



SCDPS HIGHLIGHTS

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

2021 | DECEMBER



RECRUITING AND RETENTION EFFORTS REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY FOR 2022

For the past several months, the leadership team and recruiters have worked to enhance the recruiting, employment, and retention processes in the department with a goal toward attracting and retaining the best employees.

In October, SCDPS appointed its first-ever retention officer with a goal of identifying strategies to help with recruiting and retention and serving as an advocate for employees. As part of this effort, the department is looking at a number of avenues to better understand what motivates employees, barriers to performance, and conducting focus groups and surveys to better gauge where improvements or changes need to be made.

"I hope our employees have learned over the past couple of years that we truly want and need to hear from them

in order to move the department forward effectively," said Director Woods. "From employee advisory committees, to the climate survey, to focus groups and other avenues, we are asking for feedback and making meaningful changes to create a more productive and meaningful work environment." Director Woods added that the efforts in the area of Recruiting and Retention will be a key focus in 2022, along with continued fatality reduction and ACE enforcement efforts.

As South Carolina continues to compete with other states for the most highly qualified applicants, SCDPS is working to identify the "best fit" for our law enforcement ranks.





HAVE YOU BOOK-MARKED NEWS BREAK?

The “SCDPS News Break” allows us to share important information with DPS employees faster and has expanded our capability to share video, agency social media feeds, important updates from the Director and information especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit it daily to keep up with agency happenings.

[Read News Break Today!](#)

Do you have an upcoming event or news item for SCDPS Highlights or SCDPS News Break?

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A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR WOODS

Dear DPS Family,

As we wind down 2021, I want to recap some of the amazing work you have done this year and talk a little about our primary mission: fatality reduction. We recently kicked off our Sober or Slammer news conference and used that as an opportunity to share an update with the public on our efforts this year to keep them safe.

The law enforcement commanders and I wanted to ensure we reached the public ahead of the holiday season travel, educating them on where we stand on fatalities and issuing a warning before people hit the road for the holidays. There has been much conversation this year about fatalities as they topped 1,000. I want to share some perspective on that with each of you. We are likely to hit a historical record this year in highway fatalities. That is frustrating and heartbreaking for me, as I know it is for those of you on the front lines striving every day to prevent these tragedies.

For historical perspective, South Carolina had 1,099 fatalities in 1972 – the highest number recorded in South Carolina. It’s important to note, however, that in 1972, vehicle miles traveled in the state was 19.5 million compared to 53.8 million in 2020. From 1998 to 2007, fatalities consistently topped 1,000 as they did during a stretch in the 1980s.

As you think about these statistics, I want you to stop and consider where we would be right now if we were not giving it 100 percent out there. If we take into account the increase in licensed drivers, registered vehicles, population increase, vehicle miles traveled and increased tourism since 1972, we all know that those numbers would be infinitely worse if not for your efforts. We have multiplied and maximized every resource we possibly could this year. We pulled from specialty teams and administrative staff, continued Operation Teamwork, joined with our local law enforcement partners and expanded ACE from just holidays and specials to nearly weekly enforcement initiatives.

We have seen citation numbers jump 27 percent this year. Since the ACE enforcement initiative kicked off July 4th, these teams alone have conducted specialized enforcement in counties throughout the state; made more than 5,000 traffic stops, issued nearly 4,000 citations, including 2,185 speed citations, and made 141 DUI and drug arrests. All of this is coupled with a blitz of paid and unpaid public information and safety education efforts within the department.

I don’t need to tell any of you the sociological challenges that our society has faced since the pandemic. People have become increasingly reckless in not only their driving behaviors but their criminal behaviors as well. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported an estimated 20,160 people died nationwide in motor vehicle crashes in the first half of 2021 – up 18.4 percent over 2020.

I want to share this with you as we round out the year to let you know that we continue to work behind the scenes fighting for you while you fight to save lives. This year, we were fortunate to re-adjust our pay scale and to start pre-certified officers at higher pay so that we could get experienced officers on the ground faster. Our leadership team has implemented forward-thinking and creative strategies to streamline processes, ensure you are getting the mental health resources you need, and continually monitor what is taking place in the Legislature to ensure you are represented.

So, as we head into 2022, I want you all to know that I, along with the Colonels, Chief and your leadership team, need you all pulling in the same direction. Let’s recommit ourselves to this high calling of public service. Every person in this department contributes to public safety – and each of you are a vital piece of this puzzle. I want to thank you in the most sincere way I know how for your commitment to serve. It is valued, needed and greatly appreciated. I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Robert G. Woods, IV

SCHP MAKES UPPER COMMAND STAFF CHANGES: MAJOR BOBBY J. ALBERT PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL



LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOBBY J. ALBERT

The SC Highway Patrol announced three promotions following the retirement of Lt. Col. Marc Wright after nearly 40 years of service to the SC Highway Patrol.

Major Bobby J. Albert is being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, to succeed Lt. Col. Wright as the Deputy Commander of Administration. Lt. Col. Albert was promoted to Major in June 2019, overseeing Region One. He began his career with the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office in 1990. He has been with the Highway Patrol for 28 years.

Albert served the majority of his career in Troop Four and prior to his appointment as Major, he had most recently served as Troop Four Commander. Lt. Col. Albert served in the SC Army National Guard for 22 years and retired at the rank of Command Sergeant Major in 2008. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and also holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Limestone College.

“We are so pleased to name Lt. Col. Albert to this important post where he will oversee the administrative operations of the South Carolina Highway Patrol,” said SCHP Col. Chris Williamson. “Between his military experience and his leadership experience, he is eminently qualified to take the Highway Patrol to the next level.”

CARSON PROMOTED TO MAJOR, BROWN PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN



MAJOR MICHAEL C. CARSON

Captain Michael C. Carson was named Field Operations Major to succeed Lt. Col. Albert. Major Carson has served the Highway Patrol for 33 years, most recently serving as commander of Troop Three since November 2019. During much of his career, he has also served in the United States Marine Corps and later joined the U.S. Army National Guard and Army Reserve where he held a

number of positions until he retired from the military at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. He holds a Master’s of Criminal Justice degree from the Command College of South Carolina at Anderson University.



CAPTAIN KEVIN BROWN

Lt. Kevin Brown was named as Troop Three Commander to succeed Major Carson. Capt. Brown joined the Highway Patrol in 2005 and served the majority of his career in Troop Three. He has also served on the Safety Improvement Team (SIT) and in Troop Two. Captain Brown began his career as a deputy with the Oconee County Sheriff’s Office in 2003. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from

2002-2009 and was deployed to Iraq from 2006-2007. He also holds a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati.

HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATION

SCHP held a virtual graduation ceremony for 66 troopers from its Highway Patrol Basic Classes 115, 116, and 117 on Sept. 14, 2021.



Basic 115



Basic 116



Basic 117



"These men and women go to their communities ready to serve our great state with the principles that have been instilled in them throughout their training and the Highway Patrol tradition. Our graduates have a tremendous opportunity to impact driver behavior and make a difference out there every day they put on the uniform."

~ SCDPS Robert G. Woods, IV

Major Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award

Presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and each day during the early morning exercises.



THURMAN R. LOFTON
Basic 115



ANDRE M. COLON
Basic 116



CARLO M. ROUSE, JR.
Basic 117

Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award

Presented to the trooper who demonstrated the best marksmanship during firearms training.



DARIUS R. BROWN
Basic 115



ANDRE M. COLON
Basic 116



AUSTIN T. CHAPMAN
Basic 117

Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award

For the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.



JEREMIAH FOGLE, II
Basic 115



ANDRE M. COLON
Basic 116



SAMUEL S. LAWSON
Basic 117



[View Class Rosters & Photos](#)

SCDPS HOLDS LINE-OF-DUTY INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR 11 SC OFFICERS

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety held induction ceremonies on Sept. 22, 2021, into the SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame.

"It is a solemn occasion when we come together in this way to let their families and departments know that their memories and contributions live on as we formally induct them into the SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame and honor their service and sacrifice."
 ~Director Robert G. Woods, IV



DEPUTY J.B. McADAMS

*Anderson County Constable/Deputy U.S. Marshal
February 20, 1909*



OFFICER JACKSON RYAN WINKLER

*Florence Regional Airport Public Safety
January 5, 2020*



CORPORAL ANDREW GILLETTE

*Sumter County Sheriff's Office
February 25, 2020*



DEPUTY JEREMY LaDUE

*Charleston County Sheriff's Office
April 12, 2020*



SERGEANT MIKKOS L. NEWMAN

*Lee County Sheriff's Office
June 8, 2020*



MASTER POLICE OFFICER ROBERT J. HALL

*Columbia Police Department
July 14, 2020*



CORPORAL MICHAEL H. AMBROSINO

*Horry County Police Department
August 19, 2020*



LIEUTENANT ETHAN R. KASKIN

*Anderson Police Department
September 25, 2020*



OFFICER JACOB W. HANCHER

*Myrtle Beach Police Department
October 3, 2020*



SERGEANT W. CONLEY JUMPER

*Greenville County Sheriff's Office
October 20, 2020*



CAPTAIN JOHNNIE ABRAHAM, SR.

*State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
December 18, 2020*



SCHP SHOWS SUPPORT FOR INJURED N.C. TROOPER WOOTEN

The South Carolina Highway Patrol recently assisted a fellow North Carolina trooper in returning home from a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta where he had been since 2019 following a line-of-duty collision. Trooper Christopher Wooten was paralyzed from the neck down following a pursuit on July 22, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. The North Carolina Highway Patrol motor unit went to Atlanta and with the help of the Georgia Highway Patrol Motor Unit, they escorted Wooten to the South Carolina state line. SCHP motor troopers took over the escort to the North Carolina state line. At the request of Trooper Wooten, the troopers stopped for pizza in Greenville. "The South Carolina Highway Patrol was honored to stand alongside our friends with the North Carolina State Patrol and Georgia State Patrol in a unified show of support for Trooper Wooten," said SCHP Col. Christopher Williamson. The South Carolina Motor Unit troopers included: Cpl. Bryan Bryson, M/Tpr. Jose Fryrae, L/Cpl. Chris Morton, and L/Cpl. Joey McCord.





SCHP NAMES 2020 TROOPER OF THE YEAR, TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Division named its 2020 Trooper of the Year and Telecommunications Operator (TCO) of the Year, September 9th. The winners were chosen from regional winners from around the state. This year's Statewide Trooper of the Year was Lance Corporal Elijah A. Metherd from Troop 5, Post C (Georgetown/Williamsburg). He was recognized for his efforts in saving a woman who was about to jump from a bridge in the Pee Dee.

Stephanie Morgan, of the Greenville Telecommunications Center, was chosen as the Telecommunications Operator of the Year from four regional Telecommunications Centers

around the state for her dedication to helping her fellow TCOs and the center in order to best serve the public.

"Our troopers have a dangerous and difficult mission, and yet day after day, they risk their lives to serve others," said SCDPS Director Robert G. Woods, IV. "Our Telecommunications Operators are often the unsung heroes who stand as the connection between the trooper and the motoring public. We are so thankful to be able to recognize those who have done an exceptional job as they have followed their calling to help others and make our state a safer one."

Telecommunications Operator **STEPHANIE MORGAN**

Serving Since 2005
Greenville



Trooper **ELIJAH METHERD**

Serving Since 2013
Troop 5, Post C



Lance Corporal Elijah Metherd is being recognized as the Statewide SCHP Trooper of the Year for saving a woman who was threatening to jump off of a bridge. L/Cpl. Metherd heard the call for service and when he arrived on scene and attempted to speak with her, the woman ran to the side of the bridge, crossed the rails and attempted to jump. L/Cpl. Metherd was able to secure the woman, holding her against the railing and preventing her from falling into the water.

"This group of men and women represent the spirit of selfless, service, integrity and responsibility. Our troopers and TCOs have been challenged like never before to continue to perform their duties in an outstanding manner while balancing safety concerns due to COVID-19 this past year. We are pleased to honor these heroes."

~ Col. Chris Williamson, the Commander of the South Carolina Highway Patrol

2020 TROOPER OF THE YEAR

Troop 1	Troop 2	Troop 3	Troop 4	Troop 5
				
Corporal JACOB T. ATWOOD	Trooper First Class ANDREW J. Cwynar	Lance Corporal TYLER D. LANDRETH	Trooper CHRISTOPHER A. PLYLER	Lance Corporal ELIJAH A. METHERD
Troop 6	Troop 7	Troop 8	Troop 9	Troop 10
				
Lance Corporal JEB R. FAY	Lance Corporal ANTONIO J. GRIFFIN	Master Trooper DONALD R. WEATHERWALKS	Master Trooper EREN DEMIRER	Sergeant KENNETH W. COLLINS

2020 TCO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Blythewood	Charleston	Florence	Greenville
			
AVIANA MCMAHAN	LAVEETRA GRANT	BRADLEY KENNEDY	STEPHANIE MORGAN

FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS OF IRAQ TO SC'S LOWCOUNTRY, BAGPIPER PLAYS ON FOR SC HIGHWAY PATROL

by Teddy Kulmala



When it comes to the wail of bagpipes, Trooper Dwayne Farr knows there are two types of people: Those who hate it and those who love it.

"There's no in-between," said Farr, a trooper with the S.C. Highway Patrol since 2018.

But Farr has seen the drone of bagpipes hush a firefight in Iraq, lift the spirits of homesick servicemen and women, and comfort the grieving families of those whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice.

Farr, who patrols the roadways of Beaufort and Jasper counties in Troop 6, learned how to play the bagpipes while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant Major, the highest rank for an enlisted service member. He recalled seeing a bagpiper at a Marine funeral in 2000, which sparked his interest to learn.

Farr recalled saying to the Staff Sergeant, "You're going to teach me how to play the bagpipes."

Farr started learning and bought a set of bagpipes the following year. In 2003, Farr was deployed, but his company was taken out of Okinawa, Japan, and instead sent to Iraq.

"My Colonel came to me and said, 'First Sergeant, we're going to have to drop our baggage and not take as much because we're not going to be in Okinawa; we're going to Iraq,' Farr recalled. "But you will have the bagpipes."

On the second day of Farr's company being in Falluja during the notorious Battle of Falluja, Farr recalled his commanding officer looking at him and saying, "I don't know why we're on the battlefield, and I haven't heard the bagpipes once."

"And I said, 'Hold that thought, Colonel,'" he said.

As the sun went down that evening, Marines were embroiled in a firefight with Iraqi insurgents about a quarter of a mile away.

"I said, 'If you're ever going to die, you might as well die doing something you love,'" Farr said. "And so, I piped up the bagpipes."

An embedded photographer captured what happened next, which Farr remembers vividly.

"The insurgents stopped firing, Bravo Company stopped firing," he said. "And they actually listened to the playing of those two songs: The Marines' Hymn and Amazing Grace. And you could just hear the morale and the motivation from the Marines. Of course, the insurgents had no idea what was happening, but the Marines knew."

Farr played the bagpipes regularly while deployed, usually in the evenings. He has continued playing over the years, including at the funerals of fallen servicemen and even the memorial service for the late civil rights icon Rosa Parks. He also is a member of the Highway Patrol's Honor Guard.

As a trooper, Farr has been able to put some of his military training and experiences to use. He sees parallels between the Marine Corps and the Highway Patrol, and feels proud to wear the gray and blue while still serving the public.



"There are many people out there who want to do it, many people out there who could have done it and many people who should have done it," he said. "But my question is: Why aren't you doing it? If you can, do it, and do it to your best ability. Every day is a new day, so I start out every day pushing to be the best and continuing to set the image that we are asked."

~Trooper Dwayne Farr

HOW DO POLICE OFFICERS BALANCE WORK AND FITNESS?

Mountain biking helps this STP officer and his co-workers

by *Teddy Kulmala*



How do police officers balance a busy career with family and staying fit? One State Transport Police officer found he can stay fit and build camaraderie with co-workers by getting off the highways and onto the bike trails.

Officer Drake Johnson began his career with the Highway Patrol, and in 2019 joined STP. The job can be physical, with officers performing inspections on CMVs, lifting and carrying portable scales and climbing into or under the vehicles, underscoring the need to stay in top physical condition. With STP and Highway Patrol being sister agencies at SCDPS, officers and troopers often work together on the roads, but Johnson said they found that mountain biking allowed them to spend time together outside of work and build friendships.

For years, Johnson's preferred forms of exercise were running and weight-lifting at the gym. When he needed to shake up his routine, he decided to give mountain biking a try. Johnson's first mountain bike experience was on The Hulk Mountain Bike Trail in Myrtle Beach, and after that he was hooked on cycling.

"I found that mountain biking is more relaxing," he said. "You get to be outside and get some exercise. It breaks up the monotony of running down the highway and it is not as stressful on your bones and joints."

As a husband and father of two, Johnson needed a way to balance his need for exercise with his busy home life and his job as an STP officer. Mountain biking, he says, gave him that flexibility by allowing him to maximize his limited time for exercise.

Johnson said his job as a law enforcement officer also motivates him to stay fit. He usually rides two to three times a week and still works out at the gym or runs when he can.

"Fitness is very important with what we do on the job (as law enforcement officers)," Johnson said. "You have to have endurance and fitness to be able to save yourself or others in an emergency situation."

STP FISCAL ANALYST RETIRES AFTER 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

by *Teddy Kulmala*

When Barbara Taylor went to work for the S.C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation, she didn't know she would be sticking around for 45 years.

"When you're young like that, you don't think that far ahead. You're just kind of taking it day by day."

A friend of Taylor's who was working at the Department of Highways and Public Transportation at the time, told Taylor about a job opening at the agency.

"I came in and interviewed for it, and I was lucky enough to get it," Taylor said.

Taylor's first job was in the Enforcement Records division of the Highway Patrol, processing tickets and warnings written by troopers.

"The handwriting was terrible," she said laughing, referring to the pre-computer days of handwritten tickets.

Over the years, the agency has changed names and homes, eventually becoming the Department of Public Safety in 1993 and moving its headquarters to Taylor's hometown of Blythewood.

"I've enjoyed it. I've learned a lot. I've met a lot of people — a lot of family," Taylor said. That's what Taylor is going to miss most: her co-workers and bosses. Or, as she calls them, her family.

"We have a great camaraderie around here," she said. "These are my family. I've been with them a long time."

While Taylor doesn't have any major plans for retirement just yet, she will approach it just like she did work when she started here 45 years ago.

"I'm just going to take it a day at a time and not worry about tomorrow," she said. "When it comes, I'll deal with it then."



"I've enjoyed it. I've learned a lot. I've met a lot of people — a lot of family."

SCHP TRAINING COMMANDER APPOINTED TO NEW POSITION; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LIEUTENANT PROMOTED TO LEAD TRAINING



CAPT. TARA CRAIG

The S.C. Highway Patrol has named a new commander of the agency's Training Unit, after Capt. Tara Craig was appointed in October to a new position overseeing employee retention strategies.

Craig, a 27-year veteran of the Highway Patrol, will serve as the Department of Public Safety's new Retention Officer, which falls under the Office of Strategic Services, Accreditation, Policy and Inspections (OSAPI). Director Robert Woods, IV, explained in a memo to employees October 8th that the new position was developed after an analysis of the results from the recent Climate Survey.

"The agency's Retention Officer will serve our biggest asset, our employees, by working toward mutually beneficial solutions, advocating for employees through career coaching and counseling,

as well as, assisting in identifying systemic strategies to help the agency with recruitment and retention," Woods said. "We understand that our employees are happiest when they have a work/life balance. The Retention Officer will work with various levels of leadership throughout the organization to help remove barriers to helping employees find that balance and make this agency an employer of choice."

Craig has served the Highway Patrol since 1994, beginning her career in Troop Five and then moving to Troop One, where she later served as sergeant and lieutenant with the Emergency Management Unit. In 2017 she was appointed to lead the Training Unit — the Highway Patrol's first female captain. Craig was succeeded in the Training Unit by Capt. Shaun Sherriff.

MEET YOUR DPS RETENTION OFFICER FOR CIVILIAN AND UNIFORMED DPS EMPLOYEES!

HERE'S HOW

CAPT. CRAIG CAN

BE YOUR ADVOCATE:

- CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COUNSELING.
- ASK QUESTIONS AND DISCUSS CONCERNS CONFIDENTIALLY.
- DISCUSS CAREER NEEDS/OPTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.



CAPT. SHAUN SHERRIFF

A trooper since January 2003, Capt. Shaun Sherriff spent eight years as an enforcement trooper in Troop One before being promoted to corporal and assigned to the Highway Patrol's Training Unit, where he later advanced to the rank of sergeant.

He worked seven years as a training instructor, primarily with advanced and in-service training, and most recently was a lieutenant with the Emergency Management Unit since May 2020.

"Captain Sherriff's extensive experience and certifications in training and emergency response prepare him to do an outstanding job of directing recruit and advanced training programs."

~ Col. Christopher Williamson

SOBER OR SLAMMER ENFORCEMENT KICKS OFF DURING STATEWIDE NEWS CONFERENCES



SCDPS teamed up with local law enforcement agencies and SCDOT to hold Sober or Slammer kickoff news conferences on December 15th in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston to alert motorists that troopers and officers will be cracking down on impaired driving during the holiday season with the kickoff of the Sober or Slammer! campaign. The South Carolina Highway Patrol, State Transport Police and local law enforcement will be increasing enforcement from December 17th through January 1, 2022, to prevent further loss of life. As of December 15th, 1,049 motorists have died on SC roads this year, up two percent from last year.

Highway Patrol Col. Chris Williamson, STP Col. Dean Dill and others urged motorists to make good choices behind the wheel to assist law enforcement in their efforts to prevent fatalities.



FROM SCHP TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO THE STATE HOUSE: HOW A DISPATCHER FOUND HER CALLING AS A BPS OFFICER

by Teddy Kulmala



Bureau of Protective Services Officer Janelle Jones knows that her path to becoming a law enforcement officer wasn't the most conventional, but it got her to where she wants to be — and she's encouraging others to consider the same path.

"This is something you most definitely need to try, even short-term, to really get a grasp of whether you want to be in this career field," said Jones, 32. Jones started out with SCDPS as a dispatcher for the S.C. Highway Patrol before becoming a dispatcher for the Bureau of



Protective Services. She completed the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy and now is a BPS officer.

Jones initially wanted to become a state trooper, impressed by the clean-cut image and crisp demeanor of the Highway Patrol. However, a tattoo policy, which has since been revised, prevented Jones from joining at that time. So, Jones "took a detour" and worked for another state law enforcement agency until she came across an opening in the Highway Patrol's Telecommunications Unit in 2015.

"I was like, 'You know what? If I can't be out there on the road, I think I'll just see what dispatch is like,'" she recalled. "I applied for dispatch and ended up loving it. I really did love everything behind the scenes on that side of the radio."

For Jones, the busyness of the Telecommunications Center was surprising.

"Just like how the officers are out there assisting people on the road, we're on the phones, we're trying to keep people calm, we're calling for medical assistance or we're trying to track down where family members are," she said. "I really enjoyed that aspect of it."

In early 2019, Jones saw that a Telecommunications position was open at the Bureau of Protective Services, which is responsible for the safety and security of employees and visitors at the S.C. State House Complex and other designated facilities. After browsing the BPS website and learning about the State House, Jones applied with the intention of only working in dispatch at BPS.

"Toward the end of my first year there, and after talking with some of the other officers and even the command staff, they were like, 'If you ever want to venture over to the officer side, we're not going to say no,'" Jones said.

In June 2021, her title was officially changed to "Officer," and she went on to the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy, from which she graduated November 19. From keeping state employees, dignitaries and visitors safe to talking with tour groups to responding to calls on the grounds, Jones said no two days are the same.

"I enjoy working in the different areas" of the State House complex, Jones said. "You never know what your day is going to entail."

Jones said being a dispatcher helped her pick up on background information and better prepared her to be



an officer. This is true, she said, regardless of whether an applicant is interested in becoming a state trooper or a BPS officer.

"You look at the behind-the-scenes and what's going on, and it prepares you for what you're going to do on the road," she said. "When you're on the road, you already know about how long or what to expect with getting information back (from dispatch) or what type of assistance you can get from your dispatcher."

BPS Chief Matthew Calhoun said he was impressed early on by Jones' work ethic, professionalism and leadership.

"She knew her job well, has a great demeanor and we knew those professional traits are exactly what we are seeking in BPS officers," he said. "She took full advantage of the opportunity to transition from dispatcher to BPS officer, and we are excited to continue to facilitate her professional progression."

HALL OF FAME INDUCTS SIX OFFICERS FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame held an induction ceremony Nov. 3, 2021 to recognize six officers for their outstanding contributions to law enforcement in South Carolina.

Nominees for this honor must have a proven record of excellence that is manifestly outstanding, especially to South Carolina law enforcement as a whole. They must have 25 years minimum of law enforcement service. The nominees may be nominated posthumously. The nominees cannot currently be employed by a law enforcement agency or have been employed in the past five years.

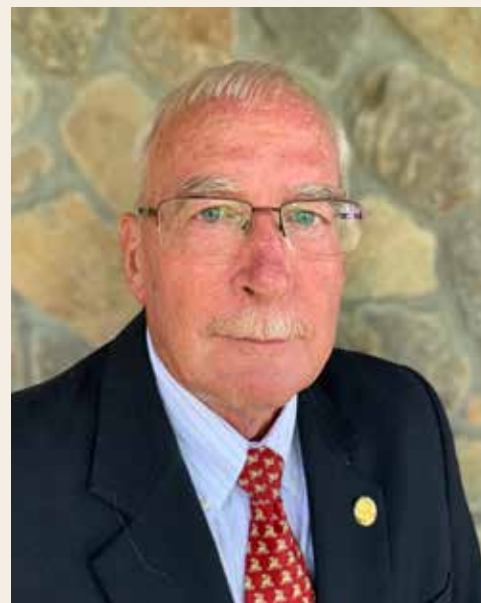
“The men that we honor today have brought esteem to the law enforcement profession in South Carolina through their dedication to duty and commitment to service. Their names will be permanently displayed in the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame to ensure they are rightfully honored for their service and commitment to our state.”

~ SCDPS Director Robert G. Woods, IV



**CAPTAIN
J. LEON GASQUE, JR.**

South Carolina
Law Enforcement Division



**DIVISION DIRECTOR
KENNETH D. MCKELLAR**

South Carolina
Department of Corrections



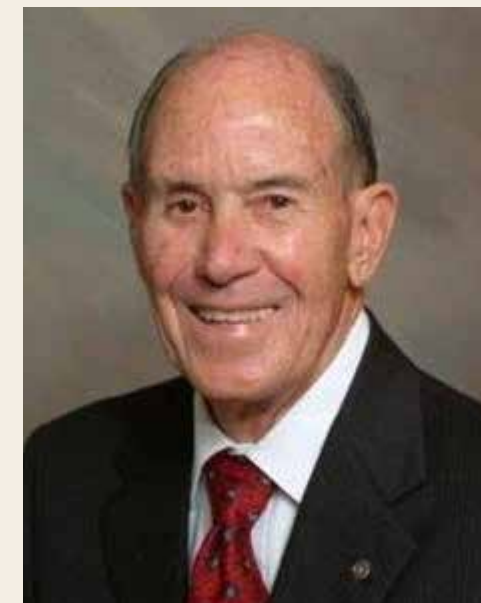
**LIEUTENANT
RANDAL FORD**

South Carolina
Highway Patrol



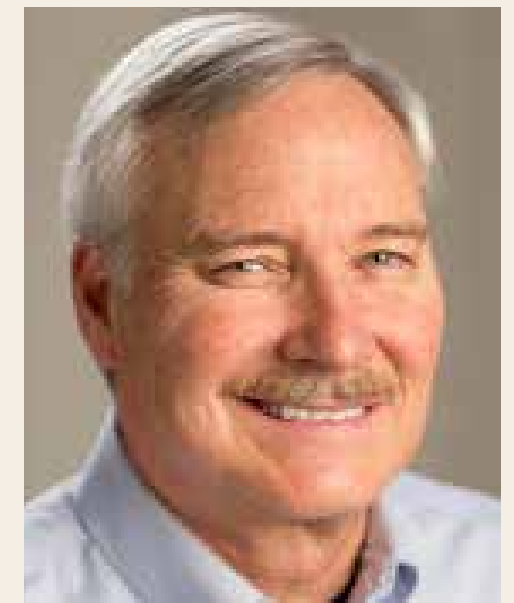
**SHERIFF
JAMES E. SINGLETON**

Oconee County
Sheriff's Office



**CHIEF
HAROLD C. JENNINGS**

Greenville
Police Department



**CAPTAIN
CHARLES T. CABANISS**

Rock Hill
Police Department

[Flickr Album](#)
[Press Release](#)
[Video](#)



STP GRADUATES 19 NEW OFFICERS

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety welcomed 19 new officers on August 20, 2021, to the State Transport Police (STP).

"State Transport Police officers play a critical role in our mission of keeping our highways safe. These men and women are specially trained in both state and federal law concerning the regulation of commercial motor vehicle traffic, and we are excited to have them join our SCDPS team. ~ SCDPS Director Robert G. Woods, IV



OFFICER DANIEL SEN
Region 3



OFFICER DYLLAN C. ALFORD
Region 4



OFFICER KEVIN A. BRACEY
Region 4



OFFICER TYLER C. BUNN
Region 4



L/CPL. DANIELLE W. BULLARD
Region 1



OFFICER JON M. HOLMES
Region 1



OFFICER LORENZO KENNEDY
Region 1



OFFICER JEFFREY B. SELLERS
Region 2



OFFICER SHANNON A. WHITE
Region 4



OFFICER MICHAEL A. RODRIGUEZ
Region 5



OFFICER JAQWON J. WRIGHT
Region 5



OFFICER TYQUAN M. EADY
Region 6



OFFICER NICHOLAS B. LINDLEY
Region 2



OFFICER CALEB N. BISHOP
Region 3



OFFICER DILLON R. BULLOCK
Region 3



OFFICER CHRISTINE L. PENNICK
Region 3



OFFICER CHANCE H. AUSTIN
Region 6



OFFICER TYNEKA I. SANDERS
Region 6



**MOTOR CARRIER COMPLIANCE (MCC)
INVESTIGATOR KEITH DOUGHTY**
Columbia

[Flickr Album](#)
[Press Release](#)



STATE TRANSPORT POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

AUGUST 20, 2021



Master Officer James S. Craig, Master Officer Damond L. Tillman, STP Officer of the Year (Overall), Master Officer Nikeith C. Wallace, Sgt. John Phillips, accepting for Master Officer Jarod B. Johnson, Corporal Jeffrey W. Haigler, Jr., and Lance Corporal Philip K. Clarke.



Col. Dean Dill, STP Overall Officer of the Year: M/Off. N.C. Wallace, and Major Dwayne Wilson.

“Every day our officers hit the ground running ready to serve our communities,” Dill said. “One of the highlights each year is taking an opportunity to say thank you to those who consistently go above and beyond in their mission of keeping our South Carolina roadways safe. I’m proud to lead and work alongside each of them.”

~ State Transport Police
Colonel Dean Dill

[Flickr Album](#)



BUREAU OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

OCTOBER 5, 2021



2020 BPS Officer of the Year
CORPORAL KEVIN SINGLETON



Chief's Award
CAPTAIN SHAWN CROSBY



L/CPL. MICHAEL FORD



L/CPL. JORDEN HESS



OFFICER JASON NORMAN



L/CPL. AARON SMITH



L/CPL. DELONE BORESAHOLE-HARRIS



OFFICER DENZEL FORD

[Flickr Album](#)





On-Scene Photo Credit: Suzanne Temple



L/ CPL. ADAM J. MARSHALL

and his dog – the only occupants in the vehicle. He broke out the back window, which was the only part of the vehicle

L/Cpl. Adam J. Marshall, Troop 5, Post C (Georgetown/Williamsburg) was on duty when he heard a call go out on the police radio from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. A vehicle had run off the road and into a pond in Pawleys Island and was submerged. L/Cpl. Marshall activated his blue lights and headed to the scene, which was about 1.5 miles from where he was working. Once he assessed the scene, Marshall jumped into the pond and began trying to free the driver

not completely underwater, but was unable to locate the driver and was unable to free him through the driver's side door.

Midway Fire Rescue arrived on the scene and jumped into the water to help. Working together, they were able to free the driver through the passenger door. Midway Fire and EMS treated the man on shore and then, transported him to the hospital for further treatment. The driver was expected to make a full recovery and his dog safely made it to shore during the rescue. Great job to L/Cpl. A.J. Marshall and those first responders from Midway Fire Rescue for your heroic acts and outstanding teamwork.

Marshall has been a trooper since June 13, 2015, when he was originally assigned to Lexington County. He has served the Troop 5, Grand Strand area, since September 3, 2019.



LANCE CPL. R.G. CHASE

dispatch to get an ambulance enroute, Chase laid the baby flat on the back seat and began two-finger chest compressions. Within seconds, he detected a pulse and the child began to cry, albeit weakly.

Chase continued monitoring the baby's pulse and breathing while waiting for the paramedics and also trying to calm the parents.

Lance Cpl. Robert Chase was just an hour into his shift on July 6 when he saw an SUV traveling 30 mph over the speed limit on S.C. 219 in Newberry County. He initiated a traffic stop.

"The driver stuck his head out of the window and began yelling when he stopped that his baby was dying," Chase recalled.

Chase saw the mother in the back seat, holding the baby, who was hot to the touch and not breathing. After notifying

"I was trying to reassure them that once I had a pulse and the baby was reacting, the heart beat was strong," he said. "I was trying to reassure them that it was a good thing that he was crying and fussing."

Paramedics took the child and parents to Newberry County Memorial Hospital. A few hours later, Chase called to check on the baby's status and was told the child had suffered some sort of seizure but was OK and had been discharged.

Chase, who has worked in law enforcement since 2008 and with the Highway Patrol since 2018, said he's never experienced a situation like that. He credits the First Aid training and recertification classes that law enforcement and troopers are required to undergo with saving the baby's life. He had gone through recertification required by SCDPS just one month before this happened.

"It was a little bit overwhelming at first because there's so many things you have to consider," he said of performing CPR on a roadside. "We didn't pull off the road, we were in the roadway and had a lane blocked. You're trying to render aid and trying to remember everything you learned from those First Aid classes that you never think you're going to use."



MASTER TROOPER CHRIS BRIGHAM

Master Trooper Chris Brigham, who is posted in Troop 5 (Horry County), was off duty the night of July 20 when his neighbor, Jenny Edwards, rang the doorbell. A grease fire had started in the kitchen of Edwards' home and was spreading, despite her efforts using a small fire extinguisher to temporarily quell the flames.

Master Trooper Brigham grabbed a large fire extinguisher

and went into Edwards' home as it was filling up with smoke.

"Several minutes later ... Chris calmly walked out of our smoke-filled home and said, 'The fire is out,'" Edwards wrote in a letter to SCHP Col. Christopher Williamson, who read the letter aloud before presenting Master Trooper Brigham with a Distinguished Service Award plaque in October.

"Horry County Fire and Rescue expressed that Chris Brigham's quick action saved the structural integrity of our home," Williamson read from Edwards' letter. "While our home suffered extensive smoke damage, Chris' quick response saved our home and contained the fire to our kitchen."

Master Trooper Brigham suffered some small burns on his arms but declined his neighbor's offer to cover any medical expenses.

Way to go, Master Trooper Brigham! Thank you for your unwavering dedication to serve others, both on and off the clock!

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL PROMOTIONS: EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17th



Lieutenant

SGT. M.J. ZANG, CRREU

Sergeant

CPL. K.W. HONEYCUTT

Troop 1 / Post C (Lexington)

CPL. L.M. KELLEY

Troop 3 / Post B (Oconee/Pickens)

CPL. C.G. BAILEY

Troop 6 / Post C (Beaufort/Jasper)

CPL. WILLIE MCCAULEY

Troop 10 / (Special Operations)

Corporal

L/CPL. T.A. GAMBLE

Troop 4 / Post C (Chester/Fairfield)

L/CPL. B.J. MUNGO

Troop 4 / Post D (Chesterfield/Lancaster)

CPL. H.F. JAMES

Troop 7 / Post B (Calhoun/Orangeburg)

L/CPL. E.M. TANNENBAUM

Troop 7 / Post C (Aiken)

M/TPR. T.L. CANNADAY

(Headquarters)



The S.C. Department of Public Safety congratulates these promoted Highway Patrol troopers:

Front row, L to R: Sgt. C.G. Bailey; Cpl. T.A. Gamble; SChP Colonel Christopher Williamson; Lt. M.J. Zang; Sgt. K.W. Honeycutt; Sgt. L.M. Kelley. Back row, L to R: Cpl. B.J. Mungo; Sgt. Willie McCauley; Cpl. T.L. Cannaday; and Cpl. E.M. Tannenbaum.

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL PROMOTIONS: EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 17th



The S.C. Department of Public Safety congratulates these promoted Highway Patrol troopers:

Back row, L to R: Sgt. J.D. Sisler, Sgt. E.S. Tolley, Cpl. W.J. Donahue, Sgt. D.C. Andis, Lt. A.S. English Jr., Cpl. A.C. Jones and Cpl. A.D. Klimek; Front row, L to R: SChP Col. Christopher Williamson, Cpl. J.D. Brown. Congratulations!

Lieutenant

SERGEANT A.S. ENGLISH, JR., EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT

Sergeant

CPL. E.S. TOLLEY

Troop 3 HQ

CPL. J.D. SISLER

Troop 9 / MAIT (Midlands)

CPL. D.C. ANDIS

Troop 9 / MAIT (Piedmont)

Corporal

L/CPL. J.D. BROWN

Troop 3, Post A (Anderson)

L/CPL. A.C. JONES

Troop 6, Post A (Berkeley/Charleston)

L/CPL. W.J. DONAHUE

Troop 6, Post A (Berkeley/Charleston)

L/CPL. A.D. KLIMEK

Troop 6, Post B (Colleton/Dorchester)

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER LABOR DAY ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS



SCDPS and member agencies of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Network (SCLLEN) participated in multi-state Hands Across the Border enforcement activities and awareness efforts. Hands Across the Border wrapped up the Sober or Slammer! campaign (August 18-September 6). Hands Across the Border brings together law enforcement in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia to conduct joint public safety checkpoints aimed at keeping drunk and drugged drivers off the roads and is part of the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign.



SCDPS EMPHASIZES CAR SEAT SAFETY DURING NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

SCDPS participated in the annual Child Passenger Safety Week September 19-25, 2021. The national campaign aimed to educate parents and caregivers on how to properly ensure their children are buckled up correctly whenever they are riding in a vehicle. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 46 percent of all child safety seats are installed incorrectly.

Motor vehicle collisions are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13. In 2018, NHTSA reported that 35 percent of all children killed in motor vehicle collisions were unrestrained.

“Every day, our troopers see children who are not properly restrained in vehicles. Ultimately, it’s the responsibility of every parent and caregiver to ensure they are educated on proper restraint recommendations based on the child’s height, age and weight. We highly recommend getting your children’s car seats checked with a certified Child Passenger Safety technician so you can have peace of mind as you travel with your precious cargo.”

~ South Carolina Highway Patrol
Col. Christopher Williamson

ACCORDING TO THE SC CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW:



Infants under two years old must be secured in a rear-facing car seat until the child exceeds the height or weight limit allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat before moving to a forward-facing car seat.



A child at least age 2 or under 2 who has outgrown the manufacturer’s height or weight limits for a rear-facing car seat must be secured in a forward-facing car seat in a rear seat of the vehicle until the child exceeds the highest height or weight requirements of the forward-facing car seat.



Children who are at least four years old, who have outgrown a forward-facing seat, may be moved to a booster seat until they meet the height and fit requirements for an adult safety belt.



A child at least age 8 or at least 57 inches tall may be restrained by an adult safety belt if the child can be secured properly by an adult safety seat belt.

Remember, the safest place for all children is in the back seat of the vehicle. Car seats and booster seats should be registered with the seat manufacturer for important safety updates or recalls that may occur. Parents and caregivers can view more information on car seat safety and locate a certified technician at www.nhtsa.gov/carseat, or at the SCDPS website, https://scdps.sc.gov/buckleupsc/safety_seat_law.

ICYMI: EMPLOYEE CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS

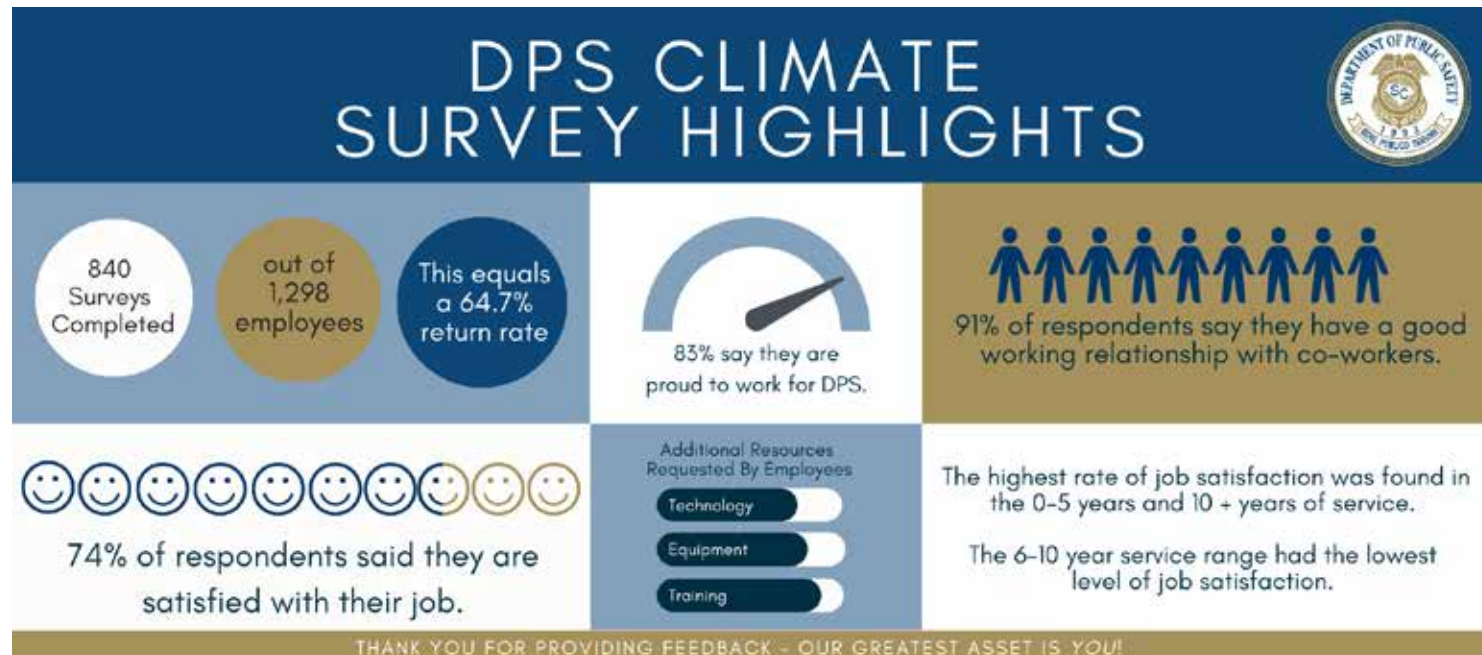
In case you missed it, Director Woods shared the results of the Employee Climate Survey on News Break. The survey was conducted from late July to early August to help the department better understand where we are succeeding as an agency, potential vulnerabilities and how we turn those areas of concern into opportunities to create a stronger workforce.

The survey revealed that employees are satisfied with DPS, their co-workers and their jobs overall. There were several consistent themes that emerged in the survey: the desire for additional training, technology, equipment and overall morale.

Director Woods said, "We have worked on refining the SmartCop application to reduce your time on paperwork and enhance your time on proactive enforcement. We have evaluated work processes and duties performed by law enforcement that could be done by civilians or another area within the DPS. We have taken an in-depth look at Recruiting and Retention and recently added a Retention Officer. We have evaluated compensation and Career Paths for law enforcement, TCO and civilian personnel. This survey provides a check-up on our implementation and continued work on these efforts."

"Over the past 18 months, we have actively worked toward removing barriers that lead to frustration and affect job performance – whether it was a policy, procedure, technology or equipment challenge.

~ Director Robert G. Woods, IV



SCDPS Announces NEW Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

We want to remind our personnel of a new health and wellness resource that is available through the department at no cost*. We have recently partnered with ComPsych Guidance Resources to provide convenient access to mental health counseling, health and wellness offerings as well as life resources such as financial counseling and dependent care referrals.



Easy Access to Resources

SCDPS employees and family members may contact ComPsych 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via a variety of access points, getting you the help you need:

- ✓ Family and Personal Convenience Services
- ✓ Legal Services
- ✓ Guidance from Certified Professionals
- ✓ Support for Critical Events

To learn more about this program and register, visit:

[GUIDANCERESOURCES.COM](https://www.guidanceresources.com)

We're here when you need us—give us a call:
1-800-272-7255

COMPSYCH
—The GuidanceResources Company—



Access the program with ease using the GuidanceNow® mobile app.



EMPLOYEE OF THE 3RD QUARTER



TROOP 1
CPL. F.J. MELENDEZ
 Post A, with Capt. Chris Shelton



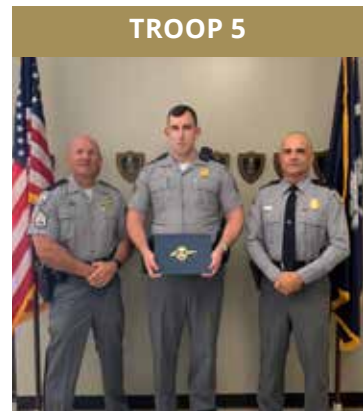
TROOP 2
L/CPL. A. FIOCCO
 Post B, with Capt. J.T. Morf



TROOP 3
L/CPL. A.L. BLAIR AND HIS K-9 REZMAN
 with then-Capt. Michael Carson



TROOP 4
TFC K.L. ROBINSON
 Post C, with Capt. Brian Benfield



TROOP 5
L/CPL. K.C. BETTS
 Post A, with F/Sgt. B.P. Norris and Capt. G.M. Caulder



TROOP 6
TROOPER F.G. RICH
 Post A, with Lt. C.A. Pearson



TROOP 7
L/CPL. MARVIN TABB WALKER
 with Capt. Nick King



TROOP 8
CPL. A.H. LINK
 with Lt. Stephen Craven



TROOP 9
CPL. JEREMY D. SISLER
 with Lt. Jimmy L. Booker and Capt. Jeremy T. Leach



TROOP 10 / CE
CPL. LUKE HARMON III
 with Capt. Mendel Rivers



TROOP 10
COURTNEY WILES (FOIA)
 Capt. Kelley Hughes, Sgt. Edward "Sonny" Collins, and Lt. Michael Zang

PUBLIC SERVANT RECOGNITION

Thank you for your dedicated service



30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Major Donald Banister, OSAPI
 Virginia Curtis, HP Executive Services
 Tracy David, Support Services
 Lt. Clinton Fairey, HP/Troop 2
 Sherrie Gasque, HP/Troop 5
 M/Tpr. Daryl Giddings, HP/Troop 5

Lt. Josepha Ham, HP/Troop 7
 Lt. Wesley Hiott, HP/Troop 3
 Helen Myers, HP/Troop 7
 Chief Kenneth Phelps, OPR
 Director Robert G. Woods, IV

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

L/Cpl. Melody Clea, BPS
 Lt. Stephen Craven, HP/Troop 10
 Lt. Mark Danback, HP/Troop 1
 Cpl. John Ellis, HP/Troop 5
 F/Sgt. Quest Hallman, HP/Troop 2
 Beth Lancaster, OHSJP

Lt. James Lane, HP/Special Operations
 Capt. Joseph Morf, HP/Troop 2
 S/Inves. Henry Morrell, OPR
 Cpl. Brian Pitts, HP/Troop 3
 Cpl. Wilbert Wilks, HP/Troop 5

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sgt. Mickey Barnett, HP/Troop 2
 Lauren Barron, Telecommunications
 Sgt. Katherine Bradacs, HP/Troop 1
 Cpl. Jessica Cooper, STP
 L/Cpl. Jess Driggers, BPS
 Sgt. Christopher Ford, HP/Troop 4
 Marcus Gore, General Counsel
 Teckla Henderson, Executive Affairs Director
 Lt. Stephen Holmes, STP
 Cpl. Kevin Honeycutt, HP/Troop 7
 Benjamin Hutto, Support Services/Operations
 M/Off. William Jacobs, BPS
 Sgt. Jessea James, HP/Troop 9

Cpl. Brentley Lynch, HP/Troop 2
 Sgt. Jeffrey Michlovitz, HP/Troop 7
 Hester Moore, Support Services
 Inv. James Reap, OPR
 M/Tpr. Mitchell Ridgeway, HP/CRREU
 Denise Smith, Support Services
 Cpl. Jason Smoak, STP
 M/Off. Thomas Starling, STP
 Cpl. David Stephens, HP/Troop 6
 Cpl. Michael Wampler, HP/Troop 4
 Cpl. Jason Wells, HP/Troop 6
 M/Off. Jessie Whiteside, STP
 Cpl. Steven Williams, HP/Troop 7

PAID MEDIA ROUNDUP

SCDPS is running paid social media advertising, Target Zero '21, to educate the public and provide safety tips on common mistakes/collision causations. Here are some of the ads in case you missed it.

View More TZ Ads



STAY CONNECTED WITH DPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

*See what's NEW
on Youtube!*



facebook.com/scdps.pio



twitter.com/scdps_pio



instagram.com/scdps_tz



youtube.com/user/TheSCDPS

