Dion.

At that time, they both applied for jobs with the MSP. She was offered the job; he wasn’t. After clearing a medical and psychological exam, she attended what was then an 11-week academy in Arden Hills.

“That’s changed,” said Pederson. “That is considerably longer now.”

Sue retired Monday as station sergeant of the MSP’s Park Rapids-Walker station, a position she has held for about six years. The station’s six troopers patrol Hubbard County and the northern part of Cass County.

Meanwhile, she’d continued to serve as a road trooper and, at times, as a field training officer and background investigator.

Asked why she chose to retire now, Sue said that having started at age 21, she has already reached the age when she can retire with full benefits. “I was eligible for an early out at age 50,” she said. “That’s still being offered. That’s always something that could change.

“We’re mandatory out at age 60. Sitting down with MSRS (Minnesota State Retirement System), they said, ‘You stick around, you’re basically losing money.’ So, it’s time to go.”



Sue Pederson and husband Dion pose together in 1989, at the start of her career as a Minnesota State Trooper and while he was working as a Norman County Sheriff’s deputy. Dion later joined the State Patrol as well, retiring from law enforcement in 2019.

Contributed / Dion Pederson

Married troopers make it work

In retirement, she said, “I want to learn how to sleep again. I want to, hopefully, start getting better, more quality sleep, and probably just take that time to take overall better care of myself.”

Pederson added that she and Dion – who retired from MSP in 2019 – plan to do some traveling, including seeing their three children: Nolan, 22; Alex, 27, who lives in Tennessee; and Nicole, 29, who is engaged to be married.

Sue served in four State Patrol stations, starting with eight-and-a-half years at Ada-Mahnomen, followed by one year in Aitkin – 1997, the year when Dion did join the State Patrol – and a year in Little Falls. She recalls it as a difficult time for the couple while they commuted in different directions, served in different districts, had radios programmed differently and schedules that “were not friendly.”

She moved to the Park Rapids-Walker station in 1999.

“We have had a great friendship,” she said when asked how their partnership survived all this. “From there, it grew. There’s just that mutual respect. And it was good knowing what he was up to. I understood what his job entailed, and he understood what mine entailed.”

Interesting experiences

Pederson recalled “so many wonderful, five-minute-or-less conversations that I’ve had with people” over the years, including many people who didn’t necessarily want to see her at the time.

She shared a few memories, such as pulling over a group of women going to a bachelorette party who said, “You need to join us! You’ve got to come!” And again, sharing a “happy birthday” with a child in a car. Wishing a bride-to-be well on her adventure, and admonishing her to stay off the roads.

“Being there for people at their low points as well,” said Pederson. “There certainly has been a lot of sadness with the job, too. As easy as this job can be, it certainly isn’t a job for everyone.”

She recalled crossing paths with people who said they were on their way home after a death in the family, or that their health was rapidly failing – though she sometimes learned they weren’t telling the truth. “Certainly, they’re not going to do any good for anybody if they don’t get there in one place, either,” she said.

She recalled one Christmas Eve when she picked up a man who was walking along the side of the highway, late at night in cold weather. He told her he was traveling from Iowa to somewhere about an hour-and-a-half north of Park Rapids, trying to get home for Christmas, and had gone part-way by bus.

She drove him part of the way before handing him off to a trooper on the Bemidji station, who took him from there. Later, Pederson said, she learned that the man had been in prison in Iowa for assaulting a police officer.

“It wouldn’t have changed anything that I would have done that night, other than it probably would have made me a little more concerned,” she said. “He served his time. However he got there, with his first encounter with law enforcement, on that particular night, in the spirit of Christmas, he ended up getting a ride nearly all the way home from law enforcement. So, I hope it made an impact in his life, too, for the better.”

Pederson said her mom has told her that her work has made her hard. “I said, ‘No, this hasn’t made me hard, mom. I’m still very, very compassionate. Matter of fact, I don’t think you can do this job effectively if you remove compassion from the position.’”

She said the job also requires a lot of patience and listening skills. She said she never had her mind made up to issue a citation as she approached a stopped vehicle.



Sue Pederson retired Monday, April 3 after a 33-and-a-half career as a Minnesota state trooper.



‘I made an impact’

“It’s bittersweet,” Pederson said regarding how it feels to close this chapter of her life. “I know my time mattered. I know I made an impact.

“Everything is constantly changing. The profession is constantly changing. The world is changing.”

She voiced disappointment that law enforcement is not getting the appreciation it deserves. “I think about the different sacrifices that we’ve all taken,” she said. “I’d like to see the oath that law enforcement officers take out there more often (on posters, etc.), so people see what we’re signing up for, like putting others before yourselves.”

She added that she’s thankful to make it to the end of her career, though it’s been a few years since it scared her if the phone rang in the middle of the night. “I always knew that one of us would have been going, and the last few years, I always knew it was me that was going to be going.”

She said a lot of people will be relieved that her career is coming to a close, acknowledging that many people have prayed for her safety and that of others in her profession.

“I would ask that they continue those prayers,” she said. “Others are going to need them, too.” ♦



Mars Properties is a property management company that specializes in remodeling and home improvements.

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Brady/Giglio- What Does It Mean and How Does It Affect Me?

By Mark Schneider, LELS General Counsel

Much has been said and written about Brady/Giglio, Brady lists, Brady cops, Brady impairment and Brady disclosures. Brady issues permeate criminal trials, discipline, POST Board licensing and, ultimately, an officer's chosen career.

In 1963 the United States Supreme Court held that, "The suppression by the prosecution of evidence favorable to an accused upon request violates due process where the evidence is either material to guilt or to punishment, irrespective of the good or bad faith of the prosecution." *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, 87 (1963). The United States Supreme Court later clarified the Brady disclosure obligation by stating that Brady material extends to impeachment evidence so long as that evidence satisfies the materiality requirement of Brady. *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150, 154 (1972). This requires a showing that, "The false testimony could . . . in any reasonable likelihood have affected the judgment of the jury . . ." *Id.*

Historically, officers who have lied, intentionally mishandled evidence, used unauthorized deadly force or committed crimes of dishonesty were considered Brady impaired and were, therefore, placed on a Brady list by the prosecuting authority. Brady requires disclosure by the prosecuting attorney. As a result, the discretion lies with the county attorney to determine whether an officer's previous conduct must be disclosed to the defense in any particular case. It is not a determination that should be made by the officer's employer. Nonetheless, many employers are making findings and determinations as part of an internal affairs investigation that the officer is Brady impaired and can no longer be employed by that particular agency.

Similarly, the Minnesota POST Board intends to amend its rules governing applicants for a peace officer license and standards of conduct for licensees to disclose a Brady impairment when there is an investigative or court finding of such impairment. The reach of Brady has expanded well beyond what began as a prosecuting attorney's disclosure obligation to potentially affecting an officer's livelihood, career choice and ability to obtain or maintain their peace officer license in the State of Minnesota.

During the POST Board rule making process, it became readily apparent that of the 87 county attorneys in the State of Minnesota, each had their own interpretation of Brady disclosure and whether an officer is Brady impaired. In response to objections by law enforcement, the POST Board pared down its previous Brady rule language by requiring an investigation or court finding of a Brady impairment to trigger the reporting requirement to the POST Board. However, this new language is still problematic since it does not adequately address the reality that there is no uniform policy or understanding of a Brady designation or disclosure requirement in the State of Minnesota. This is problematic on all levels, including an officer's ability to testify in court, the officer's continued employment with a particular agency and their ability to maintain their peace officer's license in Minnesota.

In response, LELS drafted legislation to specify that a Brady designation standing alone cannot support discipline or termination of employment. The proposed legislation, likewise, requires the assembly of a work group involving relevant stakeholders to come up with a uniform Brady procedure that would be applied consistently throughout Minnesota. In addition to proposing factors that would trigger a Brady designation, the work group would craft a procedure to allow an officer to contest placement on a Brady list, while creating a procedure for removal from the list at a later time.

If you are notified of an IA investigation that involves a set of facts that may lead to a Brady issue, you should reach out to your district representative /attorney to ensure that your rights are protected and that the handling of the investigation is reasonable and appropriate. In the event your employer would make a finding of a Brady impairment (which is not for the employer to determine), your district representative/attorney can take the action necessary to further ensure the findings are supported, reasonable, necessary and appropriate; especially in light of the consequences of such a finding beyond the internal affairs investigation, including POST Board licensing and career consequences. ♦

SHERBURNE COUNTY SAFE ROADS COALITION 2023 VIDEO CONTEST

Sherburne County Safe Roads Coalition will be holding its **2nd Annual** video contest for high school students. Last year's winning video was submitted by students from Princeton High School's SADD Chapter. The students also won the statewide Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Emerging Leader Award for their video. Please see additional document for official rules.

What to Submit: A 30 - 60 second original video on the dangers of speeding, no seat belt use, and/or distracted driving. These are 3 of the 4 leading factors of fatal crashes in Minnesota.

Who Can Submit: Any individual or group currently enrolled in high school at a participating district.

Deadline: Submissions and waivers must be received by **February 28, 2023** to be eligible. Video submissions can be emailed directly to Geoffrey.Dowty@co.sherburne.mn.us.

Prizes: Various businesses and organizations continue to support our youth and traffic safety initiatives. Below is a sample of prizes that are available to be distributed for winning video(s).

STATE FARM[®] INSURANCE AGENT
Curt Van Oort

\$350 Cash

Princeton



\$100 Cash

NCIA NORTH CENTRAL
Insurance Agency

**\$200 Cash, Travel Mug,
Chap Stick**

Elk River



\$45 in Gift Cards

Zimmerman



**\$20 Gift Card, Shaker
Cup, and Sticker**

Becker



(2) Sauce Bottles

Elk River



\$60 in Gift Cards

Princeton



Walmart

\$200 in Gift Cards

Elk River



**\$3 Coupon for All
Entries and Free
Drinks for Winners**

Becker



(2) Large Pizzas

Zimmerman



(2) Day Passes

Becker

KWIK TRIP

\$40 in Gift Cards

Big Lake



Example videos can be found:

- 2022 Winning Video: "Dangers of Distracted Driving - Student PSA" (YouTube)
- "Towards Zero Deaths Driving Safety PSA" (YouTube)

Website Resources:

- Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety Traffic Topics
- State Farm Teen Texting and Driving

Sherburne County Safe Roads Coalition 2023 Video Contest

Contest Rules:

1. Students' entries will be a 30-60 second video showing the dangers of speeding, no seat belt use, or distracted driving.
2. Any individual or group currently enrolled in high school at a participating district is eligible to enter.
3. Each submission must be authentic, originally created by the entrant(s), and allowed to be used by the Sherburne County TZD Safe Roads Coalition.
4. Sponsor reserves the right to reject any submission that Sponsor, in its sole discretion, deems obscene, offensive, inappropriate, objectionable, or in bad taste, or that infringes on any third party's intellectual property rights.
5. Maximum of one (1) entry per person or group. Sponsor will not verify receipt of entries. Entries become property of the Sponsor. Sponsor is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected, incomprehensible, illegible, or damaged entries.
6. Entries can be submitted via email to geoffrey.dowty@co.sherburne.mn.us. All entrant(s) will need to sign a waiver before their video will be eligible to win.
7. The material must be the original work of the person(s) submitting the video. The top submissions will be selected by the Safe Roads Coalition and will receive cash, prizes, and gift cards donated from area businesses. Entrant(s) understand that their material will be reproduced and used by public service agencies for promotion and distribution and the creator of the video agrees to the use. With the permission of the top submitter (and/or their guardian as applicable), a press release will be promulgated identifying the student(s) and highlighting their work.





37TH ANNUAL M.S.P.T.A. TROOPER/GUEST GOLF TOURNAMENT

This Year's event will be held at Thumper Pond Golf Course in Ottertail
on Wednesday, July 19th and Thursday, July 20th 2023.

All active and retired Troopers, Supervisors, RCO's, CVI'S, Support Staff and their guests are eligible

The cost per person is \$150.00 for the event. Cost includes 2 rounds of golf, cart, range facilities, 2 course lunches and a banquet meal on Wednesday evening. Breakfast buffet will be available on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Additional evening banquet tickets will also be available.

The golf format will be the same as in year's past with the first day 2-person net best ball followed by a 4-person scramble.

A maximum of 144 golfers will be accepted.

A shotgun start at 10:00 am for the first day and 9:00 am on the second day. Registrations will be on Tuesday evening and 8:00 am on Wednesday.

Practice round will be available on Tuesday for \$50.00 (includes cart).

Please call the Pro Shop for Tee Times. 218-367-6501

Lodging has been reserved at Thumper Pond at the rate of \$119.95 per night. Ask for the State Trooper room rate. Call Thumper Pond direct for your reservations: 877-294-7981 or 218-367-2000.

All registrations for the tournament must be paid by May 19th if you want to receive your early registraion prize. To help facilitate and properly plan this event please fill out the registration form and submit with payment and contact information.

Make checks payable to:

Dayle Peterson or MSPTA Golf Tournament

Please submit to:

Dayle Peterson

Box 1866

Detroit Lakes, MN 56502

papeters@tekstar.com or call 218-841-3741



Name: _____ HDCP: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

***Email:** _____

Name: _____ HDCP: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

***Email:** _____

Team you want to play with on Wednesday: (Optional) _____

INCENTIVES THIS YEAR!

12 Major Hole Sponsors at \$1000+ which will include:

2 Golfers, 1 night free lodging, and prizes exclusive to the twelve Major Hole Sponsors.

18 Hole Sponsors at \$100+ which will include:

Sponsor Hole Recognition

A selection of the dinner choices will be sent/e-mailed out later to participants

“Come early! Stay late!” Register early and Thumper Pond will honor their “Special Room” rates for days prior to or after the event if you want to extend your stay. 4 Water park passes are included with your room.

Call Dayle for complete details or get contact name and number and he will contact them.

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we say Thank You!



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