



# SCDPS HIGHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER // *BE ENGAGED. STAY INFORMED.*

JUNE 2024



*Continued on page 5*



## A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR WOODS



Robert G. Woods, IV

Dear DPS Family,

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through 2024. And with summer in full swing, I want to update you on a few big things that have happened and look ahead to what we have coming up in the second half of 2024.

We kicked off our 100 Deadly Days of Summer travel period over the Memorial Day weekend, and so far

our traffic fatalities are continuing a downward trend. While we can – and should -- find celebration in this progress, I ask that you all remain diligent in our mission. Every interaction you have is helping us protect, educate, and save lives, so thank you!

With the Independence Day holiday coming up, we know there will be celebrations that involve alcohol, and that impaired driving does not stop at the shoreline. That is why the agency is again partnering with the SC Department of Natural Resources for increased education and enforcement efforts on our state's highways and waterways leading up to and throughout the Fourth of July holiday period. Along with impaired driving, speed continues to be one of the biggest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in our state. Later this month, we will again join our counterparts in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee for Operation Southern Slow Down. During this multi-state enforcement campaign, our troopers and officers will conduct concentrated enforcement on interstate and state highways to help put the brakes on drivers

traveling at excessive speeds. During last year's campaign, law enforcement in South Carolina issued 6,249 citations for speeding, including more than 3,600 from our troopers. With speed continuing to be a top contributing factor in fatalities on our roads, know that your dedication in this effort has real impact and it is without a doubt saving lives.

Beyond the enforcement efforts and campaigns, this has already been a busy summer at DPS. In the pages of this newsletter, you will find stories about what's next for Colonel Dean Dill, who retired after 30 years of service to the State Transport Police; big upgrades coming to SmartCop to make the jobs of our troopers and officers easier; and a peek at the Highway Patrol's image finalists for this year's Best Looking Cruiser contest. You will also get to know a team of sister troopers following in their late father's footsteps, say hello to the Bureau of Protective Services' newest K-9 officer, and bid a fond farewell to a beloved civilian employee with 50 years of service to our agency.

While there have been a lot of happenings within our DPS family this summer, it's important to take some time to enjoy the summer season with your loved ones. Recharging your batteries off the job is important work and I hope you make the time. As always, thank you for your hard work and your commitment to our mission.

Stay vigilant, stay safe, and have a happy Fourth of July.

*Director Woods*



## HAVE YOU BOOKMARKED 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, and important updates from the Director. 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?

Contact:  
[DPS\\_Web\\_Team@scdps.gov](mailto:DPS_Web_Team@scdps.gov)



## SCDPS HIGHLIGHTS

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## LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST 16

### STP GRADUATION & OFFICER OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

SC Department of Archives, Columbia  
10:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 27

### SCHP BASIC 126 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Criminal Justice Academy  
10:00 a.m.



# YOU ASKED — THEY LISTENED

## How the latest SmartCop upgrade streamlines fatality packets

The Department of Public Safety's Office of Information Technology (OIT) is rolling out SmartCop upgrades that will integrate the fatality packet into the software, eliminating redundancies and saving troopers precious time in the field.

*"I am excited because I know the impact this is going to make," said Lt. Thomas White, Law Enforcement Technology Manager for the Office of Information Technology. "Having been a trooper and a supervisor, I've completed too many of these packets and know how time-consuming it is."*

The latest upgrade to SmartCop — more than two years in the making — integrates the paper fatality packet into mobile forms, reducing redundancies in filling out the report and making completion of the packet more user-friendly and specific to the type of collision, according to White. Until now, a trooper had to complete the form by hand on paper, type it into the computer, attach and send it as an email, which would then go through multiple rounds of review.

"But with this upgrade, this information is already collected in the collision report, so you don't have to do it again," White said.

When filling out the form, only the fields that are applicable to the type of collision being investigated will be visible. Additionally, information already included in the collision report will automatically carry over and populate once it's been marked as a fatality. This will save time not just for troopers, but also supervisors and FOIA staff.

"When the FOIA team gets these requests, they can go into SmartCop," White said. "If everything is in there like it's supposed to be, then the FOIA team has everything at their fingertips. They don't have to go back to the trooper to compile it all."

Troopers across all levels of the Highway Patrol are excited for

these changes to roll out. Lieutenant Colonel Travis Manley says the benefits of this upgrade will be multifaceted.

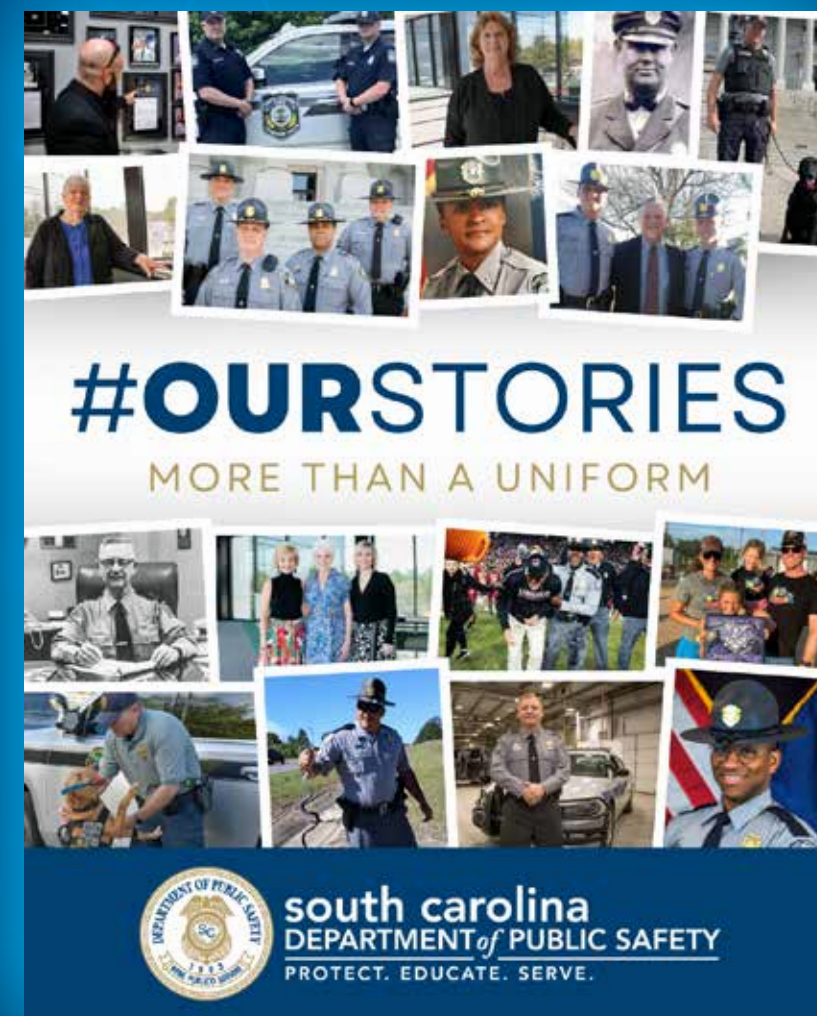
"Quicker and more accurate reporting will improve our overall operational effectiveness," he said. "This new fatality packet will also help troopers by reducing their administrative load, allowing them to manage their time and resources more effectively. But it will also contribute to higher morale and job satisfaction, knowing that tools and processes they use to do their jobs are being looked at and designed to support them in their day-to-day work."

The new fatality packet will go live for Troops 2 and 3 only on July 1, according to White, who also has produced a training video to walk users through the changes. Then, after working out any bugs, it will go live for all troops. So far, the feedback has been positive, he said.

*"They are absolutely in love with it, just for the fact that it is streamlined from our current process," White said of the troopers who have tested the new electronic packet. "I needed to make sure it was done right, that it wasn't missing anything, and that it included feedback from not only the command staff, but the guys and girls in the field who are actually using it. That's who it truly affects."*

This upgrade has been a priority since White, along with Lt. Jason Cribb, were promoted from the Highway Patrol in 2022 to act as liaisons between sworn law enforcement officers and OIT.

"This team interacts with troopers and officers to address issues from the field and provide the latest technology to deliver solutions," OIT Director Regina Crolley said. "During the next fiscal year, we will continue with numerous technology improvements catering to the officer's needs. This combination of customer focus from experience and technological savviness deliver the best solutions."



## WHETHER YOU WORK BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A PATROL CRUISER, OR IN AN OFFICE BEHIND A DESK, YOUR STORY MATTERS.

The men and women of the Department of Public Safety form the backbone of our great agency, and your stories are the heartbeat. From a former NYPD officer who worked at Ground Zero on 9/11, to identical-twin dispatchers who watch over and guide our troopers and officers on shift, each employee has their own unique story and skillset to share.

And that's why we've created a brand new section on the DPS website to showcase your story.

[Click to read Our Stories!](#)





## STP FATHER-SON DUO REFLECT ON HOW THEIR DADS SHAPED THEIR DESIRE TO SERVE

With three generations of law enforcement officers in their family, serving others is not learned for State Transport Police Master Officer Thomas Thrasher and his son, Officer Peyton Thrasher. It's a family value.

"Our family is a working-class family," said Peyton Thrasher. "There's no doctors or lawyers. My grandpa was in law enforcement. My dad's in law enforcement. My younger brother is in the Army. My mom was a nurse. No one's had a safe job."

Thomas Thrasher's father was a utility lineman and then a sheriff's deputy with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office after serving in the Army during the Vietnam War.

"When he was at the sheriff's office, I remember him coming home late at night to change clothes because his uniform was cut up or covered in blood. The deputy he was riding with would be waiting in the driveway. My dad would come in and say, 'Yeah, I had a bad night.' He would change his clothes, get back in the car, and finish the rest of his shift."



Seeing his dad serving others in uniform inspired Thomas Thrasher to later join the same sheriff's office, but he soon learned that he enjoyed working traffic enforcement more than domestic violence, assault, or robbery calls for service. That led him to the South Carolina Highway Patrol for 19 years, which included 10 years on the Motor Unit as a motorcycle trooper. During his last four

years as a trooper, the work schedule for the Highway Patrol allowed him to work as a long-haul truck driver on his days off. After his retirement in 2016, he began driving full time and logged close to one-million miles in 10 years.

But in 2023, when Thomas Thrasher saw the Department of Public Safety was hiring back retirees, he decided to return to DPS. This time as a State Transport Police officer.

"I thought I would marry the two things that I spent most of my time doing: Working in transportation and working in law enforcement," he said of joining STP. "I'm not young anymore, but I don't consider myself old yet. I'm in that in-between, so I have some good working years left in me."

And he wanted to spend some of those working years with his son. Peyton Thrasher, who joined STP a year earlier in 2022, said his desire to become an officer started at a young age with his dad dropping by his baseball practices on his Highway Patrol motorcycle during his meal break.

"He would always pull up and sit out in the outfield on his motorcycle when we were at practice," the younger Thrasher said. "We all used to think it was the coolest thing."

STP appealed to Peyton Thrasher because of its specialized training, the ability to be proactive in enforcement, and the latitude granted to officers.

"It's just a niche thing in law enforcement," Peyton Thrasher said of STP. "We can do your standard traffic enforcement on non-commercial vehicles, but we're the only ones in the state that can actually enforce the federal regulations for commercial motor vehicles. That really intrigued me."

For Peyton, satisfaction from the job comes from mutual respect that is given and received during his interactions with drivers.

"You might give someone three or four tickets, and at the end of it, they'll say, 'Thank you for treating me with respect. I'm doing my job, and I realize you're doing your job,'" he said. "That's one of the things I find rewarding. When there is mutual respect."

For Thomas Thrasher, taking a dangerous truck or a fatigued driver off the road gives him the same satisfaction as taking an impaired driver off the road as a trooper.

"I knew that there was something there — I made an impact immediately," he said. "The road was different."

Thomas Thrasher isn't surprised Peyton followed in his footsteps. But he is humbled.



"He got to see a lot of the not-so-good stuff, like having to work holidays or nights," he said. "But he decided to go with it anyway. It does make me think that, at some point, maybe I did do some things right, and he wanted to follow that."

Peyton Thrasher says despite the challenges of the job, his father was a great role model for how to handle those and balance them with his responsibility to his family.

"I never remember him calling in sick or coming home disgruntled," he said. "I'm sure he was at some point, but I never saw it. He worked 40-plus hours a week. He worked weekends. But he showed up to work and provided for his family."

Despite the father and son due working full time in the same Upstate region, sometimes they may not see each other for days at a time. They do, however, get to hear each other's voice on the radio every day.

"Occasionally we work together. I can see how he handles himself," Thomas Thrasher said. "I can't tell him he does a good job," he says with a smirk. "I probably should tell him more often that I'm proud of him, because I am."

Thomas Thrasher recalls about the time he worked with his dad for a few years and the irreplaceable memories he has because of that experience.

"I will always be grateful for that," he said. "I was hoping when I came back (to DPS) that it would be something similar with Peyton and me. I got to work with my dad. Peyton's getting to work with his dad. It's full circle."







## DIRECTOR WOODS JOINS GOVERNOR MCMASTER FOR DARLINGTON RACEWAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Director Robert Woods joined South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, Darlington Raceway president Josh Harris, NASCAR driver Josh Berry, and other community partners for a press event at the Governor's Mansion on April 9.



## DPS ATTENDS THE BUCKLE UP SC 200, THROWBACK WEEKEND AT DARLINGTON RACEWAY

From the Buckle Up South Carolina 200 Truck Series Race on Friday, May 10, to meet-and-greets with NASCAR driver Ross Chastain at the SCDPS booth on May 12, our weekend at Darlington Raceway had some incredible moments!

DPS is especially proud of the partnership with both Darlington Raceway and Ross Chastain, as both have been tremendously beneficial in helping us spread our highway safety messages to new audiences in a unique way.

We were also incredibly proud to see Chastain take the win in the Buckle Up South Carolina 200 in the Buckle Up South Carolina Chevy truck. Not only did Director Robert Woods serve as the Grand Marshal, and Colonel Williamson waved the green flag as the Honorary Starter to officially kick off the race, but our sponsored vehicle ended up in Victory Lane. No one could have asked for a better result!

[See more photos from the weekend](#)



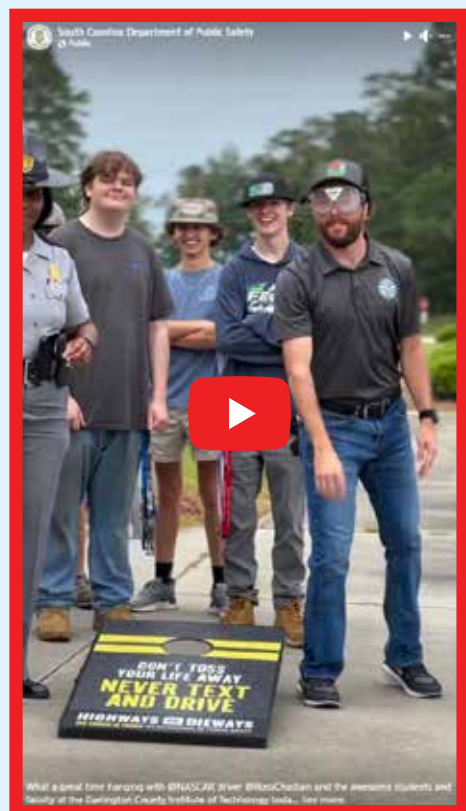
## SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY HOLDS OUTREACH EVENT FOR DARLINGTON STUDENTS WITH NASCAR DRIVER, ROSS CHASTAIN

Darlington County Institute of Technology (DCIT) students learned firsthand the dangers of unsafe driving behaviors from the SC Department of Public Safety, and they did so in the company of one of the best NASCAR drivers in the world – Ross Chastain.

Just hours before Chastain hit the track for the Buckle Up South Carolina 200 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Race on May 10, where SCDPS was the entitlement sponsor and Chastain is driving the sponsored Buckle Up South Carolina vehicle, he spent the morning with hundreds of DCIT students alongside SC Highway Patrol troopers, State Transport Police officers, and other SCDPS staff. The joint public outreach event's goal was educating some of Darlington's youngest drivers on the importance of developing safe driving habits like wearing seatbelts, putting the phone away while driving, and staying sober.

*"I love events where I can connect with these young drivers and help them understand that one bad decision can completely alter their life," Chastain said. "If only one of these kids heads home today and they make the right decision to buckle up, slow down, or put their phone on do not disturb when they're driving, then I consider today's event a success."*

[View Photo Album](#)











[View Photo Album](#)

### Congratulations to the following SCHP troopers who were recently promoted:

From left to right: Sergeant D.W. Stephens, Troop 6, Post C (Beaufort and Jasper); Sergeant T.J. Tidwell, Troop 10 (CRRF); Sergeant A.C. Jones, Troop 6 Post A (Berkeley and Charleston); Corporal D.J. Lang, Troop 4, Post C (Chester and Fairfield); Sergeant B.J. Tarter, Troop 7, Post A (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton); Corporal J.T. Smith, Troop 1 Post A (Clarendon and Sumter); Sergeant S.M. Boco, Troop 1, Post D (Richland); Sergeant B.S. Bryson, Troop 8 (ACE); Colonel C.N. Williamson, SCHP Commander; Corporal J.W. Caldwell, Troop 3, Post A (Anderson); Lieutenant C.A. Bostic, Troop 8 (ACE); First Sergeant A.W. Elliott, Troop 5, Post B (Dillon, Florence, and Marion); Lieutenant D. Johnson, Troop 10 (IEU); Lieutenant J.R. Elrod, Troop 3 (Headquarters); and Corporal M.D. Gressette, Troop 7, Post B (Calhoun and Orangeburg).



Lt. J.C. Francis, Troop 10  
(Telecommunications Center) with  
SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)



Cpl. K.M. Small, Troop 10  
(Insurance Enforcement Unit) with  
SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)



Maj. R.K. Hughes (left), Lt. J.C. Francis,  
Troop 10 (Telecommunications Center),  
and SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)

## SCHP ANNOUNCES NEWEST TCO PROMOTIONS

Congratulates to these newly-promoted Telecommunications Operators as they take on a management role.



Capt. D.A. McMurry (left), Stephanie Shepherd, and SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)



Capt. D.A. McMurry (left), Jennifer Davis, and SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)



Capt. D.A. McMurry (left), Aaron Gandy, Jr., and SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)



Capt. D.A. McMurry (left), Kimeko White, and SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson (right)



From left to right: Capt. D.A. McMurry, Jennifer Davis, Kimeko White, Stephanie Shepherd, Aaron Gandy, Jr., and SCHP Colonel C.N. Williamson.



# South Carolina State Transport Police



Congratulations to the following State Transport Police officers who were promoted in April:



Col. D.M. Dill (left), Sgt. C.S. Alexander, and Maj. D.D. Wilson (right)



Col. D.M. Dill (left), Cpl. J.L. Hudson, and Maj. D.D. Wilson (right)

## STP WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS

The State Transport Police welcomed three new officers to the family, following their graduation from the SC Criminal Justice Academy. They will go on to complete several months of specialized training to further prepare them for their duties. Congratulations, officers!



Officer H.A. Novacek, Region 3 (left) and Officer T.B. Helm, Region 4 (right)



STP Colonel D.M. Dill and Ofc. K. Bolton-Ellison



## SCDPS NAMES NEW STATE TRANSPORT POLICE COMMANDER, ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS IN COMMAND STAFF

The SC Department of Public Safety Director, Robert G. Woods, IV has named a new South Carolina State Transport Police commander, in conjunction with two command staff promotions.

Dwayne D. Wilson, a 29-year veteran of the State Transport Police, was chosen to succeed Colonel Dean M. Dill, who will retire with nearly 30 years of service to the state at the end of June. Wilson began his career with the State Transport Police in 1994.

"I am proud to be a part of this agency and I am both humbled and grateful to accept this new responsibility," said Wilson. "I have worked closely alongside Colonel Dill for a number of years and I will miss his leadership and direction. However, I have a great command staff, and together, I am confident that we will continue to push STP forward and carry on the positive legacy that Colonel Dill has modeled."

Dill, who has served as Commander of STP since 2020, announced his retirement will be effective July 1, 2024. Colonel Dill has been with STP since 1994 and has served in both enforcement and administrative capacities during his tenure. Dill was the first State Transport Police Commander to work his way up through the ranks, from officer to Colonel.

Two additional command structure promotions were announced on June 3. Lee T. Catoe was promoted to the rank of Major and named as the next STP Executive Officer to replace Wilson. Major Catoe began with STP in 2007, most recently serving as Captain over the Lower State Regions 1, 5, 6, and the Community Education and Outreach unit since 2020.. Catoe is an 8-year veteran of the United States Army where he achieved the rank of sergeant.

Charles T. Norton, Jr, a Darlington native, was named Captain of the STP lower state region to replace Catoe. Captain Norton began with STP in 2010, most recently serving as a Lieutenant at STP Headquarters since 2021. A 31-year veteran of law enforcement, he previously served with the Florence Police Department and Darlington Sheriff's Office.

**Congratulations, all!**



**COL. D.D. WILSON**  
STP Commander



**COL. D.M. DILL**  
STP Commander

*Congratulations on your retirement, Col. Dill!  
We wish you the best in this next chapter!*



**MAJ. L.T. CATOE**



**CAPT. C.T. NORTON, JR.**

Photos from the  
Promotion Ceremony



# RETIRING STP COLONEL LOOKS BACK ON 30 YEARS AND TO WHAT LIES AHEAD

Written by, SCDPS Staff: Caroline White and Teddy Kulmala



As Colonel Dean Dill says goodbye to law enforcement when he retires from the SC State Transport Police at the end of June, he knows it's the beginning of an exciting new chapter — for him, the new colonel, Dwayne Wilson, and for STP.

*"I love the job, and think I've made some good progress in my time here," said Dill, who leaves after 30 years of service, including nearly four as STP's colonel. "But it's time to relinquish that to somebody else, let the new ideas come in and help us keep growing and moving forward."*

The first STP commander to ascend the ranks from officer to colonel, Dill recalled applying to several law enforcement agencies as an eager 21-year-old fresh out of the academy.

"And then I heard about a new division at the Department of Public Safety — the State Transport Police," he said. "I thought it would be interesting. After about six months, I was hooked. But, we really didn't have a good identity when STP was first created in the early 1990s," he explained. "I don't know how many times I got asked in a restaurant, 'Do y'all transport prisoners?'"

Dill credits his predecessor, Colonel Leroy Taylor, for establishing and reinforcing STP's identity. After becoming Colonel in 2020, Dill continued to refine that identity and the public's knowledge of STP, improving not just how his division was viewed from the outside, but also how it was viewed from within.

"I wanted to make sure this is a place these men and women are proud to work, and that they like working here," he said. "I believe in treating everybody with respect."

While much has changed at STP over the past 30 years, a few things have not: Like the handcuffs and sidearm Dill carried on his belt from the road to the colonel's office. "Sometimes turning your stuff in makes it real to you," he said. "I've had some of this gear as long as I've been here."

While the decision to leave was difficult, Dill knows it was the right one. "To me, it was just time," he said. "I've always heard, 'When you know, you know.'"

Although he may be leaving his life as STP commander, he still will be involved in maintaining safety on South Carolina roadways, working in a safety and compliance division for a motor carrier company.

"I'll be coaching commercial drivers to operate vehicles more safely, staying in compliance with regulations, and keeping us out of harm's way," he said. "The strong background I have in federal regulations will be a huge asset."

With a much shorter commute in his future, Dill shares he's looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children.

"We were actually married while I was at the academy," he chuckled. "We got married on a Saturday, and I came back to the academy on a Sunday night. It was not ideal, but it helps to keep up with my work and wedding anniversary since they're pretty close."

As a father, Dill is used to giving advice, and this extends to new STP officers.

*"Apply yourself and do the best you can do out there. If you're the best you can be, you're going to make us, as an agency, the best we can be. Because exceptional agencies are defined by exceptional employees at all levels."*

As this momentous chapter comes to a close, Dill says he will continue to proudly support and cheer from afar, "I'll always be a fan of them and support them," he said. "I just want to see them continue to grow and improve. At the end of the day, that's all I hope for."







## STP MAJOR'S SON GRADUATES FROM SCCJA

Deputy Kevon Catoe, son of STP's Major Lee Catoe, graduated from the SC Criminal Justice Academy on March 22, 2024 with Basic Law Enforcement Class 803. Deputy Catoe joined the ranks of the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Congratulations, Deputy Catoe!



From the left: Major Lee Catoe, STP; Director Jackie Swindler, SCCJA; and Deputy Kevon Catoe, RCSD.

## TROOPERS AND OFFICERS COMPLETE FEMALE OFFICER SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Fifteen female troopers and officers with the Department of Public Safety completed the agency's first Female Officer Survival School, hosted by Fortis Tactical Systems.

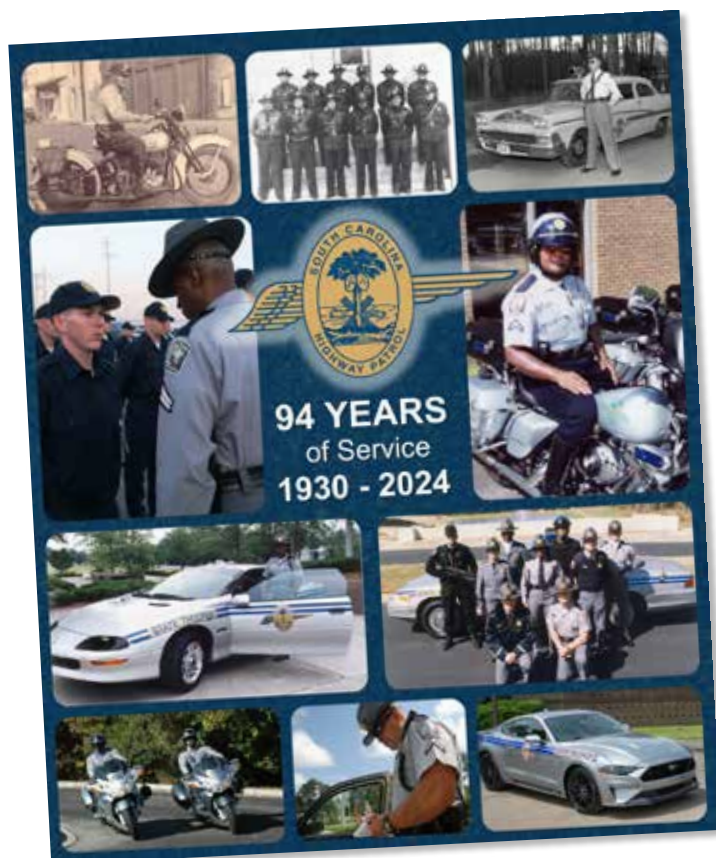
The three-day course on April 4, 2024 provided them with tools and tactics to help keep them safe on the job. Through tactical fitness, firearms training, defensive tactics, stress courses, and scenario-based training, they honed their skills and further developed their ability to respond under pressure. Great work!



## SCHP TURNED 94

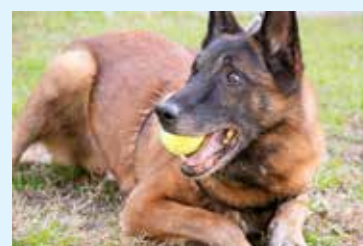
Thank you to the men and women of the South Carolina Highway Patrol for your commitment to the safety of residents and visitors across our state.

Congratulations on 94 years of service! May you protect and be protected for many more!



## RETIRED BPS K-9 OFFICER PASSES AWAY

He was a friend, a partner, a defender, a dog faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. Thank you for your decade of service. Now go rest easy.



## NATIONAL SIBLINGS DAY: MEET THE SC HIGHWAY PATROL'S 'SISTER DUO' WHO ARE FOLLOWING IN THEIR LATE FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Laura Maule and Elizabeth Bozard aren't just sisters in real life. They are also sisters in gray, both proudly serving as troopers with the SC Highway Patrol.

"Growing up, I was her keeper. I'd watch over her," said Bozard, who is the oldest by a few years. "Now, it's the opposite — the roles have reversed, and I really look up to her."

[Click to read the full story](#)

## DPS HONORS TCOS DURING NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

In honor of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, we sat down with our 2023 Telecommunications Operator (TCO) of the Year, Kimeko White, to talk about why she's served for 18 years.

TCOs play a vital role in helping our troopers and officials save lives on South Carolina roads. They work so hard behind the scenes and often are the first voices that many people hear in an emergency.

Watch the video to learn how she and other TCOS make difference every day.







## ‘CONNECTING THE DOTS’

### How the BPS Intel Unit prevents potential threats to SC State House before they happen

Having information about a person with malicious intentions is useless if that information is not shared. Enter Senior Officer Kevin Hogan of the SC Bureau of Protective Services, whose new job is to make sure the South Carolina State House, Governor’s Mansion, South Carolina Supreme Court, its employees, and its visitors remain safe by identifying potential threats ahead of time.

*“The ability to collaborate and decipher intelligence — collect the dots and then connect the dots — to avoid a critical incident or eliminate a possible terroristic threat is extremely important,” said Hogan, who is now an Intel Analyst for BPS’ Intelligence Unit. “It’s all about mitigating or lowering the risk factor to the general public visiting the State House Complex and our elected officials.”*

Housing both chambers of the General Assembly, as well as 27 state agencies, the State House Complex is already the nerve center of South Carolina’s government. But with its historic capitol building, manicured landscaping, and location in the heart of the state’s capital, the complex is also the stage for a variety of protests, marches, rallies, and demonstrations across the political spectrum. Hogan’s job as the first full-time intel analyst for BPS is to learn, identify and evaluate any potential threats, and share that information with his team and local and state law enforcement partners.

“The key is to understand the context of what is being said and balancing that with an individual’s rights and free speech,” he said. “The ultimate goal, regardless of the event’s topic, is to provide a safe and secure environment for the participants and the general public to voice their thoughts and beliefs, while protecting their First Amendment right and staying within the confines of the law.”

After an event is identified, Hogan gets to work conducting a risk assessment to identify safety concerns, threats, and potential counter views so his leadership can determine appropriate staffing levels.

“A full-time Intel analyst is an invaluable asset to our daily law enforcement operation at the Bureau of Protective Services,” BPS Chief of Police Matthew Calhoun said. “Hogan’s expertise in

gathering, analyzing, and interpreting intelligence helps us stay one step ahead, ensuring the safety and security of our communities. With his dedication and insights, we can make informed decisions, anticipate threats, and protect our state with utmost vigilance.”

For Hogan, it’s about keeping people safe, but also not letting history repeat itself. He enlisted in the Navy after the September 11 terror attacks, serving 21 years. That same sense of service drove him into law enforcement.

“We all know the significant effect that 9/11 had on us as a nation, as a state, and as individuals,” he said. “The intelligence cycle was broken. The dots in that case were being collected, but never connected.”

The June 2015 massacre at a historically Black church in Charleston — and the ensuing Confederate flag debate — ignited a torrent of heated demonstrations on the State House grounds, including a violent clash between the Ku Klux Klan and the New Black Panther Party. It also laid the foundation for BPS’ Intel Unit.

“We had information and intelligence happening, but it was not being shared in the proper context,” Hogan said. “This was a lesson in creating an intelligence cycle to assist with better preparation, and promoting positive partnerships to minimize potential threats.”

*Connecting the dots is what Hogan tries to accomplish with the Intel Unit. By leveraging partnerships with other agencies — from the Columbia Police Department, to the State Law Enforcement Division, and even the FBI or Secret Service — the BPS Intel Unit ensures everyone is privy to the same information.*

“With the growing and evolving mission of our division, being able to partner with SLED’s Fusion Center, Columbia Police, USC Police, and other law enforcement agencies to help minimize threat potential to the State House Complex is pretty exciting,” Hogan said. “Investigations drive the intelligence, and the intelligence directs the investigations.”

For Hogan, he hopes this is just the beginning for the unit he is proud to serve.



## SCHP HONORED AT MT. CALVARY CHURCH SERVICE

Colonel Christopher Williamson (SCHP) and several troopers were honored on April 14 by the men and women of Mt. Calvary Church at their 10th Annual 100 Men in Black & 100 Women in White Unity Service.

During the service, Col. Williamon received a plaque of recognition for exceptional dedication, and the SC Highway Patrol was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the members of the church.

Thank you to Mt. Calvary for inviting us to attend the service and being such gracious hosts!



## MEET YOUR NEW EMPLOYMENT MANAGER

Congratulations to Nicholas German for being selected as the Employment Manager in the Office of Human Resources!



As the manager over the Employment Unit, Nick will oversee the recruiting, employment, and records functions.

Congrats, Nick!

## SCHP MAIT UNIT GETS SHOUT-OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Lance Cpl. Himes and the MAIT team got a wonderful shout-out from a citizen on Facebook! [Check out the post!](#)







## DPS ATTENDS PROM PROMISE AT WHITE KNOLL HIGH

Troopers, officers and staff from the SCDPS joined federal and local partners at White Knoll High School on Friday, April 12, in Lexington to speak with teens about staying safe during prom season.

Through demonstrations and pledges, students learned how their decisions behind the wheel can save (or ruin) their lives and the lives of others.

The message was simple: Prom should be one of the most memorable times of your life. Don't let poor decisions behind the wheel make it the end of your life. Buckle up. Stay sober. Drive Safe.

Thanks to White Knoll High for inviting us and to all of our community partners who attended!

[View Photo Album](#)

## BPS OFFICERS RECREATE PHOTO 25 YEARS AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE ACADEMY



In recreating a 25-year-old photo from their days at the academy, four Bureau of Protective Services officers reflected on what has — and hasn't — changed through the years.

[Click to read the full story](#)

## SCHP COMMAND STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR GRADUATING SC EXECUTIVE INSTITUTE, FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

Lt. Col. Manley, Lt. Col. Albert, and Capt. Morf (Troop 2) of SCHP were presented with certificates of appreciation on April 17 for their professional development efforts and achievements.

LTC Manley was recognized for completing the SC Executive Institute this year, while LTC Albert and Capt. Morf were recognized for completing the FBI National Academy in 2018 and 2022 respectively. Well deserved, gentlemen!



*LTC Manley and Col. Williamson*



*LTC Albert and Col. Williamson*



*Capt. Morf and Col. Williamson*



[View Photo Album](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS, FIRST LINE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES!

These 13 troopers completed the SCHP's First Line Leadership Academy course in Blythewood on April 12.

See individual photos from this and previous First Line Leadership Academy classes in the online photo album.





## BPS UNLEASHES ITS NEWEST K-9 OFFICER

Meet K-9 Georgie, the newest member of the Bureau of Protective Services. K-9 Georgie is an explosives-detection K-9 and together with her handler, Master Officer Birochak, she patrols the grounds of the SC State House to keep residents and visitors safe!

[Click to read the full story](#)



## DIRECTOR WOODS RECONFIRMED BY SC SENATE

Congratulations to Robert G. Woods, IV who was reconfirmed by the South Carolina Senate on, May 8, to continue to lead the Department of Public Safety for a four-year term!

Director Woods has spent more than 35 years in law enforcement, the majority of which was served with the SC Highway Patrol. He served as acting director of the agency in February 2020 until he was nominated to a full term by Gov. Henry McMaster in December 2020, and confirmed by the state Senate in March 2021.

Thank you for your continued leadership, and congratulations!

## ‘IT’S A GIFT’: MOTHER-DAUGHTER TRIO MAKE MEMORIES WORKING TOGETHER AT SCDPS

If Kristi Hill or Kathryn Catoe ever want a quick chat, a lunchtime laugh, or some comforting advice that only their mother can offer, a short walk or elevator ride is all that separates them.

Hill and Catoe work in the SC Department of Public Safety's Blythewood headquarters, along with their mother, Debbie Gillis. With more than 300 employees housed at the Blythewood headquarters, it is large enough that Gillis and her daughters each work in separate divisions, but small enough that they can still see each other during the day.



[Click to read the full story](#)



[Click to read the full story](#)

## SCDPS FLEET SUPERVISOR TAKES TOP HONOR WHILE COMPLETING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

For most people, snagging a top honor for finding ways to save the state's largest law enforcement agency hundreds of thousands of dollars a year is something to gloat about. But SC Department of Public Safety Captain Gabriel Colbert, who did just that, remains modest.

*"My whole goal is to try and do this in a way that helps support our troopers and officers and makes their jobs easier," said Colbert, who manages the fleet of vehicles for all three of the Department of Public Safety's law enforcement divisions. "The better we do what we do, the less problems they have, the less time they have to come off the road, and the more time they're available to do their jobs."*





[View Photo Album](#)

## SECOND ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR CEREMONY RECOGNIZES 13 STATEWIDE FINALISTS, THREE WINNERS

Governor Henry McMaster held the second annual Governor's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Ceremony May 21 in Columbia, to publicly commend exceptional law enforcement professionals statewide. In total, 13 finalists were selected from the nominations of various state, county, and municipal agencies. One winner was named in each of the three categories during the ceremony and awarded \$10,000 as part of the Governor's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award program. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists!

You can also see all of the finalists and read more about the agency's involvement in the press release [here](#).

## SCHP TROOPER RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION FOR NATIONAL TOP COP AWARD

Lance Corporal Bentrice Frazier, the 2023 Governor's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and the 2023 Trooper of the Year, was nominated for the national Top Cop Award this year. Despite the tough competition, he received an Honorable Mention award!

The Top Cop Awards are presented by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) in an effort to educate the American public about the nation's heroes and to pay tribute to law enforcement officers in federal, state, county, tribal and local agencies from across the country for actions above and beyond the call of duty during the previous year. An independent selection committee comprised of national law enforcement representatives select one TOP COP case from each of the 50 states from hundreds of nominations. Officers from the top ten cases are selected as the Top Cops Award winners. In each remaining state, one case is selected for an Honorable Mention award.



# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Thank you for your years of service to the citizens of South Carolina!



Maj. E. Patterson (left)  
Capt. D.J. Gamble (right)



M/Tpr. R.S. Deal (left)  
Capt. S.M. Craven (right)



Capt. Shelton (left)  
Sgt. J.T. Atwood (right)



M/Tpr. A.J. Garrick (left)  
Capt. K.N. Brown (right)



M/Tpr. J.K. Minnix (left)  
Capt. J.T. Leach (right)



Cpl. A.T. Ashley (left)  
Lt. J.E. Rogers (right)



Cpl. W.C. Ford (left)  
Capt. K.N. Brown (right)



M/Tpr. C.E. Young (left)  
Capt. J.T. Leach (right)



Cpl. C.J. Nicholls (left)  
Lt. J.E. Rogers (right)



Cpl. M.A. Taylor (left)  
Lt. J.E. Rogers (right)



Sgt. C.D. Terry (left)  
Lt. J.E. Rogers (right)



Capt. R.A. Heitzenrater (left)  
M/Off. Thrasher (right)



M/Off. T.A. Sullivan (left)  
STP Col. D.D. Wilson (right)



Capt. A.S. Darby (left)  
Lt. E.D. McAbee (right)



M/Tpr. J.R. Eden (left)  
Lt. D.A. Miller (right)



M/Tpr. C.R. Miller (left)  
Lt. D.A. Miller (right)

[View Photo Album](#)





## STP ATTENDS SC INSPECTOR'S CHALLENGE

The 2024 SC Inspector's Competition was held on April 20, where seven State Transport Police (STP) officers went head-to-head in three commercial motor vehicle inspection categories.

Congratulations to Senior Officer Joseph O'Brien, who was named the grand champion at the competition. O'Brien won all categories, which included the Level 1 inspection, hazardous materials inspection, and motor coach inspection. He will be moving on to the national competition and representing South Carolina in the North American Inspector's Championship later this year.

Congrats, Senior Ofc. O'Brien!



## SCDPS ADMIN RETIRES AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE

And she said goodbye on June 1 after 41 years of service.

Susan Terry credits her late father not just for nudging her to work in state government, but for inspiring her to put in more than 40 years serving the state.

"My daddy pulled 54 years with the state," Terry said of her father, who worked in the asphalt division of the SC Department of Transportation. "Back in the 80s and 90s, the state was where people went to work, where people were eager to work. My daddy told me if I wasn't going to college, I needed to put in job applications for state jobs. So I did, and he is the one who encouraged me to do that."

Just two months after graduating from high school in 1983, Terry began working at the Department of Highways and Public Transportation, often known simply as the "Highway Department."



"I thought I'd get in here and get my foot in the door, and then I would eventually find something closer to home," said Terry, who is from Newberry County. "When I got to the 10th year invested, I knew I wasn't going anywhere else."



## HOW A COLOR TELEVISION IN 1969 LED OHSJP'S SUSAN BERRY TO A 55-YEAR CAREER AT SCDPS

Susan Berry didn't plan to stay for long when she got a job at the Highway Department in 1969. Nor did she expect to become part of a family at her new place of work.

"I wanted a color television," Berry said of her reason for getting a job. "My husband told me I'd have to pay for it. So I said, 'I'll see if I can get a job at the Highway Department.'"



## DPS STAFF SHARE TRAFFIC SAFETY MESSAGES AT CAROLINA COUNTRY MUSIC FEST



## HURRICANE SEASON PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE



We partnered with SCDOT and other state and local agencies on June 5 to test South Carolina's lane-reversal plans in preparation for potential coastal evacuations during this hurricane season.

Although no lanes were actually reversed during the drill, these types of exercises help us coordinate efforts to safely and smoothly move people inland if a coastal evacuation is ordered.



# EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

– FIRST QUARTER RECIPIENTS –

## TROOP 1



**CPL. T.L. TILLER**

with Capt. C.M. Shelton (left)

## TROOP 2



**CPL. J.N. SINCLAIR**

with Capt. J.T. Morf (left)

## TROOP 2



**L/CPL. M.L. CLARK**

with Capt. J.T. Morf (left)

## TROOP 2



**S/TPR. S.R. SALERNO**

with Capt. J.T. Morf (left)

## TROOP 3



**TFC. A.T. ALLEN**

with Capt. K.N. Brown (right)

## TROOP 4



**CPL. S.H. KING**

with Capt. A.S. Darby (left)

## TROOP 5



**S/TPR. S.R. CALOMERIS**

with Capt. J.A. Segars (left)  
and F/Sgt. A.W. Elliott (right)

## TROOP 6



**L/CPL. J.M. HIGGINS**

with Capt. D. Boniecki (right)

## TROOP 7



**L/CPL. S.K. GROVE**

with Capt. J.C. Elliott (left)

## TROOP 8 / ACE



**M/TPR. J.C. McWHORTER**

with Capt. B.G. Dewitt (right)

## TROOP 9 / MAIT



**L/CPL. J.R. HIMES**

with Capt. J.T. Leach (left)

## TROOP 10 / CRRF



**L/CPL. L.M. BUTLER**

with Capt. E.W. Collins (right)

## TROOP 10 / Employment



**SGT. D. BROWN**

with Capt. Q.M. Brown (left)

## TROOP 10 / Insurance



**M/TPR. M.T. CHOCHRAN**

with Capt. S.M. Craven (right)

## TROOP 10 / Regularory



**ANNIK SHEALY**

with Capt. C.B. Hughes (right)

## BLYTHEWOOD TCC



**TCO I MARGARET STATT**

with Capt. D.A. McMurry (left)

## CHARLESTON TCC



**TCO IV GINA ARTERBERRY**

with Capt. D.A. McMurry (left)

## GREENVILLE TCC



**TCO IV APRIL WOOTEN**

## FLORENCE TCC



**TCO IV LANETTE BEASLEY**

with Capt. D.A. McMurry (left)

*Well Done!*





## SCHP HOSTS ANNUAL COLONEL'S CUP SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The SC Highway Patrol hosted the Colonel's Cup Softball Tournament on April 9 raising nearly \$11,500 to benefit Special Olympics athletes in South Carolina.

Teams of troopers and State Transport Police officers from across the state slugged it out to win the coveted Colonel's Cup trophy.

Congratulations to the State Transport Police, who won the tournament and took home the 2024 Colonel's Cup trophy this year!

[View Photo Album](#)

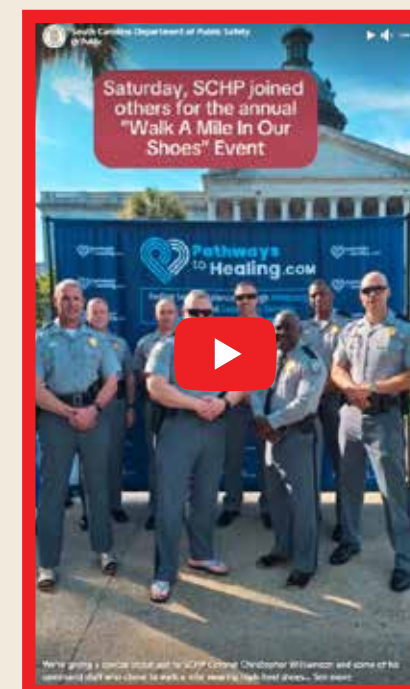


## SCHP JOINS PATHWAYS TO HEALING FOR WALK A MILE IN OUR SHOES EVENT



We're giving a special shout-out to SCHP Colonel Christopher Williamson and some of his command staff who chose to walk a mile wearing high-heel shoes in the Walk A Mile In Our Shoes fundraiser walk for Pathways to Healing in April.

The event encourages participants to wear women's shoes and heels to help illustrate their support for victims of sexual abuse and violence.



## SCHP COLONEL KISSES A PIG FOR MADD SOUTH CAROLINA FUNDRAISER

Have you ever kissed a pig? That's exactly what two law enforcement leaders did on April 20 at MADD's Pucker Up for Penelope fundraiser!

The competition was fierce, but Colonel Christopher Williamson of the SC Highway Patrol and Sheriff Leon Lott of the Richland County Sheriff's Department managed to raise the most funds and snagged the grand prize of smooching the adorable Penelope the pig!

Together, the pair raised more than \$3,000 for MADD South Carolina to assist in their mission to end drugged and drunk driving.

Even if you missed the event, you can still view the photo album here to see our two winners Pucker Up for Penelope!

[View Photo Album](#)



## SCHP AND PARTNERS HOST STREET PROGRAM IN GREENWOOD

SCHP troopers were joined by officers from STP and SCDNR for the SC Highway Patrol's STREET (Setting The Right Example Every Time) Program at Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries on June 11, in Greenwood.

The goal of the STREET program is to foster positive relationships and make lasting impressions within the community. Troopers and officers interact with the youth in an effort to reach them outside of traffic stops, collisions and other enforcement actions.

The event was featured on the news by WSPA! Check out the full story [here](#).

More photos courtesy of Connie Maxwell Ministries can be viewed [here](#).



## OHSJP JOINS DARLINGTON RACEWAY FOR FAMILY DAY AT FT. JACKSON

OHSJP staff joined our Darlington Raceway partners at Ft. Jackson on April 24 for Family Day. Soldiers and their families stopped by the booth for free swag and a friendly game of cornhole, where participants had to try to score on the board wearing the Fatal Vision goggles.



## STP COMMANDER SPEAKS AT PALMETTO PRIDE PRESS CONFERENCE

Colonel Dean Dill, the SC State Transport Police Commander, along with STP officers and Highway Patrol troopers joined Palmetto Pride on April 3 at the State House to announce the agency's support for South Carolina's annual Zero Tolerance for Litter Campaign.

During this initiative, law enforcement officers across the state will aid in educating the public regarding the effects of litter in our communities and enforcing litter violations across our beautiful state.

In less than twenty years, Palmetto Pride participants have removed more than 90 million pounds of litter from our state. Learn more about the Great South Carolina Cleanup by visiting [PalmettoPride.org](https://PalmettoPride.org).

## SCHP TROOPERS ATTEND CUP OF BLUE EVENT HOSTED BY MOTHER OF FALLEN TROOPER

SCHP troopers joined hundreds of friends and family in Byron, Georgia during the last weekend in April to remember Trooper D. Keith Rebman, Jr. and other law enforcement officers from South Carolina and Georgia who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The annual Cup of Blue event brings together guests with food, music, and fireworks to honor fallen officers and their families. Rebman's mother, Tess Rebman, has coordinated this event since 2021 and said that the idea came to her when Trooper Rebman described how touched he was when a stranger bought him a cup of coffee, just for being a law enforcement officer.

Check out the news coverage and some photos from the event [here](#).







# SCHP MOTOR UNIT TROOPERS ATTEND NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE COMPETITION

Eight SCHP Motor Unit troopers joined 79 other law enforcement motor officers from around the US to showcase their skills at the Palmetto Police Motorcycle Skills Competition (PPMSC) from April 26-29 in Myrtle Beach.

This two-day event is held annually in North Myrtle Beach and is open to active law enforcement competitors from anywhere in the United States. The competition tests a multitude of skills of motor officers and allows our members to build rapport with different motor officers from many different states and agencies, providing a sense of brotherhood within the prestigious police motorcycle profession. Plus, all donations and proceeds from the event go to support Camp Happy Days ([www.camphappydays.org](http://www.camphappydays.org)), a charity for kid's battling cancer and other debilitating disorders.



Big thanks to Horry County PD for inviting L/Cpl. Z.G. Rickard to speak during the opening ceremony!

Several SCHP motor unit troopers walked away with first, second, and third place finishes.

Congratulations, all! Great effort by everyone who participated!

L/Cpl. Z.G. Rickard during the PPMSC Opening Ceremony

## M/Tpr. Matthew Tarte

- Mr. Metric (1st Place overall Metric Class winner)
- 1st Place Expert Metric Class
- 1st Place Dynamic Duo Partner Ride

## M/Tpr. Hunter Bair

- 1st Place Dynamic Duo Partner Ride
- 2nd Place Expert Metric Class

## Cpl. Vincent Albert

- 1st Place Intermediate Metric Class

## L/Cpl. Joseph McCord

- 1st Place Challenge Ride
- 2nd Place Intermediate Metric Class

## S/Tpr. Darius Brown

- 2nd Place Novice Metric Class

## L/Cpl. Tanner Hamrick

- 3rd Place Novice Metric Class
- 3rd Place SMART Ride

# DPS HOSTS VIRTUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF HIGHWAY FATALITIES

The SC Department of Public Safety held a virtual memorial service on April 27 on a special [Facebook Event page](#) to honor the many lives lost on South Carolina roadways in 2023.

The virtual service included the video tribute and a space for families and friends of the victim to share stories and memories of their loved ones.

The service was well received and there were many positive comments and tributes. Check out the video and see the tributes that individuals posted on [Facebook](#).



# SIX FALLEN OFFICERS INDUCTED INTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HALL OF FAME



The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame, a division of the SC Department of Public Safety, formally inducted six fallen law enforcement officers on May 1.

This year's ceremony recognized six officers from around the state, three of whom were historical inductees dating back to 1913. Of the officers killed in the line of duty in 2023, two died in traffic collisions and one died from being struck by a train while rescuing a distressed individual.

The ceremony brings the total number of South Carolina officers who are honored in the Hall of Fame Memorial Room to 429.

Read the full press release [here](#).



[View Photo Album](#)





# 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FALLEN TROOPER *Service of Remembrance*

The South Carolina Highway Patrol held its annual Fallen Trooper Service of Remembrance on April 26, during which family and friends of the 51 patrolmen and troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty gathered to honor the selfless sacrifice their loved ones made.

Reverend Doctor Jimmy Gallant, Vicar of Saint Andrew's Anglican Church in Charleston, provided the Message of Hope, speaking words of comfort to the families.



Department of Public Safety Director Robert G. Woods, IV and SC Highway Patrol Commander Colonel Christopher Williamson also provided special remarks.

During the ceremony, the SC Highway Patrol retired six of its K-9s. Together, they have provided more than 30 years of dedicated service to the Highway Patrol.

As a tribute to troopers who made the ultimate sacrifice, the Highway Patrol has named its K-9s after fallen troopers since 2010.

A special recognition was also given to honor the retirement of Bureau of Protective Services K-9 Castor, who sadly passed away on April 8, 2024, after 10 years of service protecting lawmakers and visitors to the South Carolina State House.

[View Photo Album](#)



The **Jonathan S. Nash Award** was presented to Senior Trooper Darius R. Brown (Troop 8, ACE Midstate Motor Unit) for his outstanding efforts as a skilled motor officer in promoting traffic safety, enforcing state laws, and reducing traffic collisions in South Carolina. Congratulations!



The **Michael J. Rao award** was presented to Master Trooper Laura A. Maule (Troop 8, ACE Midstate K-9 Unit) for her exceptional performance with K-9 Smalls in drug detection and tracking through criminal interdiction, making South Carolina a safer place. Congratulations!



The **Mark H. Coates Award** was presented to Lance Corporal Mitchell D. Ward (Troop 3, Post A - Anderson County) for his outstanding efforts in criminal interdiction through fugitive apprehension, stolen vehicle recovery, and the curtailment of drug traffic in South Carolina. Congratulations!







## DIRECTOR WOODS ATTENDS NATIONAL LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN MYRTLE BEACH

Director Robert G. Woods, IV joined SCDNR Director Robert Boyles, SCDNR Law Enforcement Colonel Chisolm Frampton, and SLED Chief Mark Keel on April 25 to speak at the National Lieutenant Governors Association conference in Myrtle Beach with SC Lt. Governor Pamela Evette.

During an armchair-style chat with Lt. Governor Evette, the law enforcement officials discussed how each agency has a unique role in public safety and how each agency works together to keep South Carolina's residents and visitors safe through collaboration and cooperation.

### SCHP LT. COL. JOINS GOVERNOR AND OTHERS FOR CAROLINA COASTAL TOUR

SCHP Lt. Col. Travis Manley joined Governor Henry McMaster, Secretary of Transportation Justin Powell, and other state and local emergency management officials on May 9 at the Charleston International Airport to discuss hurricane evacuation zone updates and preparation for hurricane season.

The press conference followed the 2024 NOAA Hurricane Awareness Tour and officially launched the state's new and updated hurricane evacuation zones. Nice work, LTC Manley!

## BPS NAMES 2023 OFFICER OF THE YEAR!

The South Carolina Bureau of Protective Services (BPS) announced its 2023 Officer of the Year during a ceremony at the South Carolina State House on June 3, 2024. This year's overall winner for Officer of the Year was Master Officer Jess W. Driggers III.

Master Officer Driggers was nominated for consistently exemplifying professionalism and commitment to his duties, as well as demonstrating leadership and compassion towards his fellow officers and the public. As a K-9 handler, he has maintained strong relationships with partner K-9 units, facilitating and participating in continued training, and was appointed to the Department of Homeland Security Detector K-9 Advisory Panel. Congratulations, M/Ofc. Driggers!

The ceremony also recognized Lt. Darren Coleman with the 2023 Chief's Award. The annual Chief's Award recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership, service, and professionalism. Congratulations, Lt. Coleman!

The following is a list of remaining finalists for the 2023 BPS Officer of the Year:

- Lance Corporal Jacob Allen, BPS Training Unit
- Officer First Class Jocelyn Irons, State House Division
- Officer Guillermo Santiago, State House Division
- Lance Corporal Marlena Johnson, State House Division
- Lance Corporal Melody Clea, State Agency Support Division
- Senior Officer Terence McClain, Governor's Mansion Division

The event also marked a special occasion for two BPS officers, as they were presented with official retirement plaques, marking an end to their service with BPS.

- Lance Corporal Melody Clea (More than 8 years of service)
- Master Officer Robert V. Gibbs (More than 17 years of service)

Several BPS officers and staff were also recognized with a Certificate of State Service, acknowledging more than 10 years of service to South Carolina:

- Stephen Carrigg, Telecommunications Supervisor
- Lance Corporal Sammy Samuels
- Master Officer Bradley Robinson
- Lance Corporal Shanice Bell
- Master Officer Michael Ford

Congratulations to all!



**Master Officer Jess Driggers,**  
2023 BPS Officer of the Year



**Lieutenant Darren Coleman,**  
2023 BPS Chief's Award Recipient



[View Photo Album](#)





## 2023 DUI ENFORCEMENT RECOGNITION AND TARGET ZERO CHALLENGE CEREMONY

The Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, a division of the SC Department of Public Safety, held its annual DUI Enforcement Recognition and Target Zero Challenge ceremony on June 20 in Columbia. NASCAR driver Ross Chastain provided special remarks.

This event recognizes law enforcement personnel and agencies for their excellence in statewide DUI enforcement in 2023.

Awards were presented to officers and agencies in several categories during the ceremony. The event also recognized agencies from around the state that participated in the 2023 Target Zero Challenge.

Read the full press release [here](#).

[View Photo Album](#)



## DPS JOINS MADD SC AND SCDPPPS TO ANNOUNCE NEW DUI LAW

Director Robert Woods (SCDPS) joined Regional Executive Director Steven Burritt (MADD South Carolina) and Acting Director Jodi Gallman (South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services) at a press conference on May 17, to speak in support of the new "All Offender Law" that went into effect May 19.

The "All Offender Law" now requires all drivers convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) - regardless of their Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) - to participate in the Ignition Interlock Device

(I.I.D.) program. Previously, participation was optional for DUI first offenses with a BAC below .15.

The new legislation was signed into law by Governor Henry McMaster in July of 2023 in an effort by South Carolina lawmakers to reduce the number of DUI incidents and save the lives of residents and visitors to the state.

Read more about the press conference [here](#).



Drivers in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties saw additional road and aerial enforcement from law enforcement June 21-23, as part of a multi-agency Area Coordinated Enforcement (ACE) initiative to reduce collisions and fatalities in our state.

The SC Highway Patrol, the State Transport Police, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division - SLED, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement network partners participated in the special enforcement initiative.





## SCHP, DPS JOINS SCLEAP, OTHER PARTNERS FOR MEMORIAL DAY COOK OUT AT ATLANTIC BEACH

Leadership and staff from SCHP and DPS joined SCLEAP and other partners for the annual Memorial Day Cook Out in Atlantic Beach, providing food, drinks, and thanks to law enforcement from across the state.

This partnership included representatives from SCLEAP, SCDNR, SLED, SCDPS, OAG, Atlantic Beach and the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy for SC, which is comprised of various church organizations and individuals who volunteer their time to support law enforcement officers.

Together, the group fed between 800-1,200 officers during the Atlantic Beach Bikefest.



## SCHP COLONEL SPEAKS AT AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE TROOPERS BOARD MEETING IN CHARLESTON

The American Association for State Troopers (AAST) board met for its 2024 National Board Meeting from May 31 - June 1 in Charleston. Colonel Williamson, SCHP, was asked to welcome the group with special remarks and open the official meeting.

The meeting hosted between 30-40 directors and representatives from other state highway patrol agencies. Investigator Bryan McDougald, SCHP Employment Unit and AAST SC State Director, helped to coordinate the meeting and the Colonel's remarks.



## SCHP TRAINING HOSTS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DAY FOR CLASS 127

The SCHP Training Unit held a Family Engagement Day on June 9 for SCHP Class 127, where spouses, children, and other family members of the recruits gathered for an orientation and activities.

These Family Engagement Days were started to help connect families with the troopers in training, allowing a better understanding of what a trooper goes through during training and how to offer support along their journey.



## SCHP COLONEL MODERATES GRADUATE PANEL AT UNIVERSITY OF SC



SCHP Colonel Williamson moderated a graduate panel on June 5 for the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program of the University of South Carolina.

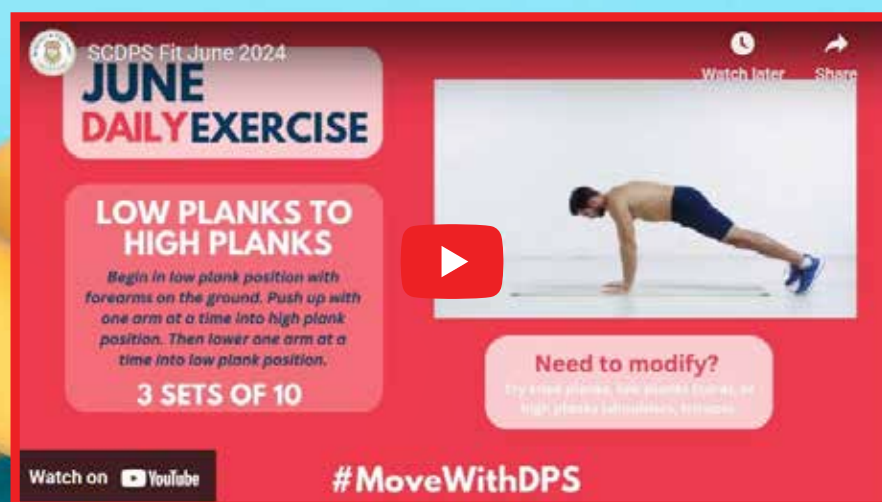
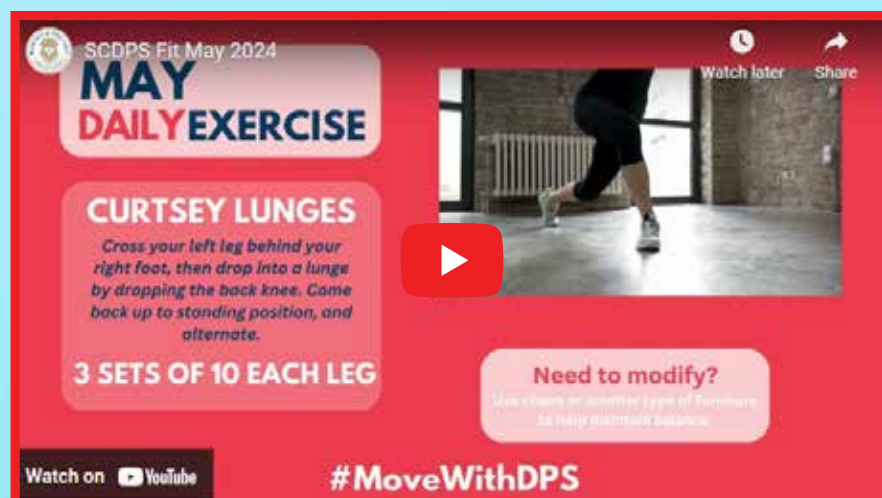
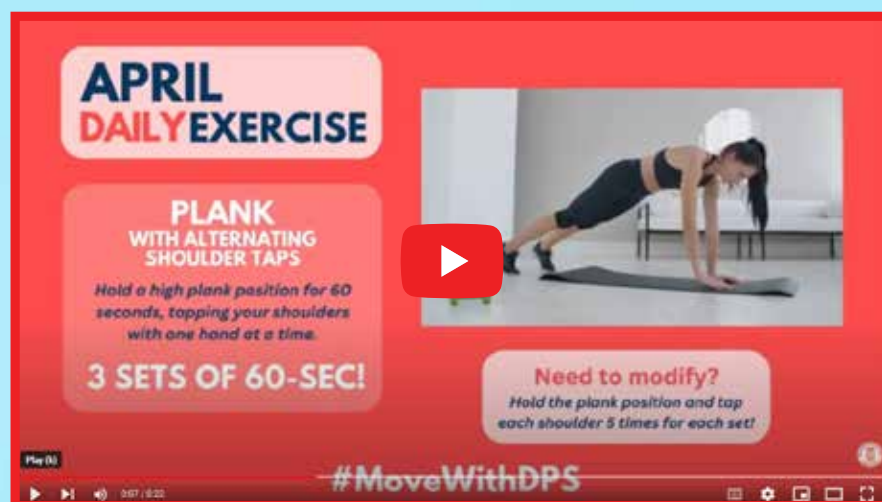
The event saw more than 40 participants, including scholars from Virginia Union University and students from ten universities in South Carolina, in which the group debated on points related to leadership and higher education. Nice job, Col. Williamson!





# WE KNOW YOU'RE MOVING WITH DPS

Watch the videos and get moving!



## DPS JOINS SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE FOR WELLNESS WALK AT DPS HQ

DPS employees were delighted to join Travis Luthren from Special Olympics South Carolina in a special wellness walk held on May 31, at the DPS headquarters office.

Travis has been a Special Olympics athlete for 25 years! And in 2022, he began his first formal exercise walk to gain control of his health. Now two years later, he has lost more than 80 pounds with consistent exercise and a supportive community!

Through his encouragement, employees joined his walk to also take control of their health through exercise.

Thank you so much, Travis, for leading the way!

If you would like to support Special Olympics South Carolina, you may donate online [here](#).

