



# TEAM DPS

# HI-LIGHTS

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS  
PROTECTING. EDUCATING. SERVING.

2019 | FIRST QUARTER

## SCDPS Introduces New Equipment to Enhance Public, Officer Safety



SCDPS troopers and officers training with new rifle.

SCDPS has recently introduced two new tools that will enhance safety for both our law enforcement and the public.

Troopers were recently issued AR-15 rifles to replace department shotguns. In addition, the department will introduce StarChase around the beginning of July, which is aimed at helping to minimize and shorten police pursuits.

The department announced the introduction of the first installment of rifles – 300 – in January. These rifles are designated as an FN-15 Patrol Rifle, which is the same as the AR-15 rifle. The rifle comes equipped with a sixteen-inch barrel and a thirty-round magazine. Each enforcement trooper/officer will be issued an FN-15 Patrol Rifle, sling, and three thirty-round magazines for duty use.

When the rifles were introduced, Director Leroy Smith said: “The DPS patrol rifle will be an invaluable law enforcement tool when circumstances arise where law enforcement officers find themselves increasingly outgunned by perpetrators possessing sophisticated and high-powered weaponry. In recent news, we can see that school shootings and violent crimes are increasing at an alarming rate. The shotgun and pistol have their place in law enforcement, but with the events that have been occurring, law enforcement needs to have the ability to respond appropriately when the perpetrator is armed with an assault rifle.”

Prior to the purchase of the rifles, SCDPS had 140 rifles in its inventory.

*...Continued on page 6*





## Upcoming Events

### Director's Walk

Last Friday of Each Month  
11:45 a.m.

### SCHP Basic Graduation

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
June 11  
2 p.m.

### SCDPS Employee Appreciation

#### Luncheon / Awards

June 14 - Troop 6, 7  
June 17 - Troop 4, 5  
June 18 - BPS, STP  
June 19 - Troop 1, 2  
June 21 - Blythewood HQ  
June 24 - Troop 3

### Fireflies Game-State Employees Night

June 15

### Independence Day Holiday

July 4

### Operation Southern Shield Speed Campaign

July 14-20

### SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame

Meritorious Award Ceremony  
October 17

### Sober or Slammer DUI Challenge

August 14-September 2

### Labor Day Holiday

September 2

### Child Passenger Safety Week

September 15-21

### Veterans Day Holiday

November 11

### Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28-29

**Do you have an upcoming event or news item for SCDPS Hi-Lights? Contact Gwen Carroll in the Communications Office at [GwenCarroll@scdps.gov](mailto:GwenCarroll@scdps.gov).**

## A Message from Director Leroy Smith



I am pleased to share an update with you about some of the exciting developments at SCDPS this Spring and as we transition into summer.

As you have seen from our front page, we have a lot of activity on the equipment front with the introduction of new department-issued rifles and StarChase to assist in mitigating pursuits. Additionally, we are so pleased to see that Governor Henry McMaster and the General Assembly awarded an across-the-board pay increase as well as a one-time bonus for state employees making \$70,000 or less, and

the addition of the master trooper rank for SCDPS officers, which will become effective July 1, 2019.

The implementation of the Master Trooper/Officer rank is for existing non-supervisory troopers/officers (i.e., Lance Corporals) who have served ten (10) years as a law enforcement officer with DPS. The attainment of the Master Trooper/Officer rank is not based on a competitive process. It is, as stated above, based on years of service as a law enforcement officer with DPS. The agency will receive \$711,200 in recurring funds for this new rank.

The two percent general increase led us to re-evaluate our current law enforcement career path plan. As law enforcement across the nation struggles with recruiting and retention, we know that we must continue to fight to raise the pay of those who are putting their lives on the line every day to serve. To that end, it is important that we continue to maintain this progress and incorporate the two percent pay increase into our existing law enforcement career path plan. With the new general increase, starting pay for troopers and officers will now increase from \$38,273 to \$39,038, which means new hires will benefit and not fall behind their peers as they progress through the rank structure. In addition, this new law enforcement career path plan—which becomes effective July 1, 2019—will apply to future promotions as well.

Additional highlights of this year's budget: Recurring Funds to Purchase Law Enforcement Vehicles: DPS received an additional \$1.3 million in recurring funds to purchase law enforcement vehicles. This \$1.3 million is in addition to the \$2 million in recurring funds that we currently receive; Non-Recurring Funds to Purchase Law Enforcement Vehicles: Received an additional \$500,000 in non-recurring funds to purchase law enforcement vehicles; Recurring Funds to Establish a Radio Replacement System: Received \$1 million in recurring funds to establish a rotational system to replace portable and mobile 800 MHz radios.

In addition to this good budget news, we also examined our Telecommunications area and made adjustments to the entry level pay. We know that our Telecommunications Officers are critical to public safety and the safety of our SCDPS law enforcement. Therefore, I am pleased that we were able to raise TCO entry level salaries from \$26,988 to \$31,036.

Finally, you will see an update regarding our new case management system. There has been significant progress made on creating a one-stop shop for troopers/officers to enter information.

I am so excited about all of these developments on the forefront. I cannot emphasize enough how proud I am of the work that our team members do each day. I want to wish all of you a happy and safe summer and reiterate to you how much my leadership team and I appreciate your continued dedication to service.



## The 97th Governor's Inauguration Ceremony at the State House



SCDPS law enforcement, including Bureau of Protective Services, Highway Patrol and State Transport Police assisted in providing safety and security during Gov. Henry McMaster's Inauguration Ceremony on January 9.

## SCHP Honor Guard Assists With Lying-in-State for Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings



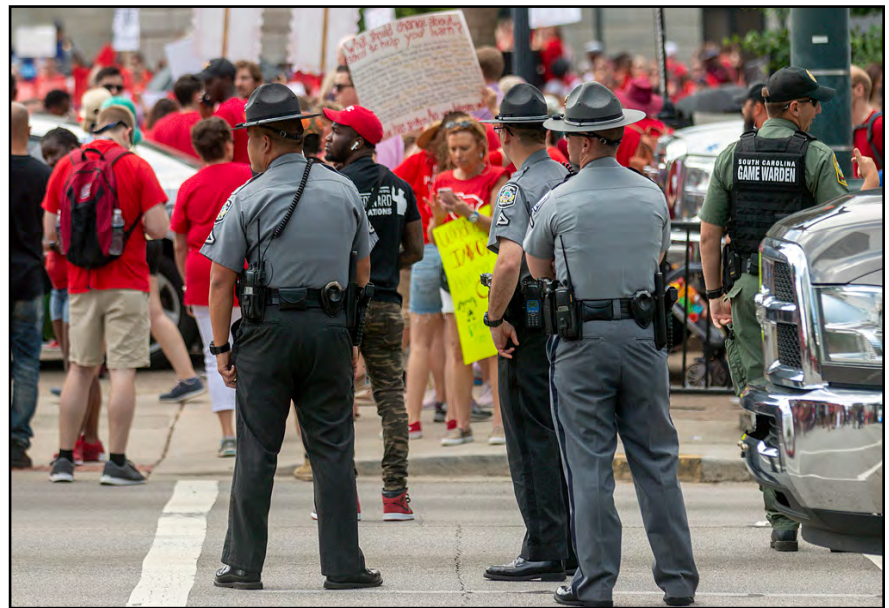
SCDPS Honor Guard members assist in the escort of Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings' body into the State House for the lying-in-state on April 15, 2019. Hollings served in Congress from 1966 to 2005 and prior to serving as a U.S. senator, Hollings also served as South Carolina's lieutenant governor from 1955 to 1959, and as governor from 1959 to 1963.



## SCDPS, Other Law Enforcement Agencies Keep Over 10,000 Citizens Safe During Historic Teacher's Rally at State House on May 1



Thousands of educators from across South Carolina joined together at the South Carolina State House on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, for the #AllOutMay1 teacher's rally, organized by SC for Education. BPS, joined by SCHP and STP, worked to ensure safety for rally participants.



Photos Courtesy of Tom Johnson



# SCDPS Remembers Highway Fatality Victims During Memorial Service



The South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) held its annual Highway Fatality Memorial Service on Saturday, April 27, to remember those killed in 2018 traffic collisions on South Carolina roadways.

The Memorial Service, which has taken place annually since 1988, was held at Trinity Baptist Church in Cayce, SC, and drew hundreds of family members and friends of those killed on South Carolina roadways in 2018. People from across South Carolina, as well as other states – including some as far away as Ohio and Florida – attended the ceremony.

In 2018, 1,038 motorists lost their lives on South Carolina roadways.

Senior Pastor Dr. Eddie Coakley, of Trinity Baptist Church-Cayce, delivered the “Message of Hope.” SCDPS Director Leroy Smith also offered words of comfort and condolence to the families. Music was provided by the Grace Christian School Choir of Cayce. Assistance with the service was provided by the staff of Trinity Baptist Church-Cayce and the Cayce Department of Public Safety.

“Every year, this ceremony stands as a sheer reminder of the pain that highway fatalities cause for the grieving families who have lost loved ones on our state’s roadways,” said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. “Our law enforcement officers and first responders must remain vigilant and continue to focus on our mission of Target Zero highway deaths.”

The SCDPS Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) coordinates the service, which includes participation from SCDPS law enforcement divisions, first responders, and public safety agencies from across the state.



*I attended the memorial service for Highway Fatality victims on April 27, 2019. On August 14, 2018, my wife, Deborah Alice Moore and I were involved in an automobile accident in Myrtle Beach, SC. On August 15, 2018, my wife past away from her injuries. We were just 18 days away from our 13th wedding anniversary.*

*I retired August 1, 2014. We moved to Little River, SC in January 2016. We were so looking forward to retirement and growing old together.*

*From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my family I thank you for the incredible and moving memorial service. I wish I could thank each participant personally. It has meant so my much to me. God Bless.*

*Sincerely,*

*Wayne H. Moore, Little River, SC*



## SCDPS Law Enforcement Gets New Equipment



for ACERT, CERT, and for officers who fail to qualify with the new weapon.

SCDPS began an intense round of training for troopers on February 4, which consisted of a four-day (32 hours) training session. There will be twelve training sessions per year, and this was the first.

The department also announced in May the introduction of StarChase Vehicle Mounted GPS Launcher System -- a proven, less-lethal, 21st century technology that provides a significant tactical advantage to law enforcement officers in pursuits involving failure-to-yield or high-risk flight situations.

The system utilizes an air-propelled tag (dart) deployed from the pursuit vehicle which attaches to a violator's vehicle. Once a vehicle is tagged, it enables telecommunications personnel to track the suspect in real time using a web-based mapping program. As a result, a potentially dangerous pursuit is avoided, and the offender can then be safely apprehended—ultimately reducing the risk to the public, the violator, and law enforcement officers.

*continued from page 1*

Most of these rifles were issued to ACERT, CERT, and Training. In an effort to outfit each trooper/officer (sergeant and below), SCDPS will eventually purchase a total of 600 rifles—the initial purchase of 300 rifles in 2019, with the intent of purchasing an additional 300 rifles in 2020. A portion of the shotguns will be retained by DPS

## STP Enforces Operation Safe Drive on I-85 and I-95



Operation Safe Drive was enforced on March 3-5, 2019, in Region II on interstates 85 and 95. This operation is done to target impaired, aggressive, distracted and reckless commercial motor vehicle drivers.



# TEAM DPS HI-LIGHTS

## Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Honors Nine Law Enforcement Officers

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame held an induction ceremony Wednesday, May 1, 2019, for nine South Carolina law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty last year. Six of the officers lost their lives serving in 2018 while three were from decades ago, discovered last year through research.

was defined “as a memorial to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty and in recognition of the selfless dedication of all law enforcement officers in the day-to-day performance of their duties.”

There are now 384 officers who hold a place of honor in the Hall of Fame Memorial Room.

The Hall of Fame is part of the SC Department of Public Safety and was established by a legislative act in 1974. By that act, its purpose



**Detective Michael R. Doty**  
*York County Sheriff's Office*  
January 17, 2018



**Corporal Dale S. Hallman**  
*Saluda County Sheriff's Office*  
April 6, 2018



**Master Deputy James L. Kirk, Jr.**  
*Lancaster County Sheriff's Office*  
April 24, 2018



**Sergeant Terrence F. Carraway**  
*Florence Police Department*  
October 3, 2018



**Investigator Farrah B. Turner**  
*Florence County Sheriff's Office*  
October 22, 2018



**Deputy Jerry L. Hurd, Jr.**  
*Richland County Sheriff's Department*  
November 8, 2018



**Officer H. Bascomb Cannon**  
*Abbeville Police Department*  
November 10, 1921



**Officer Hosea O. Martin**  
*Laurens Police Department*  
December 14, 1921



**Officer Charlie Smith**  
*Duncan Police Department*  
June 23, 1939



20  
18

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## DUI CHALLENGE CEREMONIES

### SCDPS Honors Officers, Agencies for 2018 DUI Enforcement Efforts

On March 27, 2019, the SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) recognized law enforcement officers and agencies for their efforts in 2018 to enforce the state’s DUI laws and remove impaired drivers from South Carolina roadways.

SCDPS presented awards to officers and agencies in several categories during the 14th Annual DUI Enforcement Recognition and 2018 Law Enforcement DUI Challenge Ceremonies.

*The following is a complete list of winners:*

**Officer of the Year (five categories based on size of agency):**

- 1-10 officers: Officer Blake Gainous, Chapin Police Department, 18 DUI arrests
- 11-25 officers: Sergeant Jason L. Boggess, Port Royal Police Department, 19 DUI arrests
- 26-50 officers: Lance Corporal Justin Reichard, Hartsville Police Department, 52 DUI arrests
- 51-100 officers: Master Patrolman Kyle Gilbert, University of South Carolina Police Department, 52 DUI arrests
- 101 or more officers: Patrolman First Class Chad Allen Gantt, North Charleston Police Department, 133 DUI arrests

**Rookie of the Year:**

- Rookie of the Year: Class I Patrol Officer Bethany Jeanne Hopkins, Bluffton Police Department, 29 DUI arrests

**Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year:**

- Trooper Whitney P. McMahon, Troop 2, Post B, 67 DUI arrests

**Highway Patrol Troop of the Year:**

- Troop 5 (Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties), 2,392 DUI arrests

**State Transport Police District of the Year:**

- Region Three (Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Greenville, and Spartanburg counties)

**South Carolina Law Enforcement Network Award:**

- 15th Circuit (Horry and Georgetown counties)



**Agency of the Year (five categories based on size of agency):**

- 1-10 officers: Chapin Police Department, 33 DUI arrests
- 11-25 officers: Surfside Beach Police Department, 121 DUI arrests
- 26-50 officers: Bluffton Police Department, 264 DUI arrests
- 51-100 officers: Mauldin Police Department, 137 DUI arrests
- 101 or more officers: Mount Pleasant Police Department, 293 DUI arrests

**2018 Law Enforcement DUI Challenge Network Winners:**

- First Place: 15th Circuit Law Enforcement Network
- Second Place: 6th Circuit Law Enforcement Network
- Third Place: 16th Circuit Law Enforcement Network

**The following special presentations were also awarded:**

**MADD Drug Recognition Expert of the Year:**

- Ira Grossman, Town of Mount Pleasant

**MADD Barry Barnette DUI Prosecutor of the Year:**

- Trooper First Class James C. Welsh, SCHP Troop 1

*In addition, officers who made 10 or more DUI arrests were recognized as DUI Heroes and received pins in bronze, silver, or gold to honor their DUI arrest accomplishments in 2018.*

**For a complete list of award winners, view the press release online at: <https://scdps.sc.gov/news/2019/032719>**





# TEAM DPS HI-LIGHTS



Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year: Trooper Whitney P. McMahon, Troop 2, Post B



Highway Patrol Troop of the Year: Troop 5



State Transport Police District of the Year: Region 3



Rookie of the Year: Class I Patrol Officer Bethany Jeanne Hopkins, Bluffton Police Department



Agency of the Year: 1-10 officers: Chapin Police Department



Agency of the Year: 26-50 officers: Bluffton Police Department



Agency of the Year: 51-100 officers: Mauldin Police Department



Agency of the Year: 101 or more officers: Mt. Pleasant Police Department



South Carolina Law Enforcement Network Award: 15th Circuit



MADD Drug Recognition Expert of the Year: Ira Grossman, Town of Mt. Pleasant (Not Present)



MADD Barry Barnette DUI Prosecutor of the Year: TFC James C. Welsh, SCHP Troop 1

Agency of the Year: 11-25 officers: Surfside Beach Police Department, not present.



## State Transport Police Names New Region Commander for Region Three



Col. Taylor, Sgt. Adam Heitzenrater and Capt. Dean Dill

Sgt. Adam Heitzenrater will be the new Region Commander for Region Three headquartered in Greenville, SC.

## Retired HP Trooper Johnson Given Commission by Captain Craven



L to R: Sgt. K. N. Brown, Capt. S. A. Craven, Mr. Jerry Johnson, Tpr. M. J. Crowe, Sgt. S. G. Adcox

On March 2, 2019, Captain Stacey Craven and troopers from Troop 3 presented Jerry Johnson with his commission and Troop 3 coin. Johnson is a retired HP Trooper First Class. He was stationed in the Upstate, Chester County and then transferred to Oconee County during his tenure with the SChP. Johnson retired in 1991 from the Weight & Size Division.

## Former SChP Captain Honored with Florence Street Dedication



L to R: Prophet Streater, Capt. J.N. Nell, Maj. Melvin Warren, Col. Chris Williamson and Jon Streater

A former highway patrolman in Florence was honored February 8, 2019. Captain James Lamar Streater will be forever engraved in the Spaulding Heights community with a road dedicated to him near Interstate 95. From 1968 through 2001 he served his community, and now he's being recognized for all of his hard work.

Streater made history as the first African-American state trooper in the Pee Dee, second in the state. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2012, and retired from his post at the federal building to focus on his health. Streater passed away the following year, on August 31, 2013.

## Retired OHSJP Director Receives Max H. Young Distinguished Service Award



Phil Riley and Director Smith

Phil Riley retired as OHSJP director and was honored with the Max H. Young Award on January 4, 2019 by SCDPS Director Leroy Smith and the new OHSJP Director, Mr. John Westerhold.

## OHSJP's Susan Berry Celebrates Her 50th Year as a State Employee



Director Smith, Susan Berry and OHSJP Director Westerhold

Susan Berry, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, was honored February 5, 2019, for 50 years of serving the State of South Carolina and still going strong. SCDPS Director Leroy Smith and OHSJP Director John Westerhold presented her with a certificate of service and appreciation.

## SCHP Community Relations and Recruiting Unit Welcomes New Faces



*TFC Tyler J. Tidwell, Troop 7*



*L/Cpl. Mitchell Ridgeway, Recruiter*



# 2018 TROOPER &



2018 Trooper of the Year Nominees: Front Row: L/Cpl. J.T. Hicks, Sgt. J.T. Leach, Capt. Albert representing L/Cpl. Paul Wilkins, Cpl. P.V. Yacobozzi, Tpr. C.B. Grigg. Back Row: TFC F.A. Virzi, F/Sgt. J.C. Gambrell, L/Cpl. L.C. Porter, L/Cpl. D.L. Wright, L/Cpl. J. Hovis, TFC J.C. Welsh.



2018 Trooper of the Year  
Purple Heart Award Winner  
L/Cpl. Paul M. Wilkins, Troop 4



Medal of Valor Award Winners: L to R: L/Cpl. J.H. Wright (T5); L/Cpl. T.M. Graham (T5), Sgt. F.T. Cherry (T5), L/Cpl. M.L. McKenzie (T5), TFC C. D. Nicholson (T4), Trooper T.D. Landreth (T3).



# TCO OF THE YEAR



Telecommunications Operator of the Year Nominees: L to R: Flissa McEachern, Von Carrigg, Jr., Daniel Valente, Kimeko White



2018 TCO of the Year  
Daniel Valente, Greenville



L to R: Col. Chris Williamson, DeShaun Booker and Dir. Leroy Smith

DeShaun Booker was recognized during the Trooper of the Year Ceremony for his completion of the Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders, Youth Mentoring Program.



All photos can be viewed at  
[www.flickr.com/photos/scdps/albums/72157679699812878](http://www.flickr.com/photos/scdps/albums/72157679699812878)



# SCHP PROMOTIONS | February 2019



Front Row: Sgt. R.D. Martin, L/Cpl. M.D. Burns, F/Sgt. J. Ham, Cpl. C.A. Bostic, L/Cpl. C.G. Bailey, L/Cpl. G.M. Colbert, Col. Williamson, Lt. C.P. Logdon, Cpl. J.P. Dubose, Sgt. T.J. Riddle, Cpl. B.O. Stokes Middle Row: L/Cpl. M.P. Schultz, L/Cpl. B.M. Lynch, L/Cpl. W.S. Boyette, L/Cpl. T.R. Christofaro, L/Cpl. C.M. Thompson, L/Cpl. P.V. Yacobozzi, Cpl. J.H. Lane, L/Cpl. W.C. Flowers, L/Cpl. O.T. McCray, Cpl. W.T. Rhyne, Cpl. D.P. Dodson Back Row: Cpl. J.H. White, L/Cpl. L.D. Perry, Sgt. D.A. McMurry, L/Cpl. R.W. Hampton, Cpl. T.C. Kitchens, L/Cpl. M.C. Johnson, F/Sgt. Q.M. Brown, Cpl. M.L. Gosnell, L/Cpl. J.M. Simmons.



# BPS PROMOTIONS | March 2019



Steven Hallinquest promoted to Corporal and will serve at the State House Division.



Kevin Singleton promoted to Corporal and will serve as the Department Training Officer.



Adam Wassmuth promoted to Corporal and will serve at the State House Division.



## TEAM DPS HI-LIGHTS

# State Transport Police Graduates Two New Officers from CJA



L to R: Capt. Dean Dill, Ofc. P Kirk (Region Four), Col. Leroy Taylor, Ofc. S Brock (Region Six) and Capt. Roy Cloud

## GEM AWARDS



GEM Award: Colonel Chris Williamson and Capt. C.P. Logdon



GEM Award: TFC J.R. Bridwell

## Employee of the 4th Quarter



EOQ: L/Cpl. Dee Brown, L/Cpl. Greg Griggs



EOQ: TFC R.A. Finch



SCHP PROMOTIONS | MAY 2019

Albert Promoted to Major, Region One



Dir. Smith, Major B.J. Albert and Col. Williamson

Manley Promoted to Major, Region Two



Dir. Smith, Major J.T. Manley and Col. Williamson

Gamble Promoted to Captain, Special Operations



Dir. Smith, Captain D.J. Gamble and Col. Williamson

Patterson Promoted to Captain, Troop One



Dir. Smith, Captain E. Patterson and Col. Williamson

Wade Promoted to Captain, Troop 4



Dir. Smith, Captain J.B. Wade and Col. Williamson





## SCHP Protection Detail Recognitions



Lt. Reid Creswell, SLED, Dir. Smith, Lt. Dean Johnson and Col. Williamson

SCHP meritoriously promoted Dean Johnson to the rank of Lieutenant and Brett Lind to the rank of Corporal.

Both gentlemen have done an outstanding job serving the Governor and the First Family, the Department of Public Safety, and the people of the Great State of South Carolina.

Lieutenant Johnson and Corporal Lind will remain on the Governor's Executive Protection Detail.

## SC Criminal Justice Academy Hosts Police Combat League's NRA Regional Police Shooting Championship



Lt. J.M. Spencer, Cpl. J.H. Lane, Sgt. R.B. Pope and Sgt. S.A. Sherriff

On May 4, 2019, the SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame hosted the awards ceremony for the SC Police Combat League's NRA Regional Police Shooting Championship Match. The three day shooting competition was conducted at the SC Criminal Justice Academy and was attended by over 50 law enforcement officers, some traveling from as far away as California, Texas, New York and Florida.



# 2018 BUREAU OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES *Officer of the Year*



**BPS Officer of the Year Overall Winner:** L/Cpl. Anna Fleming, State House Patrol Division -- with Supervisor Sgt. David Spivey



**BPS Officer of the Year Nominee and Winner of the Chief's Award:** L/Cpl. Robert Gibbs, Governor's Mansion Division -- with BPS Chief John Hancock and Director Leroy Smith



**BPS Officer of the Year Nominee:** Officer Caleb Turner, State Agency Support Division -- with BPS Chief John Hancock and Director Leroy Smith



**BPS Officer of the Year Nominee:** L/Cpl. Tammy Williamson, State House Complex Division -- with BPS Chief John Hancock and Director Leroy Smith



## Stress Management and Wellness Training for Law Enforcement Officers



Dr. Nancy K. Bohl-Penrod

SCDPS held its first-ever stress management and wellness training over a two-week period in January and February. All SCDPS law

enforcement, Telecommunications Officers and Executive staff attended.

The training was conducted by Dr. Nancy Bohl-Penrod, Ph.D. who is a psychotherapist and trainer. Dr. Bohl-Penrod holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and a Masters Degree in Counseling/Education. She is the founder and director of The Counseling Team International (TCTI), which is also The Southern California Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

Dr. Bohl-Penrod has extensive experience working with first responders. The department is making plans to hold expanded stress and wellness training again in 2020.

## SCDPS Begins Implementing New Case Management System



Earlier this year, Director Smith tasked our Office of Information Technology, Financial Services, and DPS law enforcement divisions to work together to seek an integrated solution that would streamline the redundant entry process of information into multiple platforms and reduce the amount of time and effort our law enforcement spends on paperwork.

Director Smith said that, “Over the years, as the law enforcement commanders and I have met with personnel and heard your concerns, one of the recurring issues is the time spent on redundant entry of information into multiple platforms.”

To help alleviate this issue, Director Smith announced in March that the department was able to re-allocate existing agency funding for this priority and award a contract, which will build upon the current SmartCop implementation.

The ultimate goal of the integrated system is to provide a “one-stop

shop,” which should result in less of the troopers’ and officers’ time spent on administrative tasks and more time spent on proactive enforcement/patrol activities. The new process would retire aged Highway Patrol, State Transport Police, and Bureau of Protective Services consoles.

Some of the functions that will be enhanced through the new system include: officer activity and equipment; entry of collisions, e-tickets, warnings, incidents, evidence management, and information sharing capabilities. Additional modules for State Transport Police, such as size and weight, will be included. Further, specific functions for the Bureau of Protective Services will also be included. This solution also has important officer-safety implications by delivering expanded “in-car” information.

Over the past few months, SmartCOP has completed many fundamental functions and is currently wrapping up the system design. When finalized the new system will replace the Consoles, Report Beam & Police Central on one platform called SmartCOP RMS.

Some recent accomplishments are:

- Converting data from the Consoles, Report Beam & Police Central Applications to match SmartCop’s format
- Reviewing many business processes for Highway Patrol, State Police and Bureau of Protective Services
- Setting up key IT infrastructure for development and testing and ordering equipment for deployment
- Installing the software modules at SCDPS in the test environment
- Upgrading our current SmartCop modules (CAD) and TCC hardware to interface with the new product.



## Fallen Trooper Service of Remembrance

On April 19, 2019, the South Carolina Highway Patrol remembered the 51 patrolmen and troopers who have given their lives in service to their state. During the ceremony, SCDPS introduced seven new K-9s named in honor of fallen troopers (see photo below). The ceremony has been held each year since 2003 to remember the fallen troopers. In 2012, SCDPS placed the new Highway Patrol Memorial Wall on the grounds at Blythewood Headquarters.





# TEAM DPS HI-LIGHTS

## SCHP Names Mark H. Coates Award Recipients for 2018



TFC Mark H. Coates

The Mark H. Coates Award Ceremony was held on April 19, 2019, at SCDPS Headquarters in Blythewood.

This award is a highly distinguished honor presented to South Carolina state troopers who have excelled in criminal interdiction enforcement. Established in 1991 by the South Carolina Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the award was originally called the Blue Max Award.

It was renamed in 1992 in memory of Trooper First Class Mark H. Coates, an original ACE Team member, who was killed in the line of duty during

a traffic stop. The awards were initially presented at the city, county and state law enforcement levels but have transitioned to include only Highway Patrol.

The scope of the award includes arrests made in: trafficking illegal drugs; recovery of stolen vehicles, currency seizures, capture of convicted felons in possession of a firearm, fugitive apprehension, and counterfeit charges.

The overall Mark H. Coates Award was presented to TFC J.A. Vargo, Troop 8.



L/Cpl. C.J. Woods, Troop 1



Trp. W.P. McMahon, Troop 2



L/Cpl. L.K. Wilson, Troop 3



Trp. J.S. Babb Wright, Troop 4



Trp. T.E. Pinkerton, Troop 5



L/Cpl. T.L. Clemens, Troop 6



Trp. R.L. Albert, Troop 7



TFC J.A. Vargo, Troop 8



Overall Winner: TFC J.A. Vargo, Capt. Dowis, Ms. Beverly Coates, Ms. LuAlice Coates and her daughter and grandchildren, and Col. Williamson.



# BPS Officer Driggers Patrols State House Grounds With K9 Cane Who Served Two Tours in Afghanistan

Kelly Coakley, Dept. of Administration



BPS Officer Jess Driggers and K9 Cane

If you work in a building on the State House complex or come to the grounds to visit, you will likely see South Carolina Bureau of Protective Services (BPS) Officer Jess Driggers and Cane, his K9 partner. Both have years of experience serving the public.

While working for EMS, Officer Driggers had the opportunity to see how sheriff's deputies keep the public safe. That's when he knew he wanted to be in law enforcement. Driggers eventually became a Dorchester County sheriff's deputy and a K9 handler. From there, he spent a year working for the South Carolina Highway Patrol and the last four with BPS.

He and Cane are relatively new partners. The two began working together back in November, but you would never know it.

"Being a K9 handler — I love the bond you get with your partner," Driggers explains. "Words can't describe it."

When you see Driggers with Cane, it is also clear that Cane loves the bond he enjoys with his handler.

Cane, a black lab trained in odor detection, earned his experience through two tours in Afghanistan, serving with the United States Marine Corps. After his release from military service he began working for the state of South Carolina.

If you see this pair on the State House Grounds, take time to stop, say hello and thank both for the work they do to keep everyone safe.

## STP's L/Cpl. J.A. Ballenger Locates Silver Alert Missing Adult from NC



While L/Cpl. Ballenger was on patrol on March 14, 2019, in Saluda County, John stopped to check on a vehicle collision that had occurred within seconds of his arrival. While rapidly assessing the collision, John realized that the driver

was an elderly man that was entrapped and in a great deal of pain. John notified dispatch of the collision and requested Fire and EMS to be en-route. L/Cpl. Ballenger and Lt. B.J. Herlong of the Johnston P.D. were able to coordinate efforts for extraction of the injured man.

While doing a records check of the man, it was discovered that this elderly man was the same individual from a Silver Alert that was activated in North Carolina earlier. Lt. Herlong with Johnston P.D. followed up with North Carolina and the family of the missing elderly man.

## Cpl. Klimek Reads to Hilton Head Island Elementary Students



Cpl. A.D. Klimek visited with students attending Hilton Head Island IBES.



## The 9th Circuit LEN Officers participate in “Walk Like MADD” Event -- Working Together to Stop Impaired Driving



On March 23, 2019, these dedicated 9th Circuit Law Enforcement Network Officers worked together to keep our roadways safe. These efforts are being held in conjunction with the #WalkLikeMADD event in hopes of putting a stop to impaired driving. #SoberorSlammer

## SCHP Helps With Team Escorts, Security During NCAA Tournaments



Sgt. Elliott and Duke's Coach Krzyzewski



*“The state troopers are the best. They’re really a classy group, so classy in everything that was going on. So a thank you to all those people. Thank you.” Coach K said.*



# SCDPS in the Community

## Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Leaders.



Col. Williamson, Xavian Powell, Kyle Gilreath and Dir. Smith

SCDPS has named its newest members of the Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Leaders. (TYTL) program. Xavian Powell, Charleston Development Academy, and Kyle Gilreath, Emerald High School, were introduced at the SCHP Trooper of the Year Ceremony on April 3, 2019. The third new participant is Cassidy Adams. She attends Berry Shoals Intermediate School.

The Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Leaders. Program (TYTL) grew out of a letter written by DeShaun Booker of St. George to then-Governor Nikki Haley in 2015, which eloquently expressed concerns about problems facing the African- American community and law enforcement. From this letter, the Governor reached out to SCDPS to establish a model pilot program to mentor today's youth — with DeShaun as the first participant.

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety's Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Leaders. (TYTL) Mentoring Program is meant to encourage pride and civic leadership among our state's youth and establish a positive relationship between youth and South Carolina law enforcement. The program will accomplish this by identifying future community leaders and helping them develop important life skills. The program will seek youth who are motivated; demonstrate a concern for their fellow citizens and their communities, state, and nation; and are interested in learning more about law enforcement. TYTL members should also have a passion for being a positive influence with other youth and peers.





# Letters from the Community



## Trooper Mark Carovillano, Troop 4

*So yesterday I rear ended someone! Thankfully both parties were fine and no damage to my truck and very little to the lady I hit. (Who was so good to me, which speaks volumes for her because I hit her vehicle) when the highway patrol was done with paperwork he asked if the kids would like to see his police car. And I responded of course and you will be their hero. This officer went above and beyond his duty. He took a scary/ negative moment and turned it into something fun for them and me as well. He will never know the impact he will have on my babies for doing this. Our officers don't get enough credit for the positive things they do. He could have just got back in his car and went on with his day but he didn't. This young man deserves everything that comes his way. Thank you for taking the time yesterday officer. I pray God is with you and protects you every day."*

**Kelly T., SC**

## Trooper Jacob Banas, Troop 6

*We are writing you to make you aware of the outstanding service provided by one of your troopers, Jeff Banas...we were traveling on Interstate 95 when our van broke down at Exit 98 outside of Santee. We pulled over and called 911. It was dark and we were not familiar with the area. Trooper Banas arrived on the scene and from the beginning he was professional, courteous, and sincere. He put our concerns at ease and helped us to secure a tow truck as our van could not be driven. As we understand, Trooper Banas was actually off duty already, but took the call, came to our aid, and stayed with us for over an hour while we waited for the tow truck to arrive and take us to a local garage for repairs. Again, his demeanor and professionalism made all the difference in the world to us. He made a frightening situation less so. We knew we were dealing with someone who cared. We want to recognize Officer Banas for his dedication and for helping us. I hope you will share this letter and our appreciation with him. Thank you Trooper Banas! We will never forget your service that night."*

**Evan and Ruth E.; Dunedin, FL**





## SCDPS Warns Drivers of the Unpredictable in Spring “Buckle Up, SC” Campaign



The South Carolina Department of Public Safety kicked off its Buckle Up, South Carolina, enforcement campaign by reminding drivers that buckling up is the best insurance against the unforeseen on the road. The reminder came ahead of Memorial Day and the “100 Deadly Days of Summer” – the historically dangerous time to travel between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The campaign ran from May 15-June 2.

# Keeping *South*

## “The Blind Spot” Focuses on Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month



May was National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. SCDPS launched radio PSAs, billboards, and social media messages in an effort to reduce highway fatalities. During bike weeks, Community Relations Officers had a safety booth to remind bikers about safety.



# The Month of April Focuses on Distracted Driving



April was Distracted Driving Awareness Month. SCDPS ran several ads through social media highlighting the dangers of driving distracted.

# Carolina Safe.



### CROs Discuss Motorcycle Safety During Bike Weeks at Myrtle Beach During Month of May





## 2019 SC Law Enforcement Torch Run Kick Off for Special Olympics



SCHP Troopers from around the state

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics kicked off at the Statehouse on January 16, 2019. The event included several guest speakers from law enforcement agencies from around the state.

One hundred percent of the money raised through the South Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run directly benefits the more than 28,000 athletes in the Palmetto state. Torch Run officers raised \$1,055,160 in 2018.



L/Cpl. Southern, Debo Hayes and Ret. Sgt. Mike Still

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Matt Southern of the South Carolina Highway Patrol, who was chosen as the recipient of the Joseph Pellicci Keeper of the Flame Award. The award, named for long-time Torch Runner Captain Joseph Pellicci, recognizes an officer who embodies what the torch stands for by his/her commitment to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics.

## Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run “Freezin For A Reason”



Troop 1 took part in the Gamecock Polar Plunge at Maxcy Gregg Park



Cpl. Adam Heitzenrater and Ret. Sgt. Mike Still



## TEAM DPS HI-LIGHTS

### STP Cpl. Adam Heitzenrater Recognized at the Special Olympics SC Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach

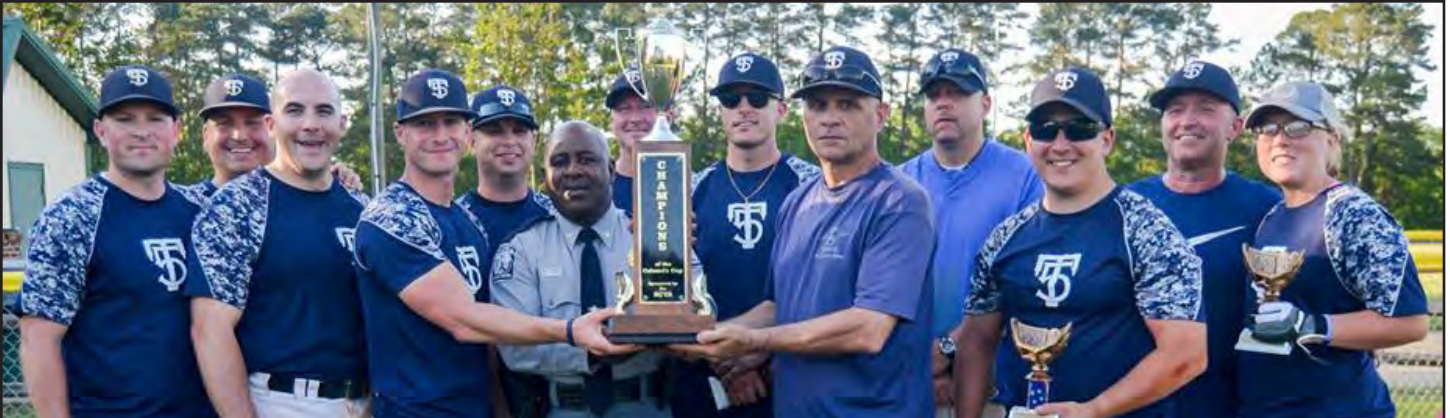


January 26, 2019, was the Annual Special Olympics SC Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach. Area programs nominated Champions of the mission and the SC Special Olympics awarded 9 champions throughout our state for recognition of their impact on the area programs. Corporal Adam Heitzenrater – SC State Transport Police - was nominated by his Area 5 Director and received an award at the Honors Luncheon.

STP Corporal Adam Heitzenrater was one of nine “Champions of the Mission” at the Annual Special Olympics conference.

Debo Hayes (Richland Co SO), Ret. F/Sgt. Mike Still, Cpl. Adam Heitzenrater, Sue Maner (Exec VP SO-SC), Marcus Rhodes (Horry Co SO) and Barry Coates (President and CEO SO-SC)

### 2019 Colonel’s Cup Raises Over \$9,000 for Special Olympics; Troop 5 Wins



HP Troop 5 Winners of the 2019 Colonel’s Cup



Congratulations to Troop Five - the winners of the Colonel’s Cup Softball Tournament that was played on April 25, 2019. SCHP trooper teams played for the Colonel Cup title, raising \$9,300 to benefit SC Special Olympics. Troop Three came in second place. Students from Oak Grove Elementary School joined Colonel Williamson for the ceremonial first pitch.



# Trending on Social Media

**South Carolina Department of Public Safety**  
Published by Dps Pio [?] · March 1 ·

Troopers and officers participated in rifle training this week in the Midlands. The SC Department of Public Safety is in the process of training troopers and officers from its law enforcement divisions on using the first round of newly purchased FN-15 Patrol Rifles. SCDPS enforcement troopers/officers will be issued rifles to replace their shotguns. The department will issue the new rifles in two phases until all enforcement troopers and officers are equipped with the new ser... See More

South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Law Enforcement Agency

11,095 People Reached    5,148 Engagements

Send Message    Boost Post

**South Carolina Department of Public Safety**  
Published by Dps Pio [?] · May 1 at 8:07 PM ·

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame held its induction ceremony today for nine South Carolina law enforcement officers. Six of the officers lost their lives serving in 2018 while three were from decades ago, discovered last year through research.

The officers inducted today include:  
Officer H. Bascomb Cannon... See More

33,679 People Reached

21 Comments 204 Shares

Like    Comment    Share

**TARGET ZERO**  
#T2TUESDAYS

**Beware of the Glare!**  
» USE YOUR VISOR AND SUNGLASSES  
» Increase your following distance

**South Carolina Department of Public Safety**  
Published by Dps Pio [?] · Page Liked · March 19 ·

Sunrises and sunsets are beautiful unless you are on the commute when the glaring light can be temporarily blinding. Keep these safety tips in mind to avoid a collision: keep your windshield clean; use your sunglasses and your vehicle's sun visor; and remember to leave adequate following distance between you and the car in front of you. Be sure to anticipate pedestrian and bike traffic. #TargetZeroTuesday

Tag Photo    Add Location    Edit

3,840 People Reached    142 Engagements

17    1 Comment

Write a comment...





collision. So, remember, if you are involved in a minor collision, Steer It and Clear It. #TargetZeroTuesday

656 Like	87 On Post	569 On Shares
28 Love	2 On Post	26 On Shares
3 Wow	2 On Post	1 On Shares
99 Comments	8 On Post	91 On Shares
451 Shares	451 On Post	0 On Shares
2,504 Post Clicks		
309 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks	2,195 Other Clicks
NEGATIVE FEEDBACK		
13 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts	
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page	

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on the post.



## Student from Ohio Visiting Troopers Around the Country

*"We were honored in Conway to be visited by Brett Holbrook. Brett was dressed perfectly in his Ohio Highway Patrol uniform. He is visiting Highway Patrol offices all over the United States meeting troopers."*



Brett Holbrook and Capt. Nell



Brett Holbrook and Troop 5



## “Groundhog Job Shadowing Day” Experience at SCDPS



Dir. Smith, Shannon Micah Davis and Monishia Davis

On February 5, 2019, Director Smith presented Shannon Micah Davis with an award for completing “Groundhog Job Shadowing Day.”

## Col. Williamson Stresses the Importance of Education at Savannah Grove Elementary School



Col. Williamson speaks to students from Savannah Grove Elementary School in Effingham.

## First Responders Hold Presentation on Seatbelt Safety With a Survivor

L/Cpl. Matt Southern and Capt. Daniel Byrne from Burton Fire Department discussed seatbelt safety with Mrs. Kelli Burke. She was a 2011 graduate from Battery Creek High School who was involved in a crash in 2009 and was not wearing a seatbelt. She shared her story to over 100 students on how that decision drastically changed her life. She says not putting on a seat belt, just once, changed the rest of her life.



*“I am definitely lucky to be here. I don’t think I should have lived through that, but I am now paralyzed from the chest down and they say I will never walk again,” Burke said.*



Captain Daniel Byrne of the Burton Fire Department, Mrs. Kelli Burke and L/Cpl. Matt Southern



## DPS/DMV Work With Two Men and a Truck to Help Moms in Need



Two Men and a Truck representatives, including Moniet Moye with Director Smith and Colonel Williamson

SCDPS and South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles teamed up with TWO MEN AND A TRUCK/GREATER COLUMBIA to help gather supplies for its Movers for Moms programs, which seeks to enhance the lives of the homeless and victims of domestic abuse.

The group collects supplies to make Mother's Day a little brighter for mothers in crisis. This year, the campaign will help those mothers affected by the tragic events in January at the Allen-

Benedict Court Apartments. Displaced residents are still struggling to find housing, along with the most basic necessities, which they were forced to leave behind.

On April 25, SCDPS and SCDMV were excited to present the items to representatives from Two Men and a Truck who will then work with the families to distribute the items.

## SCDPS Joins SCDMV in Collecting Items to Donate to Transitions Homeless Shelter During the Holidays



Photos courtesy of DMV



# Career Opportunities at DPS

## JOIN OUR TEAM

- Bureau of Protective Services Officer
- Communications Specialist III (Dispatcher)
- Investigator III
- IT Technician II
- Program Assistant
- Program Assistant (Call Taker)
- State Transport Police Officer
- State Trooper
- Telecommunications Operator I (Part Time Only)



**APPLY TODAY @ CAREERS.SC.GOV**



### Stay Connected with DPS on Social Media!

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 [instagram.com/scdps\\_tz](https://instagram.com/scdps_tz)

Join Us for the Monthly Directors' Walk  
**Next Walk: Last Friday of the Month**

