



TRUE BLUE & GOLD

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER
NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS

APRIL
2021



03/29/2021 100th Anniversary

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COLONEL'S COMMENTS



It is hard to believe that we are already a quarter of the way through our 100th year of service to the great State of New Jersey. One of our milestones so far this year was the graduation of the 161st State Police Class that was held at the Prudential Center in Newark on March 17, 2021. Although March 17th is traditionally a day reserved for celebrating Irish heritage throughout our Nation, on this day, we celebrated the addition of 144 new Jersey Troopers to The Outfit. A class unlike any other in our storied history as they arrived at Sea Girt on November 2, 2020 and were never permitted to leave during the entire length of their training. The first time they saw their families in person was after graduation and it was a tremendous pleasure to watch those reunions, especially those of four of our new troopers who got to hold their newborn children for the first time. For those wondering, our most junior trooper is now Trooper Gavin Zottman #8692, assigned to Buena Vista Station.

We wish all of members of the 161st State Police class nothing but safety and success as they embark on a career in one of the most noble professions, while serving in one of the most premier law enforcement agencies on earth.

March 29, 2021, also served as a momentous occasion for the New Jersey State Police. This date marked the 100th anniversary of the “State Police Bill” being signed into law which created our Outfit. Governor Murphy issued a proclamation which he read to a contingency of troopers and dignitaries at the Statehouse. Our mounted unit on horseback, troopers on Harley Davidsons, the Pipes and Drums of the Blue and Gold and a flyover of our helicopters by our Aviation Unit all played a part in this historical ceremony. Although all of the aforementioned aspects of this ceremony made the hair on my neck stand up, that which filled me with the most pride was witnessing the contingency of troopers marching down West State Street. Their spit-shined leather and glimmering brass made me reflect on our Outfit’s foundation, rooted in pride and tradition, as well instilling in all of us a sense of being part of something greater than ourselves. From horses to helicopters, from farmhouses to forensics, or from the Lindbergh kidnapping to lasers, the New Jersey State Police was, and always will be, comprised of men and women who are a cut above the rest. “Troopers are a rare breed,” I once recall Colonel Pagano saying when I was a young boy, “individuals all, but all as one.”

That is our strength. That strength which assures us that the State Police will continue in the next one hundred years as before. That Honor, Duty and Fidelity are not just empty words, but words infused with the life of those who took them as their standard from the first day they took their oath and called themselves “Jersey Troopers.”

God bless you all and as always, stay safe out there.
Colonel Patrick J. Callahan #5243

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As I start my last year as your President, I want to thank the members for their trust placed in me. Surely, it is an honor to hold this position. I only hope that I will be leaving this organization better than when I took over four years ago. If not for my predecessors and my Board of Directors, I would have not been able to continue building on the visions of the past.

It has been a long year since the start of Covid-19. I remember this time last year returning from the Florida Winter Party and being diagnosed with Coronavirus. Moreover, 82 retired troopers have passed this year, many from the virus. As Spring is upon us and the hope that the vaccine will guide us to normalcy, I hope that all of you and your families are healthy and looking forward to Summer and the 100th Year Anniversary Celebrations.

Unfortunately, I was forced to cancel all FTA events. At this time, all three Troop Get-Togethers have been postponed until the Fall 2021. The May 2021 Spring FTA Board Meeting will be virtual as it was in the Fall. However, if the restrictions are lifted, we are planning the FTA Picnic in the Fall and we have contracted with the Hard Rock Casino in Atlantic City to host the Former Troopers Night on Friday, October 1, 2021, during the Division's 100th Anniversary Banquet on October 2, 2021. Please check with the website for updates to these events.

Even through these Covid-19 restrictions, your FTA and Heritage Foundation Boards, along with Colonel Callahan, his staff, and a corporate consortium, have finalized a plan to revitalize the Museum and Learning Center Courtyard and the Memorial Garden. To date, much of material, equipment, and labor costs have been donated, however, we do expect that there will be miscellaneous expenses. Therefore, through the Heritage Foundation, I am hosting a drive to meet a goal of \$150,000.00 to cover these expenses. Said renovations have begun and are expected to be completed during this 100th Anniversary period. All donations should be directed to the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation.

I am proud to announce that the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program has taken over and expanded the former FTA Scholarship Program and increased this year's total awards from our previous \$13,000.00 to \$24,100.00. This could not be done without the generous, individual scholarship donations from our members and their families. I extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who contributed to enhance this program for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I can see this program expanding, annually.

Lastly, Rhonda and I want to wish you all the best and look forward to seeing everyone at this year's events. May God bless you all and the entire New Jersey State Police.

Warmest Regards,
Nick Soranno

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and our Staff, greetings and a happy 100th Anniversary to our State Police. With 2020 in the rearview mirror and the the COVID-19 vaccines becoming more and more available, our hope is that our state and country returns to normality sooner than later. We continue to keep our impacted members and their families in our thoughts and prayers and know that the FTA is with you. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has initiated a financial support program for funeral expenses for persons succumbing to COVID-19. Please check under our Health Banner for specifics on this program.

We have entered into our 100th Anniversary Year which should give all of us some pause to reflect on our personal experiences while active duty troopers. We all traveled different paths throughout our careers that gave us a wealth of interactions with many troopers and assignments. I've always believed that no matter the assignment, I was fortunate and proud to be surrounded by competent men and women who cared about the work and service they provided the residents of our state.

I was fortunate to have attended the 161st State Police Class graduation on March 17th at the Prudential Center in Newark. My nephew was among the 144 graduates. The pride in these young troopers and their families was clearly evident on all of their faces. You couldn't help but reflect back on your own graduation day which for myself is now 40 years ago. It is somewhat mind-boggling the time-span that has occurred. My hope is that we all continue to carry that pride for the Outfit we experienced on our graduation day and these new troopers are blessed with safe, productive and prosperous careers.



Please feel free to contact me directly via email at preilly@ftanjsp.org with information for possible inclusion in future editions. We are always looking for stories about our members for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Captain Patrick J. Reilly, Jr. #3570 (Ret)

FEATURED STORY

TROOPERS OF THE YEAR, ACTIVE & RETIRED!



Pics courtesy of NJSP Public Information Office

The coveted New Jersey State Police - Trooper of the Year Award is the highest honor bestowed upon a Jersey Trooper. First awarded in 1968 to Trooper John Billick, #1492, for his outstanding performance in patrol related arrests while assigned to Troop "D" Moorestown Barracks, was responsible for effecting the arrests of 107 persons on a variety of charges ranging from narcotics and weapons offenses, possession of stolen property and fugitives from justice. The award has annually recognized the outstanding achievements of Active Jersey Troopers throughout our state.

Similarly, in 1968 the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers also instituted the Former Trooper of the Year Award for outstanding achievement while in retirement. Our first recipient, Captain John B. Wallace, #253 served tirelessly on several FTA Committees throughout his years in retirement. He was the catalyst behind the 1963 establishment of an FTA - Educational Fund Committee, and the subsequent May 16, 1964, incorporation of the FTA's only subsidiary, the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Educational Fund, Inc. Captain Wallace marked the beginning of the Educational Fund with his generous \$1,000 donation. He served as Chairman of the Educational Fund for twelve-years, until being relieved by Captain Albert G. Varrelman, #159 on July 1, 1976. To date, the Former Trooper of the Year Award has been awarded to many who have followed in Captain Wallace's example for excellence in various retirement endeavors.

On a somewhat overcast, crisp January 14th morning a small gathering of invited family, guests, and State Police personnel assembled in front of the Log Cabin to kick off the New Jersey State Police, 100th Year Anniversary of celebratory events with the first ever joint Trooper & Former Trooper of the Year Awards Ceremony. After fifty-two-years of holding separate ceremonies of an apparent jointly recognized awards inception, Active and Retired Jersey Troopers came together in celebration of the outstanding achievements of their comrades. Steeped in tradition and celebration of our Outfit's Centennial, a Color Guard squad of Troopers dressed in throwback uniforms, accompanied by a lone piper began the ceremony, leading the two recipients to their place of honor.

Following an Invocation by State Police Chaplin, Rabbi Abe Friedman and some opening remarks by Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, #5243, Governor Phil Murphy, and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, I had the honor of presenting the 2020 Former Trooper of the Year Award to Major Albert Della Fave, #4040 (*Ret*) in recognition of his outstanding achievements since retiring from State Police service and his

outstanding performance as the Public Information Officer of our Association of Former Jersey Troopers. Following some pictures for posterity, LTC Jeffrey D. Mottley, #5300 and Colonel Callahan presented the 2020 Trooper of the Year Award to Detective Richard L. Hershey, #7752 in recognition of his fearless and courageous actions during a home invasion investigation that resulted in him sustaining a gunshot wound to his abdomen.

The brief ceremony was a great beginning and acknowledgement for the Centennial Celebrations of our esteemed Outfit of Jersey Troopers and was only overshadowed by overcast skies and the social distancing and mask mandates of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully, those mandates will be short-lived and won't impact future events during our 100th Year Anniversary.

By: Lt. George J. Wren, Jr. #3680 (Ret)

BUSINESS UPDATES

WE'VE MOVED!

Please be advised that the administrative office for the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, and True Blue and Gold has moved to the former Wilburtha Station. Our office is now located adjacent to the True Blue and Gold Gift Shop! All contact and mailing information remains the same. Thank you!

N.J. FORMER TROOPERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.



Hopefully, with the roll-out of the coronavirus vaccines, 2021 will return the world to some semblance of normalcy. For our Outfit of Jersey Troopers, it is a Happy 100th Year Anniversary! As of this writing, the Heritage Foundation is in the midst of a fund-raising campaign to complete the long awaited NJSP Memorial Courtyard Renovation Project. Nick Soranno has joined our Heritage Foundation Building Fund Committee and is spearheading fundraising activity to facilitate this very worthy endeavor. Barring any unforeseen issues, we expect to have a finished project before the next issue of True Blue and Gold is published, where we will include a detailed report on the project. Any and all donations may be made via our web site at www.njftheritagefoundation.org or via check mailed to our office.

On another note, the December 2020, passing of Recruit Lucas C. Homeijer while in training at the NJSP Academy hit our Outfit hard. Lucas was the son of Sergeant Don O. Homeijer, #4392 (Ret) and the nephew of SFC Charles H. Homeijer, #2786 (Ret). Well respected among his academy classmates, Lucas' passing set in motion a yearning to establish a memorial scholarship in his memory. The families of his classmates sought out a charitable foundation to facilitate just such a memorial scholarship, and our Heritage Foundation was honored to serve. To date, several thousand dollars have been donated, establishing the **Lucas C. Homeijer Memorial Scholarship Fund**. This fund will enable a **\$2,500** annual scholarship in Lucas' memory for at least three-years, to be awarded to a candidate pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice or Law & Public Safety Administration, who is seeking a career in Law Enforcement.

Lastly, in mid-July we received information that Sergeant Dennis S. O’Dea, #6552 had been diagnosed with Stage 3 Colon Cancer. Without hesitation our Heritage Foundation began fund-raising to help Sergeant O’Dea and his family with the financial burdens associated with treating this life-threatening illness. Working cooperatively with the Troopers United Foundation, who is spearheading this fund-raising endeavor, the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation has generously received and donated contributions totaling some \$5,500 to date. Sgt. O’Dea, his wife and sole care provider Danielle, and their three-year-old daughter are in this life-threatening battle, but they are not alone. Our fundraising efforts will continue! We sincerely appreciate everyone who has graciously donated to assist a fellow Jersey Trooper and his Family in their time of need. Please keep them in your prayers and continue to help them during this difficult time. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!



TRUE BLUE AND GOLD, INC.



The ongoing restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to keep our Logo Merchandise Store closed until further notice. However, our E-com Store is still readily available to accommodate your Internet shopping. Internet purchases are being processed every day and will be shipped to your home in a timely fashion. Along with our usual NJSP logo merchandise, we are also featuring a growing line of “100 Years” Logo Merchandise. We will continue to keep everyone up to date via our Web Site and posts on our FTA Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These items are expected to go fast, so keep checking so you do not miss out on that special keepsake. Thank you!

Lt. George J. Wren, Jr., #3680 (Ret)

FTA SPRING 2021 MEETING REMINDER

Subsequent to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTA Spring 2021 General Meeting will be held on May 1, 2021 (10:00 a.m.) via a ZOOM Video Conference Meeting. This technology enabled our members to access this Board meeting. A final announcement and directions to participate in this meeting will be posted on our FTA Website Announcements Box and on the Bulletin Board two-weeks prior to the meeting. Hopefully, the membership can join us on this new platform.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

N.J. FORMER TROOPERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION **2021 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation is proud to announce it has assumed the administration of the Former Troopers Association Scholarship Program. In doing so, the Heritage Foundation as a 501(c)(3) Public Charity has enhanced its benevolence by accepting and administering private scholarship donations, thus enabling the largest offering of college scholarships to eligible high school seniors graduating in May 2021. Applicants must be the child, grandchild, stepchild, or step-grandchild of an Active, Retired or Deceased Jersey Trooper.

This year, 2021 will offer several privately funded scholarships, including: the **\$1,000, Trooper William L. Carroll, Jr., #3296 Memorial Scholarship**, funded by Michelle Carroll, and supplemented by the Survivors of the Triangle; the **\$1,000, Richard Salvatore Soranno Memorial Scholarship**, funded by Nicholas and Carl Soranno; the **\$1,600, Captain Peter E. & Eleanor J. Baker, #1600 Memorial Scholarship**, funded by their children, and supplemented by John Ouweleen; and the newly established **\$5,000, Cindy Trump Memorial Scholarship**, to be awarded to a candidate pursuing a degree and career in the field of medical first responder, nursing, or medical profession, funded by Joan & William Trump; and the annual **\$1,000, Debra Chesko Memorial Scholarship, as well as additional scholarships totaling up to \$12,000**, funded by the Heritage Foundation.

As you may be aware, Lucas C. Homeijer, tragically passed away in December 2020 while attending training at the New Jersey State Police Academy. Wanting to establish a memorial scholarship in his memory, the families of his Academy Classmates sought out a charitable foundation to facilitate just such a memorial scholarship, and our Heritage Foundation was honored to serve. To date, several thousand dollars have been donated, establishing the **Lucas C. Homeijer Memorial Scholarship Fund**. This fund will enable a **\$2,500** annual scholarship in Lucas' memory for at least three-years, to be awarded to a candidate pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice or Law & Public Safety Administration, who is seeking a career in Law Enforcement.

All scholarship recipients will be announced at the upcoming FTA Spring General Meeting on May 1, 2021. Donations to the Lucas C. Homeijer Memorial Scholarship Fund and the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program may be made by visiting the Heritage Foundation Web Site at www.njfteritagefoundation.org, or by check made payable and mailed to the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 7852, West Trenton, N.J. 08628. Please note your donation preference in the *Write a Note (optional)* area of the web site Donate Section, or on the *Memo line* of your personal check. All donations will enable the Heritage Foundation to continue awarding these and other scholarships for many years to come. Scholarship applications and eligibility requirements are available on the Heritage Foundation and FTA web sites. Any questions contact a member of the Scholarship Committee: Ernest J. Volkmann - Chairman @ (732) 254-5322, Mike McLaughlin @ (609) 820-3040, Ken Wondrack @ (732) 223-5279, Pat Reilly @ (856) 340-0843, or Al Della Fave @ (732) 908-6001. Thank you!

ASSOCIATION OF THE FORMER NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS
100TH ANNIVERSARY
EDUCATIONAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Association of the Former New Jersey State Troopers Educational Fund, Inc. has been committed to provide educational scholarship opportunities and interest free loans to eligible State Police family members for several decades. The scholarship program will continue to offer scholarships to any child or grandchild of a New Jersey State Trooper (Active/Retired), who is living or deceased as set-forth in its By-Laws. In celebration of the 100TH Anniversary of the New Jersey State Police, the Education Fund is offering (10) scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,500.00. The scholarship is open to any student presently attending a college and maintaining a GPA of at least 2.5, and to any high school senior with an equivalent grade who plans to enroll in a state accredited college or university, anywhere in the USA. Selections are based on a lottery drawing, which shall include all applications submitted that meet the stated criteria.

Applicants benefitting from the drawing will receive a formal notification by the Treasurer of the Fund along with a check payable to the applicant. If for any reason the applicant should change their mind about pursuing or continuing a college education, the money shall be returned to the Fund.

The Association also administers “interest-free” education loans to eligible widows, widowers, and dependent children of members of the New Jersey State Police who were killed, died or were retired for reasons of accidental disability, while on active duty with the New Jersey State Police. All applications must be mailed to the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Education Fund, Attention: Robert Kilmurray, Secretary, 1101 Ridgefield Drive Point Pleasant, New Jersey 08742. Applications for the 2021 drawing are do prior to April 30, 2021. Applications for scholarship and “interest-free” loans can be found on the FTA website.

MEDIA MATTERS

A former member of the Black Panther Party seeks parole nearly 50 years after he was convicted of murder

By Caren Chesler

March 13, 2021

A former member of the Black Panther Party, who went to prison when he was 36 and is now 84, will go before New Jersey’s Supreme Court this Fall to try to win his release, arguing that he has been a model prisoner and eligible for parole for a quarter-century but has been repeatedly denied because his crime involved the killing of a state trooper.

Sundiata Acoli, born Clark Edward Squire, is serving a life sentence for the May 2, 1973, murder of Trooper Werner Foerster during a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike. Acoli was driving just after midnight when another trooper, James Harper, stopped him for a defective taillight. Acoli and his two passengers, Assata Shakur, born JoAnne Chesimard, and Zayd Malik Shakur, born James Costan, were members of the Black Liberation Army. Harper called for backup and was joined by Foerster, who

discovered an ammunition magazine for an automatic pistol on Acoli, according to news reports of the trial and his appeals.

A gun battle erupted. Foerster was shot four times, and Harper was wounded. The three Black Liberation Army members drove five miles south on the Turnpike and pulled over. Assata Shakur was quickly arrested, and Zayd Malik Shakur was found dead near the car. Acoli fled into nearby woods, where he was captured about 30 hours later. Both Acoli and Shakur, in separate trials, were convicted of the murder of Foerster. Shakur has said she was shot and wounded with her hands up and couldn't have killed Foerster. Acoli said at the time that he was hit by a bullet, blacked out and couldn't remember what happened.

A jury convicted Acoli of first-degree murder in 1974 and sentenced him to life with the possibility of parole after 25 years. With prison credits, his parole date was pushed up to 1993 but he was denied. And he's been denied parole four times in all. Shakur escaped prison in 1979 and fled to Cuba where she was granted political asylum. She is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list. *Assata Shakur was convicted of murder. Is she a terrorist?*

Acoli was close to winning his freedom in 2014, when after taking the parole board to court, a state appellate panel ruled he should be set free. The court cited his good behavior since 1996 and said the parole board ignored a psychologist's 2010 testimony that Acoli had expressed regret and remorse for his involvement in the trooper's death. The psychologist also said Acoli had a "low to moderate risk" of reoffending.

But the state Attorney General's office contested the appellate court's decision. The case was sent back to the board, which again denied Acoli's request, but when the case went back before the appellate panel a second time, there were two new judges hearing the case and the panel ruled 2-1 that Acoli should remain in prison.

Acoli is now appealing that second appellate decision, and his case is expected to go before the Supreme Court later this year. The New Jersey Attorney General's office declined to comment, and the state police did not respond to a request for comment.

The Former Troopers Association of New Jersey finds it is extremely difficult to believe that in less than one-year's time, Inmate Acoli has miraculously found remorse, accepted rehabilitation, or even offered a sincere admission of his actions in the inhumane murder of Trooper Foerster," Della Fave said

The FTA is happy to make available our press officer to all members, family or loved ones needing advice or assistance with press or social media issues. Simply direct your message to Al Della Fave on our Former Troopers Association NJ Facebook page or e-mail (al.dellafave@gmail.com).

For the full story please click on the link below:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/sundiata-acoli-black-panther-parole/2021/03/12/68254ace-81c2-11eb-ac37-4383f7709abe_story.html

Major Al Della Fave, #4040 (Ret)

FTA SOCIAL EVENTS

TROOP "A, B & C" OLD-TIMERS GET-TOGETHERS



Please be advised that due to current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the three Troop Old-Timers Get-Togethers are on hold. These Troop Get-Togethers are a great opportunity to renew friendships and honor the many brothers and sisters who have been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once this is behind us we will gladly return to our regional Get-Togethers and will advise you through our social media and newsletters. In the meantime an FTA 2021 Calendar is located on the FTA Web Site, in the Announcements Box for your use and information!

Troopers Bridge Foundation

2021 Annual "Bridge" Dinner

"Lest We Forget"

NJSP Trooper Scott M. Gonzalez #5059



Thursday, June 3, 2021 @ 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort - Delaware, PA
(Outdoor Event - \$25.00 Donation)
(Buffet Style Dinner / Honoree & Patriot Awards / Gun Raffle)

State Trooper Honorees

PSP - Trooper Monty R. Mitchell & Trooper Jason Brindle
NJSP - Trooper I John Passarella & Detective Richard Hershey
NYSP - Trooper Jennifer A. Czarnecki & Investigator Ryan D. Fortini
Patriot Award: NJSP Academy Class #161 Lucas C. Homeijer

For more information contact Troopers Bridge Foundation - Advisory Board:
troopersbridgefoundation@gmail.com

NJSP Lieutenant Gary Talijan (Ret.) - (908) 319-4375
NJSP Captain Bob Gaugler (Ret.) - (908) 451-5237
NJSP Trooper I Jim Agens - (908) 303-0382
NJSP Trooper Joe Clayton - (908) 914-5383

Or

State Police Agency TBF Directors @
NJSP SSGT Mike Verheek (845) 551-0461 or Detective Mike Gallant - (908) 256-6554
NYSP FSGT Jim Whittel - (845) 283-1000
PSP Tpr. Mike Kozma - (570) 441-7731 or Capt. AJ Krawczel (Ret.) (717) 278-2846

troopersbridgefoundation.org

HEALTH, SECURITY & MISC. INFO.

VISITATION PROGRAM

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers in cooperation with the New Jersey State Police developed the Visitation Program in 2009. The program was designed to check on the wellbeing of retired members and to lift the spirits of those who may be seriously ill, homebound, or in need of some old fashion camaraderie by their fellow Jersey Troopers. Visits are scheduled utilizing both active duty, uniformed, personnel and representatives from the Association. The Association currently maintains lists of retired volunteers in north, central and southern New Jersey to draw upon for visits. Visits can be scheduled via a request from any FTA or family member, or a friend. In respecting the privacy of our members these visits will only be conducted with his or her approval. The FTA is also looking for additional retired volunteers to assist with visits to our members. Visitation requests and/or volunteers may contact the Former Troopers Association office by telephone at 1-609-882-2000 X:2220. Your assistance in this endeavor is greatly appreciated. *Currently due to COVID-19 no in-home visitations are occurring. We hope to resume either in-person or via ZOOM once the State lifts many of their restrictions.*

FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The FTA Board of Directors will be seeking nominations from our members for the 2021 Former Trooper of the Year. Careful consideration must be given in this selection process and a committee of former award recipients is tasked with recommending candidates subsequent to the following guidelines which should be considered in, but not limited to, the selection of the person who best represents the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers:

1. Candidate for the Former Trooper of the Year Award must be a 'Member in Good Standing' of the Association.
2. Candidate's contributions to the Association should be considered, i.e. volunteer time, committee service, Board of Directors service, etc.
3. Civic activities should strongly be considered. Is the candidate active in charitable or civic organizations that favorably reflect on the Division of State Police and the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers? Has there been a major accomplishment, of an award bestowed upon the candidate? Has there been involvement in his or her community activities?
4. Has the candidate best represented the traditions of the New Jersey State Police and the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers?

If you would like to nominate someone, send all information via a Letter of Nomination to the FTA, c/o FTOY, PO Box 7852, West Trenton, NJ 08628, no later than August 31, 2021. Your nomination will be given careful consideration. Final determination will be made by the Association's Board of Directors. Presentation of the award will be made at a location determined by the Board for the convenience of all involved.

FROM FEMA WEB SITE:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. We are working with stakeholder groups to get their input on ways we can best provide this assistance, and to enlist their help with outreach to families and communities. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April.

Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

HOW TO APPLY:

In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.

Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

HOW ARE FUNDS RECEIVED:

If you are eligible for funeral assistance you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Individuals and Households Program Policy \(Interim\)](#)

[Funeral Assistance FAQ](#)

[FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19-Related Deaths Press Release](#) | March 24, 2021

Feel free to reach out to me via email or telephone at any time. My email is bjones@ftanjsp.org or telephone me at **609-649-3221**. If you know of a member who doesn't have computer access, please have them reach out to me.

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

On a sad note, the Division lost active member Lieutenant Keith Young #5949 after a courageous battle with cancer. Keith was surrounded by his family at the end. Our condolences go out to the Young family and friends impacted by this tragic loss. Keith was a member of the 122nd State Police class graduating on May 5, 2001 and the Unit Head for the Polygraph Unit. He is survived by his wife Jennifer Young, daughters Lilliana and Nicolette Young and stepdaughters Hannah and Haley Tamagni.



To keep us connected to the Division's various Sections, periodic updates to current investigations and notable stories will be included in our newsletters.

Stories courtesy of NJSP Public Information Office

RPO RENEWAL UPDATE

From the NJSP Firearms Unit:

Pursuant to Executive Order 129 issued by Governor Murphy, RPO renewals that expired during the Public Health Emergency have been ***extended for 90 days past the end of the emergency***, meaning, for example, if the public health emergency ends on May 1, 2021, the 90-day clock starts. To remain compliant, applicants must apply before their permit expires with their most recent qualification scores.

The process to obtain an RPO is as follows: Initial Applicant (items needed):

- Application (S.P. 232) Do not fill out page 2. (Page 2 is to be verified by former employer)
- Mental Health Form (S.P. 66). Form needs to be downloaded with Internet Explorer.
- Retired Law Enforcement Officer Training Record. A specific qualification course in which an approved firearms instructor qualifies the applicant and fills out a form provided to them by the Firearms Investigation Unit.
- 2 passport style color photographs.
- \$50 application fee payable to "Superintendent of State Police"
- \$10 flag fee. RETIRED TROOPERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY THE FLAG FEE.

Renewal Applicants (items needed):

- Application (S.P. 232A)
- Mental Health Form (S.P. 66). Form needs to be downloaded with Internet Explorer.
- Retired Law Enforcement Officer Training Record. A specific qualification course in which an approved firearms instructor qualifies the applicant and fills out a form provided to them by the Firearms Investigation Unit.
- \$50 application fee payable to "Superintendent of State Police"

- Photographs are NOT necessary unless applicant feels as though appearance has changed since last application.

All of the required forms are found on the New Jersey State Police website www.njsp.org/firearms. Other information found on the website include RPO shooting ranges, RPO qualifier information, RPO frequently asked questions.

Contact information for the Firearms Investigation Unit:

RPO@njsp.org - Please use this email if you have a question regarding your Retired Police Officer Permit to Carry.

FirearmsInvestUnit@njsp.org - Please use this email for inquiries related to your FARS or Permit to Carry application that was submitted to a State Police Barracks. We will also do our best to answer your questions regarding current firearms statute. Please note, the New Jersey State Police does not provide legal advice, if you need advice please contact a licensed attorney.

FirearmsDealers@njsp.org - Please use this email if you are an aspiring retail / wholesale firearms dealer or a current licensed firearms dealer.

State Police and Partners Arrest 18 Fugitives, Including Individuals Wanted for Violent Crimes in Paterson

Detectives Seize Drugs, Weapons, and Ammunition

Paterson, N.J. - The New Jersey State Police, Passaic County Sheriff's Office, Paterson Police Department, United States Marshals Service, and the New Jersey Department of Corrections conducted a 3-day mobile deployment initiative in the Passaic County area that resulted in the arrest of 18 fugitives and the seizure of drugs, guns, and ammunition.

Detectives from the New Jersey State Police Fugitive Unit, Gangs and Organized Crime North Unit, and K-9 Unit along with members of the United States Marshals Service NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, Passaic County Sheriff's Office, Paterson Police Department Fugitive Unit and Ceasefire Unit, and the New Jersey Department of Corrections Special Operations Group targeted violent criminals who had warrants for their arrest and were believed to be involved in criminal activity within the city of Paterson. The targets for the operation were identified through various investigative means including street-level intelligence, patrol advisories, and information provided by the New Jersey State Police Real Time Crime Center North Unit.

From Wednesday, February 10 to Friday, February 12, a total of 18 fugitives wanted by state, county, and local law enforcement agencies were apprehended in Passaic County. The accused were wanted for various crimes including attempted homicide, aggravated assault, armed robbery, theft, burglary, and various weapons and drug-related offenses. All suspects were remanded to the appropriate authorities, lodged at the Passaic County Jail, or lodged at the Essex County Youth Detention Facility. The following was seized as a result of the operation:

- .40 caliber ghost gun – A ghost gun is a firearm that is assembled from various parts that are not imprinted with a serial number registered with a federally licensed manufacturer, making them difficult for law enforcement to trace.
- .380 caliber handgun
- 9mm handgun (reported stolen out of South Carolina)
- Hollow point ammunition
- Scoped crossbow with various bolts and arrows
- 40 grams of cocaine
- 700 grams of heroin
- Paraphernalia consistent with the packaging and preparation of drugs

“This multi-agency initiative resulted in the apprehension of dangerous fugitives responsible for violent crimes within the city of Paterson and represents a significant step towards reducing violence in the city and its surrounding areas,” said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. “Our mobile deployment initiatives have been successful in making communities safer across our State, and this operation once again reinforces the message that we are working tirelessly with our law enforcement partners to target and arrest violent crime offenders who attempt to hide from justice.”

State Police Solve 31 Car Thefts and Dismantle Multi-County Auto Theft Ring- Operation “*Bust A Move*”

Woodbridge Township, N.J. - The New Jersey State Police have arrested 6 suspects and dismantled an alleged multi-county theft ring linked to more than 30 stolen vehicles, 2 motor vehicle pursuits, and various other crimes after a 13-month operation dubbed “Bust a Move.”

On October 31, 2019, troopers from Troop “D” Holmdel Station began investigating a motor vehicle crash involving an overturned Honda Civic on the Garden State Parkway in Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County. As a result of the investigation at the scene, troopers seized a stolen 9mm handgun and discovered that the vehicle was wanted by the Sayreville Borough Police Department for fleeing a motor vehicle stop just prior to the crash.

Detectives from the Troop “D” Criminal Investigation Office later discovered that the vehicle was stolen from Sayreville Borough on October 20, 2019 by Chris Rosado of Newark, N.J. and Kelsey Acosta, 26, of Perth Amboy, N.J. Through various investigative means, investigators determined that Melvin Martine, and Julian Ferreira both of Newark, N.J. were in the Honda at the time of the crash, fled the scene, and were later picked up by Kelsey Acosta and Chris Rosado in Woodbridge Township. On December 17, 2019, detectives arrested Rosado at his residence and charged him with hindering and joyriding. On December 23, 2019, Acosta turned herself into detectives at Holmdel Station and was charged with hindering and possession of marijuana. Based on the information uncovered during the investigation, detectives discovered that Rosado and Acosta were allegedly operating a vehicle-theft ring that targeted Hondas and Acuras in Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties. Detectives also identified Collins Kusi of Roselle, N.J. as a ringleader of the network and Melvin Martinez and Lazaro Ramos of Keasbey, N.J. as associates within the network.

Detectives also determined that Acosta and Rosado were using a storage facility in Linden, N.J. to store and sell stolen auto parts. On February 21, 2020, State Police detectives executed a search warrant and seized a Honda Civic, a stolen transmission, a stolen engine, fictitious plates, various auto parts, and tools. The case is being prosecuted by the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office.

State Police and Law Enforcement Partners Arrest Two Men for Committing Multiple Bank Robberies in Cape May County

Lower Township, N.J. - The New Jersey State Police have arrested Edward Hulme, 43, and Damian Leblanc, 39, both of Cape May, N.J., for allegedly committing three bank robberies and attempting to commit two bank robberies in Cape May County during a multi-agency investigation.

On December 30, 2020, detectives from the Troop “A” Criminal Investigation Office began investigating a robbery that occurred at the Sturdy Savings Bank on State Highway 47 in Dennisville, N.J. Detectives alleged that a male suspect entered the bank and handed the teller a note requesting that money be placed on the counter. The teller provided cash to the suspect who then departed the bank with stolen money in a Honda CRV.

While investigating the Sturdy Savings Bank robbery, two additional robberies were committed. On January 7, the TD Bank in Marmora, N.J. was robbed, and on January 11, the TD Bank in Cape May Court House, N.J. was robbed as well. Based on information gathered during the investigation, detectives determined that the description of the male suspect at the Sturdy Savings Bank robbery matched the description of the suspect at the TD Bank robberies. Detectives also discovered that the suspect, who fled each scene in a Honda CRV, also attempted to commit burglaries at the First Bank of Sea Isle and the Franklin Savings Bank in Ocean View, N.J. Through various investigative means, detectives identified Hulme as the suspect in the robberies and linked Leblanc to the vehicle, which investigators located at a residence on Academy Road in Lower Township where they both reside.

On Wednesday, February 3, members of the Middle Township Police Department determined that Leblanc was operating the Honda CRV in Middle Township, where he was located and arrested during a motor vehicle stop. At the same time, detectives from the Troop "A" Criminal Investigation Office along with members of the State Police T.E.A.M.S. Unit, Middle Township Police Department, Lower Township Police Department, Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, Cape May County Sheriff's Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, executed a search warrant at their residence and arrested Hulme. As a result, investigators seized heroin, Xanax bars, and clothing worn by Hulme matching the description of the clothing worn by the suspect during the robberies. This case is being prosecuted by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.



QUARTER CENTURY CLUB MEMORIAL DONATIONS

<u>Contributed by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Charities Aid Foundation	For the Good of the Order	\$18.00
Jacqueline Soranno	For the Good of the Order	\$100.00
Robert Long, #3903	For the Good of the Order	\$25.00
Anne Reilly, #5549	For the Good of the Order	\$75.00
Dorothy Crawford	Captain Kenneth P. Crawford, #1965	\$80.00
Fred & Sarah Romonowski, #1984	Captain Robert W. Kent, #1825	\$100.00
Margaret Trevors	Beloved Husband, Lt. Walter Trevors, #1557	\$100.00
Jean Greco	Lieutenant Carmen J. Greco, #983	\$30.00
Paul Bershefski, #2137	SFC Michael Trupkiewicz, #2359	\$50.00
Jane Burns	SFC Richard J. Burns, #1391	\$200.00
Jon & Ruth Ann Gribbin	Captain Alfred G. Piperata, #1490	\$100.00
Ken & Barbara Newbauer, #1652	SFC Robert J. Kowalski, Sr., #1645	\$125.00
Sondra Wilhelm	SFC Fritz J. Wilhelm, #1135	\$25.00
Frederick J. Calandra, Sr., #1922	For the Good of the Order	\$50.00
Shirley Wilson	Lieutenant Robert A. Wilson, #2813	\$100.00
Robert J. Kelsey, #2068	69 th Class	\$100.00
Paul & Jill Miller, #4476	For the Good of the Order	\$125.00
John Ouweleen, #1759	For the Good of the Order	\$1,000.00
John Ouweleen, #1759	Captain Peter E. & Eleanor Baker, #1600 Scholarship Fund	\$1,600.00
Connie Grant	Lieutenant Kenneth Grant, #1996	\$100.00
John Logan, #2071	Lieutenant Leo J. Kerwin, #1891	\$100.00
Diane Buzzard	LTC Louis H. Taranto, Sr., #1594	\$30.00
Albert J. Kernagis, Jr., #2748	85 th Class, 50 th Anniversary	\$100.00
Ronald W. Smith, #2587	Sergeant James Sharpless, #4578	\$100.00
John Logan, #2071	Trooper John A. Schumacher, #1985	\$100.00
Charlotte Sweeney & Family	DSFC James J. Sweeney, #1913	\$100.00
Joseph Jordan & Sheryl	Captain George Fisher, III, #2824	\$50.00
Colonel Carl A. Williams, #1872	Lieutenant Vincent W. Mattis #1613	\$50.00
Colonel Carl A. Williams, #1872	Lieutenant Stephen M. Cermak, #1499	\$50.00
Marianne Cunninghame	Sergeant Samuel Cunninghame, #1936	\$30.00

*In addition to our Quarter Century Club donations the following were made in support of
The Lucas Homeijer Memorial Scholarship Fund!*

Robert & Vicki Sensi, #3668	\$100.00
Folsom/Recruit Class #161	\$200.00
James & Charlene Crann, #3768	\$250.00
Gerald & Linda Murphy	\$25.00
Dylan Chiumento Class #161	\$500.00
Albert Kernagis, Jr., #2748	\$50.00
Mandelbaum Foundation	\$500.00
Francis & Carole Callahan, #1674	\$100.00

PBA Local #396	\$500.00
John & Ann Wright	\$100.00
Anthony, Timothy & Barbara Rose	\$100.00
Mark Cunard, #4781	\$200.00
Anthony Daniels & Family, #3967	\$200.00
Ronald Smith, #2587	\$100.00
Jack & Charlene Senachai	\$50.00
Edward Lynskey, #2965	\$100.00
Shirley Wilson/God Bless Lucas & Family	\$100.00
Jacoba & James Kenna, #2383	\$200.00
Vincent & Joanne Quilban	\$100.00
Raymond Shea, Jr., #2804	\$25.00
Catherine & Perry Solimando	\$100.00
John Markanich, #2830	\$25.00
Jonathan & Alyssa Louro/Class #161	\$200.00
Robert, Jerriann & Robert G. Parlow, #3569 Trooper Recruit #161 Class	\$100.00
Patricia Terpanick	\$50.00
Robert & Audrey Wallace, #2935	\$50.00
Harry & Henrietta McGrath, #1979	\$50.00
Toby & Nancy Hill, #5357	\$50.00
Mark & Joy Curran/James Curran, Recruit Class #161	\$100.00
Alexander & Carol Tezsla, #5797	\$100.00
TKO Athletic	\$200.00



03/29/2021 100th Anniversary

LAST PATROL

CAPTAIN EDWARD J. PITKO, #2155



PITKO, EDWARD J. #2155 passed away on March 26, 2021. He was 80 years old. He enlisted on August 26, 1966 as a member of the 71st Class and retired on April 1, 1966. He served with the US Air Force in Vietnam. He was predeceased by his wife Wanda and his brother Lt. Joseph Pitko #2156 (Ret). He is survived by his daughters Megan Pitko and Heather Melton and son-in-law Jeff Melton and 4 Grandchildren.

CAPTAIN ARNOLD KLEEBERG #1406



KLEEBERG, ARNOLD #1406 passed away on 03/19/2021. He was 89 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on 05/01/1955 as a member of the 48th Class and retired on 02/01/1986. He proudly served in the US Navy. He was predeceased by his wife Irene Kleeberg. He is survived by his son, Major Karl Kleeberg #3982 (Ret) and daughter-in-law Jeanne Kleeberg.

LIEUTENANT RAYMOND J. ELLIOT JR. #1702



ELLIOT, RAYMOND J. #1702 passed away on March 23, 2021. He was 86 years old. He enlisted on 10/02/1961 as a member of the 58th Class. He retired on 03/01/1990. He was predeceased by his wife Elaine. He is survived by his son Anthony and two daughters, Donna Elliott and Jody Massimino. He also leaves behind several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT PHILLIP B. PELLIGRA #1760



PELLIGRA, PHILLIP B. #1760 passed away on 03/14/2021. He was 83 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on 05/20/1962 as a member of the 59th Class. He retired on 04/01/1991. He served in the US Army and the NJ Army National Guard. He is survived by his wife Kathy, his sons Phillip Jr and NJSP Sgt. (Ret) Steven #4652, Stepdaughter Jennifer Arp, Stepson Ted Sammuelson, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

TPR. I JAMES F. MURRAY #3919



MURRAY, JAMES F. #3919 passed away on 03/10/2021. He was 78 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on 12/12/1984 as a member of the Motor Vehicle Class. He retired on 10/01/1989. He served in the US Army. He was predeceased by his son Ryan. He is survived by his wife Patricia, his daughter Erin Ballou, his son Director James M. Murray who is the head of the US Secret Service, and 9 grandchildren.

TPR.I JEROME D. TOMASSO JR. #3822



TOMASSO, JEROME D. #3822 passed away on February 28, 2021. He was 62 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on March 4, 1983 as a member of the 100th Class. He retired on August 1, 2003. He is survived by his wife Suzanne, 2 daughters - Allison Tomasso and Danielle Tomasso, and son, John Tomasso.

LIEUTENANT VINCENT W. MATTIS #1613



MATTIS, VINCENT W. #1613 passed away on March 5, 2021. He was 85 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on June 29, 1959 as a member of the 55th Class and retired on May 1, 1987. He proudly served in the United States Air Force. He is survived by his wife Joan, a son Lt. Vance Mattis #4814 (Ret), a daughter Kimberly Varitis, and 4 Grandchildren.

SFC. JACK R. CONOVER #2433



CONOVER, JACK R. #2433 passed away on February 26, 2021. He was 74 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on June 27, 1969 as a member of the 78th Class. He retired on January 1, 2001. He served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife Cindy, daughters Suzanne Conover and Stephanie Dougherty, son Jack R. Conover II, his brother, Kenneth Conover, 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

SGT. WILLIAM J. TULKO, #2131



TULKO, WILLIAM J. #2131 passed away on Feb. 13, 2021. He was 76 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on April 15, 1966 as a member of the 70th Class and retired on June 1, 1991. He served with the US Marines in Vietnam. He was predeceased by his son Scott, his sister Joan, and his brother Raymond. He is survived by two sons William and Ryan, his daughter Erin and four grandchildren.

LT. STEPHEN CERMAK #1499



CERMAK, STEPHEN #1499 passed away on February 12, 2021. He was 95 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on August 3, 1956 as a member of the 51st Class and retired on September 1, 1981. He proudly served in the United States Navy during World War II. He is survived by his children; Stephen, Susan Hilton and Anne Marie Compton; eight Grandchildren, and one Great Grandchild. Also surviving are his brothers, John, Robert, Lt. (Ret) Michael Cermak #1498 and a sister Rosemarie.

SGT. ROBERT W. ARNDT, #2899



ARNDT, ROBERT W. #2899 passed away on Feb. 2, 2021. He was 74 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on Dec. 13, 1973 as a member of the 89th Class. He retired on July 1, 1999. He served in the US Army. He was predeceased by his brother William and his parents Robert and Betty Arndt. He is survived by his wife Jo-Ellen, his two sons Robert and Joseph, his brother Tom, sisters BettyAnn and Mary and 4 grandchildren.

SSGT. JAMES M. SHARPLESS SR. #4578



SHARPLESS, JAMES M. #4578 passed away on January 26th, 2021. He was 63 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on May 7th, 1987 as a member of the 107th Class. He retired on May 1, 2012. He is survived by his wife Joan; three children Tpr. James M. Jr #6697, Jonathan and Jennifer; two brothers Lewis and David; stepmother Lee; including a nephew Tpr. David L Sharpless Jr #6970.

LIEUTENANT LEO J. KERWIN JR. 1891



KERWIN, LEO J. #1891 passed away on Jan. 16, 2021. He was 86 years old. He enlisted in the State Police 05/25/1964 as a member of the 64th Class. He retired on 10/1/1986. He also served in the US Army during the Korean war earning a Bronze Star. He was predeceased in death by a son, James. He is survived by his wife Jean Kerwin, his daughters Lynda, Patti Ann and a son Gary Kerwin and 4 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT JAMES M. BRYAN #4602



BRYAN, JAMES M. #4602 passed away on 12/31/2020. He was 53 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on 08/27/1987 and retired on 09/01/2012. He is survived by his wife, Brenda and his two daughters, Kayln and Casee as well as his parents, Harold and Joan Bryan of Milford, Delaware, brother Michael Bryan of South Dennis, NJ, sister Lorraine Levine of Boynton Beach, Fl.

LIEUTENANT JAMES F. CUZZUPE #1431



CUZZUPE, JAMES F. #1431 passed away 12/27/2020 at the age of 88. He enlisted in the State Police on 08/19/1955, as a member of the 49th class. He retired on 09/01/1987. He served in the US Army. He is survived by his wife, Stella M Cuzzupe, sons, Jim, Joe, and NJSP Captain John Cuzzupe #3966 (Ret) and a daughter, Martha. His is survived by one brother, Joe Cuzzupe, and two brothers are deceased. He had three sisters that predeceased him. He had 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

CAPTAIN RONALD E. AYRES #1140



AYRES, RONALD E. #1140 passed away on 12/24/20. He was 95 years old. He graduated the 42nd State Police Class on 12/1/52 and retired on 1/1/78. He served in the US Navy Submarine Service and was a WWII veteran. He is survived by his wife Eileen Hoffman Ayres and two sons, Ronald T and Dale Ayres.

**LIEUTENANT ADOLPH D. EBERT
#1531**



EBERT, ADOLPH D. #1531 passed away on 12/12/2020. He was 86 years old. He enlisted on 07/15 1957 and retired on 11/01/1988. He served in the US Navy and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was married to the late Rosemarie Ebert, who was a secretary for many years at NJSP Headquarters in Hammonton, New Jersey. He is survived by two daughters, Chrissy McGovern of Hammonton, and Donna Buczko of Marlton, New Jersey; two grandchildren, Jason Buczko and Megan McGovern of two brothers, Bill Elbert, of Virginia, his late brother, Robert of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, and a sister, Millie, of Trenton, New Jersey.

SGT. ROBERT POLYAK #2259



POLYAK, ROBERT #2259 passed away on 12/15/2020. He was 85 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on 12/15/1967 as a member of the 74th Class. He retired on 10/1/1990. He also served in the US Army. He is survived by his wife Linda, his daughters Patrica Oliemuller, Michaëlle Febi, his son Robert Polyak Jr, 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

**LIEUTENANT JOHN "JACK"
COUGHLIN #1362**



COUGHLIN, JOHN #1362 passed away on Dec. 22, 2020. He was 90 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on Dec. 20, 1954 as a member of the 47th Class. He retired on Sept. 1, 1985. He also served in the US Army. He was predeceased by his sons John in 2002 and Michael in 1977. He is survived by his wife Marianne Coughlin, daughter Linda White, stepsons David and Michael Lees, stepdaughter Jacqueline Grantham, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT JOHM M. TOMKO #1518



TOMKO, JOHM M. #1519 passed away on 12/8/2020. He was 90 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on 08/3/1956 as a member of the 51st Class and retired at the rank of Lt. on 09/1/1985. He proudly served in the US Coast Guard He is survived by his beloved wife, Marie, of 65 years, children, Marie Hatton, John Jr., William, and predeceased by his daughter, Shirley. He is also survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

LETTERS TO THE FTA

December 10, 2020

**NJ Former Trooper Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, NJ 08628**

Dear Sir:

Please accept our enclosed check as a donation in memory of Recruit Lucas Homeijer (Recruit class #161). Our sone, Kevin, is one of his fellow academy classmates. We would like to make this donation to the scholarship fund to honor the memory of Recruit Trooper Lucas Homeijer.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Wright

Ann M. Wright

We would like to make a donation for the annual memorial scholarship in the name of NJSP recruit Lucas Homeijer.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are touched by this tragedy.

Sincerely,

Mick & Carole Callahan

Thank-you for establishing this scholarship of Lucas Homeijer.

Jim McSorley 3653

"God Rest His Soul"

PBA Local 396
P.O. Box 374
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

January 4, 2021

NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Chairman George J. Wren, Jr. & Staff

In memory of the State Police Recruit, Lucas "Luke" C. Homeijer, the Detectives of Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office. Police Benevolent Association Local 396 wishes to donate \$500.00 toward the New Jersey Former Trooper's Heritage Foundation in support of the Lucas C. Homeijer Scholarship Foundation. The detectives of the Prosecutor's Office have a longstanding relationship in proudly and jointly serving the citizens of Cumberland County.

It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Recruit Homeijer. So, it is the utmost respect and honor we humbly express our support of your pursuit with this scholarship.

Thank-you for your vision and God bless you.

Fraternally,

Detective Jay Pennypacker
(105th SP Class; retired #4409)

On behalf of PBA 369 President Ronald Clouser

Dec. 11, 2020

***Please accept this donation to the Lucas Homeijer Scholarship Fund.
My grandson is in this group and we were all devastated to hear of Lucas's death.***

***Sincerely,
Jerry & Linda Murphy***

12/01/2020

As the mother of Retired Trooper Russ Fleming #3633 and Grandmother of a current Trooper (Samantha Fleming) I am donating \$50 to N.J. Former Trooper Heritage Foundation in memory of Lucas.

I can not imagine what devastating grief his family is enduring. It is my belief that N.J. State Troopers are such a great "Family". God Bless you all and stay safe.

*Most Sincerely,
Mary Ann MacDonald*

December 10, 2020

**NJ Former Trooper Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, NJ 08628**

Our son James is a Cadet in the 161st Recruit Class.

Please accept this donation in memory of Lucas Homeijer.

Warm Regards,

Mark & Joy Curran

On behalf of Matthew Dinnell, a recruit in the Recruit Class of 161, We would like to make a donation in the memory of Lucas Homeijer.

The Dinnell Family

Dear President Soranno,

January 2021

On behalf of my mother, brothers, and sister, we are grateful for the support shown by the FTA during this difficult time. The Outfit is truly an amazing organization only because of the spirit de corps living in your Board of Directors and yourself. Please thank them all for us and for me especially. #1431 lived esprit de corps every day of his life.

P.S. The stone plaque with dad's picture on it is truly heartfelt. Mom has it proudly displayed in her home

The Cuzzupe Family



**To: The Jersey Troopers Heritage Foundation Inc.
2-17-21**

This donation is for Recruit Lucas Homeijer who was lost the 2nd week of the Fall Academy session for State Troopers. We did not know Lucas personally but know him in our hearts. This young man was lost just starting his life. We still think of him and grieve his loss. Our hearts are with his family and think of them often. This senseless loss impacted our lives and we will never forget him. My son is a fellow recruit and is scheduled to graduate in March.

Thank-you Barbara Rose

From Lt. John Duweleen #1795 (Ret)
RE: Capt. Peter Baker #1600 Scholarship

Dear George,

Jan 4, 2021

It is my pleasure to support the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Inc. For 2021. Enclosed is a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be utilized for discretionary values. Secondly, due to my close friendship and deep respect for Peter and Eleanor Baker, a second contribution is provided in the amount of \$1,600.00 to support the 1600 Scholarship. Please join to and award via the Former Troopers Scholarship Program beginning in 2021.

Have a safe and prosperous 2021.

John

From Lt. John Duweleen #1795 (Ret)

Dear George,

Feb 10, 2021

It is my pleasure to participate in the Columbarium project/Grand Memorial Courtyard. I know it will be a great success and rewarding. My conversation with Nick Soranno lead to the plan for the 100 year anniversary. It will be a wonderful tribute to you both, which is well deserved. Regrettably, I will not be there, however you both will be in my mind and heart

Your Friend,
John



03/29/2021 100th Anniversary

FTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – NICHOLAS C. SORANNO, JR., #3065
VICE PRESIDENT – GEORGE J. WREN, JR., #3680
SECRETARY – RAYMOND J. CHINTALL, #3234
TREASURER – HEIDI S. SCRIPTURE, #3579
SERGEANT AT ARMS – PATRICK J. REILLY, JR., #3570
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER – AL DELLA FAVE, #4040
CORPORATE COUNSEL – CARL J. SORANNO, ESQ.

DIRECTORS

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MICHAEL W. McLAUGHLIN, #2118
KENNETH F. WONDRAK, #2363
WILLIAM T. TRUMP, #2516
ERNEST J. VOLKMANN, #2547
JOSEPH A. CANNATELLA, #2852
DAVID SCUREMAN, #2924
ROBERT R. WILK, ESQ., #3603

PAST PRESIDENTS

1959-1961	JOHN GENZ, #602	1980-1981	JOHN D. HUNT, #558
1961-1963	JOHN B. WALLACE, #253	1981-1982	ARTHUR S. HAUSSLER, #471
1963-1964	RAYMOND J. WIRTH, #451	1982-1983	JOHN A. SMITH, #803
1964-1965	PRIOR DOUGHERTY, #397	1983-1984	WILLARD L. McELROY, #627
1965-1966	JOHN A. ZEIS, #513	1984-1985	ALFRED W. UKER, #738
1966-1967	ALEXANDER R. BOLEN, #457	1985-1986	RAYMOND GRACE, #761
1967-1968	WILLIAM P. KELLY, #243	1987-1989	SAM CUNNINGHAME, #1396
1968-1968	ROBERT P. BENJAMIN, #317	1990-1991	EDWARD ROWLAND, #1182
1969-1970	PAUL L. BELLOCCHIO, #743	1992-1993	JOHN McGRATH, #961
1970-1971	CHARLES H. SCHOEFFEL, #84	1994-1995	PHILLIP O'REILLY, #733
1971-1972	EDWARD BAER, #225	1995-1996	JOHN PALLOTTA, #1589
1972-1973	JOHN FITZSIMMONS, #700	1996-1996	WILLIAM O'CONNOR, #1114
1973-1974	DONALD M. WISHAM, #688	1996-1999	JOHN MCGANN, #1218
1974-1975	JOHN C. DOYLE, #287	2000-2003	WILLIAM TOWNSEND, #1620
1975-1976	BERNARD J. RYAN, #445	2004-2007	GEORGE T. COYLE, SR., #1528
1976-1977	EDWARD NETTERMAN, #488	2008-2009	HARRY C. McCURDY, #2117
1977-1978	STANLEY WEPPEL, #812	2010-2011	WILLIAM F. YODICE, #2165
1978-1979	JOHN C. CRAWFORD, #256	2012-2017	SAL MAGGIO, #2177
1979-1980	CARL A. DERESKEWICZ, #521		

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS

P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628
609-882-2000 x:2220
fta@ftanjsp.org

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CORPORATE COUNSEL
CARL J. SORANNO, ESQ
BRACH EICHLER LLC

PATRICK J. REILLY, JR. – EDITOR

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