



TRUE BLUE & GOLD

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER
NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS

DECEMBER 2022



INDEX: 1 – Cover 2 – Colonel's Comments 3 – President's Corner 5 – Former Trooper of the Year
7- Editor's Comments 8 – 911 Health Programs 9 – FTA Social Events 10 – Health, Security & Misc. Inc. 11 - Scholarships
12 –Bessie's Corner 16- Quarter Century 17 - Last Patrol 19- Letter to FTA 23 - Executive Staff
24 - Misc. Registrations & Forms 25 Advertisements

COLONEL'S COMMENTS



Season's Greetings from State Police Headquarters in West Trenton. Another year is almost "in the books" and our 101st year of service to the citizens of this great State, and even beyond our borders, was once again marked with phenomenal accomplishments by the women and men throughout all Branches of our Outfit. One of our most notable missions came this past September in the wake of Hurricane Fiona when we deployed 150 troopers for one month to assist Puerto Rico which was devastated once again by a brutal storm. Two waves of 75 members spent two weeks during each deployment assisting with traffic control, security, as well as humanitarian efforts to support response and recovery efforts for an entire month. In addition to this response, NJ Task Force-1, our Urban Search and Rescue team, was deployed to Sanibel Island in Florida for rescue and recovery efforts following the devastating impact of Hurricane Ian. These two missions, once again, served as tremendous sources of pride for the Division and proved that our service sometimes extends far beyond the borders of our state.

Recruits of the 164th State Police Class Began their training on September 26, 2022, with 152 recruits reporting on Day One. As of this writing, 109 recruits remain at Sea Girt and obviously have a long way to go to earn the privilege to call themselves Jersey Troopers when they graduate on February 24, 2023. On the heels of that class joining our ranks, the 165th State Police Class is scheduled to enter the Academy in March of 2023, and we hope that class begins with 215 recruits. For those wondering, we will most likely open another application process for the 166th class in the summer of 2023.

I am certain that all of you are aware of motor vehicle thefts which are plaguing our state and nation and am always proud to report that the diligence and perseverance of our troopers and our partners at the federal, county, and municipal level are making a difference. New Jersey averages 45 stolen motor vehicles per day and we witnessed auto thefts increase 22% from 2020 to 2021. Since we committed ourselves to surge investigative resources, to enhance and foster constant collaboration with our law enforcement partners, as well as dedicating our efforts to leverage technology such as Automated License Plate Recognition, auto thefts have decreased 13% in the last two months of 2022, and we trust our endeavors will continue to impact this trend as we enter into 2023.

Our Special Operations Section also continues to take on new challenges and missions to enhance public safety. One of these new missions includes a partnership with our Aviation Bureau and University Medical Center to now provide aerial transportation services of donated organs into New Jersey. As you all well know, seconds count when someone is relying upon a new organ to save their life and our Aviation Bureau is committed to drastically reducing transportation times of these organs knowing that it will certainly save lives.

Although the holiday season always comes with hectic schedules for most of us, that certainly holds true for the women and men throughout the Division who will undertake an extraordinary number of increased responsibilities throughout New Jersey from Thanksgiving week through New Year's Day. Operations Branch members will be assigned to nearly 300 additional details in an effort

to keep our highways and communities safe. Investigations Branch members will engage in operations with the Joint Terrorism Task Force in both New York City and Philadelphia, as well as in our own state, while the Regional Operations Intelligence Center monitors cyber security and critical infrastructures. Homeland Security Branch members will make concerted targeted hardening efforts throughout all of our critical and key sectors including, but not limited to, transportation centers, houses of worship, and commercial retail facilities. Administration Branch personnel will support all of these efforts while our Academy Instructors work through the holidays to train our up-and-coming troopers. As we gather with our own respective families and friends, let each one of us take a moment to be grateful for and to give thanks to all of these troopers who will not be with their families and friends, but out protecting and serving all of those in and around our state.

These are only a few highlights from the Division, and I am certain that I could fill this entire newsletter with summaries of the tremendous dedication and impact our members are having throughout our communities each and every day. For now, I will continue to shine my leather and brass as a contingency of troopers, and I prepare to venture to West Point on December 5th to place a wreath on the grave of Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf. Although I will not be in the “throwback uniform” from our 100th Anniversary last year, I will take great pride as I don the Class “A” Winter Blouse of Captain Harold G. Seidler #862. His initials and badge number remain on the inside vest pocket and although I cannot recall who passed it down to me years ago, I will never forget the tremendous honor and pride I feel when I put it on and stand shoulder to shoulder with the best troopers on earth – Jersey Troopers! I am also reminded daily of the service and sacrifice of all those who came and served before us in this Outfit of ours, laying a foundation of professionalism, integrity and excellence rooted in our core values of Honor, Duty, and Fidelity. May all of you and your families have a safe, healthy, and blessed holiday season and until we meet again, may God continue to hold you all in the hollow of his hand! Stay safe out there! I’m on a 30 with a 14!!

-Colonel Patrick J. Callahan #5243

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Greetings Everyone!

On behalf of your Executive Boards of the Former Troopers Association, your charitable arm, the Heritage Foundation, your logo merchandise sale operations at True Blue and Gold, and especially our professional staffs that keep our concerted efforts moving forward, I’d like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and that you and your family have a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

The COVID pandemic was certainly a detriment to our operations as it was to everyone else’s. Yet, new strains of the illness continue to pop up and will no doubt be with us for many years to come. Not all that dissimilar from the annual flu, we will of course deal with it as new strains present



themselves. As always, if you or your loved ones are susceptible, please take every precaution to protect yourself. The health of you and your family are paramount! Hopefully, the not-too-distant future will bring us all good health and additional opportunities to maintain and expand that social/fraternal camaraderie our Association has enjoyed for some sixty-three long years!

I would like to personally thank Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, #5243 and his staff for their continued support and cooperative efforts at making our Association of Former Jersey Troopers as closely a part of the Division of State Police as humanly possible. The words offered by Colonel Callahan in gratitude at the Dedication Ceremony of the Memorial Columbarium and renovated Courtyard were humbling and very much appreciated. Colonel Callahan's continued faith in our Association and friendship towards our members is always in the forefront, and we are very thankful that he always thinks of us in such good light. I hope our members can reciprocate by attending the upcoming events at the Museum and Learning Center and take in the new Memorial Columbarium and renovated Courtyard. Please bring your children and grandchildren when you visit Division Headquarters and take the opportunity to explain to them the importance of our heritage and the hallowed ground where so many of us are and will proudly rest following our Last Patrol. There is no other site like it!

The first eleven-months of my term as President have been a busy time as we continued to complete and expand on projects that were years in the making, some dating back a decade or more! I can assure you we aren't about to let up, there are very important projects we are undertaking that should be very beneficial to our Association and every member! The past several years ushered in a cooperative relationship among Active and Retired Jersey Troopers. Gone is the mindset of Active vs. Retired in the hopes of facilitating better benefits for our entire Outfit of Jersey Troopers. Most recently, the State's response to the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association V. Bruen, Supreme Court Decision offered retired law enforcement officers virtually no protections with their proposed conceal carry law amendments. Thanks to quick and decisive action, Wayne Blanchard, President of the State Troopers Fraternal Association was able to get us exempted from most of the prohibitions, but the legislators held fast on keeping retirees from conceal carry in 8 prohibited locations, thus criminalizing Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers should they conceal carry therein. Wayne's continued support and assistance paved the way for me to address the legislation as a Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officer and as representative of our retired membership to negotiate along with him, President Dan Oliveira of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, and Pat Colligan of the Policemen's Benevolent Association to ultimately remove the prohibitions and exempt retirees from criminal prosecution. Instances such as this clearly show how collectively, we can accomplish so much more than going it alone. Thank you, Wayne, Dan and Pat for your continued support and assistance!

Our bi-annual FTA General Meeting took place on Saturday, November 5, 2022, as scheduled. Unfortunately, attendance at the meeting was incredibly low, only 45 members, not counting the Board. For those who missed the meeting, we addressed a number of important issues concerning our members, including: the health and welfare of those who responded to the 9/11 disaster, RPO/HR218 conceal carry laws impacting retirees, a proposed Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment program, and the completion and dedication of the Memorial Columbarium, were all discussed in detail. While each topic was of course very important, none was more important

than the awarding of our 2022 Former Trooper of the Year Award to Major Heidi S. Scripture, #3579 (*Ret*). I've known Heidi over a decade now, and I am very proud to have been involved in this coveted presentation. Heidi's accomplishments and voluntary work on so many fronts are such a great testament to her, her family, and her friends. Anyone who knows Heidi, knows her to be a consummate professional, she's a Road Trooper at heart, possessing the competence and character emulated by many. Congratulations Heidi on this prestigious award to a most worthy recipient!

As you can see, we are staying busy and adding new programs, benefits, and events for our membership. If you are interested in volunteering your expertise, some spare time to lend a hand, or just to offer another viewpoint on programs or projects, please send me an email at gwren@ftanjsp.org or call our FTA Office and I will get back to you at my earliest convenience. May God Bless us All, and to you and your family, a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and please have a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Thank you, and My Best Regards,
George Wren

FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR



Presented to: **MAJOR HEIDI S. SCRIPTURE, #3579 (*Ret*)**

In recognition of her dedicated 30 years of service to our Outfit and 11 years of service to the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., the past 3+ years Treasurer.

Heidi has always answered the call to serve; to the Outfit, to the FTA, and to many organizations and individuals who needed a helping hand. A “Road Trooper” at heart, Heidi had a remarkable career as a Jersey Trooper, serving throughout her tenure in the Field Operations Branch, patrolling Troops “B” and “D,” and rising through the ranks to Lieutenant as Station Commander, Captain as Troop “D” Commander, Major while Troop “B” Commander and then Deputy Branch Commander, ultimately culminating her career as Interim Deputy Superintendent of Operations.

The First Woman Troop Commander of the Turnpike, Heidi’s command was a brutal time that involved the December 3, 2002, horrific, accidental death of Trooper I Christopher S. Scales, #4575, and two separate roadside shootings. Heidi’s competence and character during this difficult period shown true as she handled each situation with consideration and professionalism. Colleagues praised her poise and compassion in her handling of each incident, especially in light that they occurred while she was grieving the recent passing of her father.

Heidi’s intimate involvement following the death of Trooper I Scales opened the door to her becoming a member of Concerns of Police Survivors and her involvement with the NJSP Survivors of the Triangle - C.O.P.S. Chapter. As their current sitting Treasurer, Heidi also manages their website and posts each Fallen Troopers’ picture on Facebook on the Anniversary of their End of Watch. She is chairperson of, organizes, and personally runs their annual Golf Tournament in October, works closely with their landscaper to maintain the health of their grove of Memorial Dogwood Trees and placement of holiday wreaths and decorations, while serving as the Survivors liaison with the New Jersey State Police and their support associations.

A team player, Heidi’s State Police career also offered her the opportunity to engage with her fellow Jersey Troopers outside of their normal duties. Heidi is a former piper with the Pipes and Drums of the Blue and Gold, and the longtime coach of the NJSP Women’s Softball Team, which by the way, just won their second consecutive, East Coast Tournament Championship! As a former member of the NJSP Lady Blue and Gold, Heidi also participated in several Habit for Humanity home build project’s including one in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Upon her retirement from the State Police, Heidi joined the Former Troopers Association and immediately volunteered to become a member of the Board of Directors. Over the past eleven-years, she has been involved in virtually every aspect of Association Business. While serving as the Association Treasurer she is also a member of the Finance Advisory Council where she collectively tables, analyzes, addresses, and advises the Boards of the FTA, the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., and True Blue and Gold, Inc., on financial aspects of their individual and collective business initiatives. She also chairs the Bylaws Subcommittee and is a member of the Last Patrol Subcommittee.

Heidi’s life has been high energy and endless accomplishments on many fronts. She has been an active member and Trustee of the Passaic County 200 Club for almost two-decades, currently serving as its Board Secretary, Chairperson of its Scholarship Committee, and serves as their Law Enforcement Representative and member of its Valor Awards Committee where she actively participates in the presentation of awards and scholarships at their annual awards/scholarship dinners. She is also a member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement,

whose Mission is to foster professional and personal relationships with women, provide up to date training, and promote law enforcement as a profession.

During her career, Heidi has been honored by New Jersey Assembly Speaker, Joseph J. Roberts, Jr., with a ceremonial resolution in honor of her exceptional efforts as an outstanding “Women in New Jersey.” She completed the Executive Management Program from Northwestern University and received a Certificate of Appreciation from The United States Secret Service for her efforts and superior contributions to the law enforcement responsibilities of the Service. In her spare time Heidi trains and hunts with her Vizsla dogs. She is currently a Member of the Board of Directors of the Vizsla Club of Greater New York, where she participates in Field Trials and Hunt Tests, and helps train other peoples’ Vizsla dogs, and she is a Junior and Senior Hunt Test Judge.

Heidi has earned this award through her selfless service to the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., the New Jersey State Police, Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S. Chapter, and the many other organizations and programs she volunteers her time and expertise. She is truly a compassionate professional woman, and a true friend to all! Congratulations Heidi!

Submitted by: Lt. George J. Wren, Jr., - FTA President

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and our Staff our hope is that as 2022 comes to a close you and your families are healthy and focused on the Holidays. On November 5th we held our Fall 2022 membership meeting at the Divionn’s Log Cabin. There approximtely 65 attendees. An outside speaker, Ms. Val Velazquez-Stetz from the Barasch & McGarry Law firm spoke to the group. Ms. Velazquez-Stetz is a 911 Responder Liaison for the firm and a former Jersey City Police Officer who also responded to Ground Zero. Ms. Velazquez-Stetz gave an impassioned speech as to current programs for persons who responded to New York on September 11th and thereafter. She spoke as to importance of regestering for applicable programs listed above.

Additionally, the Bill Ricci Act which sunsetted July 2021, permits an active member of the PFRS, SPRS, and PERS Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to file for an Accidental Disability Retirement if the member is or is to become totally and permanently disabled due to participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001, regardless of whether the member was enrolled in the PFRS, SPRS, or PERS at the time of participation or under orders or instruction by an employer to participate. afforded members who responded to Ground Zero to register and if any illness occurred as a result of that response and ultimately passed away from these direct illness, then it was to deemed a Line-Of-Duty Death. This affords that member’s family a different set of benefits which are certainly earned and important. I have been is contact with our elected officials to re-instate this Act and start the process again as there was no real notifications sent out. I will keep you posted as this progresses.

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



9/11 DIDN'T END ON 9/11®

MORE PEOPLE HAVE DIED OF 9/11 ILLNESSES THAN THE 2,970 WHO DIED ON 9/11

68 cancers and many respiratory illnesses have been linked to 9/11 toxins.

Anyone who participated in the rescue and recovery operations in Lower Manhattan on 9/11, or during any part of the following 8 months, may be eligible for free health care and significant compensation.

The most common illnesses for first responders linked to 9/11 include respiratory conditions, skin cancers, prostate cancer, blood cancers, thyroid cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, and kidney cancer.

Take advantage of the benefits to which you are entitled.

Val Velazquez-Stetz
First Responder Liaison
Val@baraschmcgarry.com
(732) 606-2170



911VICTIMS.ORG

REGISTER NOW—EVEN IF YOU'RE CURRENTLY HEALTHY.

You do not need to be sick or to have been diagnosed or certified with a 9/11-related condition in order to register. But don't leave it to your spouse to start the process after you get sick. Protect your family!

TWO PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM (WTCHP)

A federal program that certifies 9/11 illnesses and offers free nationwide health care. No copays, no deductibles. Free cancer screenings because early detection is the key to survival.

VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND (VCF)

A \$10+ billion federal program permanently extended and fully funded by the U.S. government. All awards are tax-free. It's not too late for most families who lost loved ones due to 9/11 illnesses to register—but some deadlines apply so enroll now.

SPRING FTA GENERAL

The FTA Spring 2023 General Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2022, starting at 10:00 a.m., at the State Police Museum and Learning Center - Log Cabin, Division Headquarters. Coffee and donuts will be served before the meeting. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

FTA/HERITAGE FOUNDATION WINTER CRUISE

There's still time to sign up for our next cruise adventure slated for March 5-12, 2023, aboard the NEW, Norwegian Prima. Join us and discover the Prima, 1st in a new class of ships designed to elevate every expectation. Sailing from Cape Canaveral to Cozumel, Mexico; George Town, Grand Cayman; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; and Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas, this seven-day cruise will be a relaxing, fun-filled, warm weather experience packed with good food, cold drinks, and a camaraderie only experienced by great friends! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity.

Check out the Prima at: <https://www.ncl.com/cruise/prima> and make sure to view all the videos to see just how much this ship really offers. Three months to go, so book now. Arrangements are being handled by Gem Casino Travel (609) 569-1234. Check out our cruise flyer on the FTA Website Announcements Boxes and book your cruise today!

FTA SOCIAL EVENTS

Troop "A" Old-Timers Get-Together

The Troop "A" Old-Timers Get-Together will be held on April 27, 2023, at the Frog Rock Golf & Country Club.

Troop "B" Old-Timers Get-Together

The Troop "B" Old-Timers Get-Together was held on June 7, 2023, at the Casa Bianca.

Troop "C" Old-Timers Get-Together(s)

The Troop "C" Old-Timers Get-Together was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the Toms River American Legion.

2023 ANNUAL FTA PICNIC

The picnic will again be held August 18, 2023, at the German American Club, Hamilton, NJ.

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 is 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 FTA representatives. 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. Visitation requests and/or volunteers may contact the Former Troopers Association office by telephone at 1-609-882-2000 x2220. Your assistance in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.



Capt. Nicolas Soranno & Lt. Michael Lamonaco in front of the new Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf statue in the Memorial Courtyard donated by the Trooper United Foundation!

SCHOLARSHIP INFO.

N.J. FORMER TROOPERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP INFO.

The N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., is proud to announce the following scholarship opportunities for high school seniors graduating in 2023, under the following criteria:

Applicant eligibility is available to high school senior students that will be attending college in the upcoming school year, who are the children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren of Active, Retired, and Deceased New Jersey State Troopers! Preference will be given to students whose parents, stepparents, grandparents, or step-grandparents are, or were at the time of their passing, Members in Good Standing of the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers. **Note that the forms require a transcript from the High School and the deadline for submission is April 20, 2023.** Unless specified, scholarships can be used for the study of any curriculum while attending a state accredited college or university. 2023 Scholarships will consist of:

- the annual \$1,000 Debra Chesko Memorial Scholarship, funded by the Heritage Foundation,
- the annual \$1,000 Trooper William L. Carroll, #3296 Memorial Scholarship, funded by Michelle Carroll, and supplemented by the Survivors of the Triangle,
- two - \$1,000 Richard Salvatore Soranno Memorial Scholarships, to be awarded to the leading candidates seeking a degree and career in the performing arts, funded by Captain Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr., #3065(*Ret*) and Carl Soranno, Esq.,
- the annual \$1,600 Captain Peter E. & Eleanor Baker, #1600 Memorial Scholarship, in honor of his Badge#, funded by their children, and supplemented by a donation from Lt. John Ouweleen, #1759 (*Ret*),
- a \$978 Captain Robert D. & Mary Delaney, #978 Memorial Scholarship, in honor of his Badge #, funded by their son and daughter-in-law, Sergeant Robert J. & Billie Delaney, #2853 (*Ret*),
- a \$2,500 Lucas Homeijer Memorial Scholarship, to be awarded to a candidate seeking a degree and career in Criminal Justice or Law & Public Safety, funded by private donations started by the families of the 161st New Jersey State Police Class,
- five - \$500 Cindy Trump Memorial Scholarships, to be awarded to candidates pursuing degrees and careers in the field of medical first responder, nursing, or medical profession, funded by Detective I William T. & Joan K. Trump, #2516 (*Ret*), and,
- annual unnamed scholarships totaling up to \$12,000, funded by the Heritage Foundation.

Scholarships will be paid directly to the student. Completed scholarship applications must be received no later than April 20, 2023! Announcement of scholarship awards will take place during the FTA Spring General Meeting on May 6, 2023.

Scholarship applications can be found on the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., Web Site at: www.njfterheritagefoundation.org, and on the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., Web Site at: www.ftanjsp.org.

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER NEW
JERSEY STATE TROOPERS
EDUCATIONAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Educational Fund, Inc. (AFNJST) 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. There are total of five (5) annual scholarships each in the amount of \$1,500.00.

The AFNJST Wallace/Crawford Educational Scholarship Fund is in fond memory of Captain John B. Wallace #253 (Retired September 1952) and Major John C. Crawford #256 (Retired January 1956). Captain Wallace is recognized as the founder of the AFNJST Educational Fund which was established in 1964. Major Crawford is recognized for his significant contribution of \$50,000.00, which stands as the largest contribution to date.

The scholarship is open to any student presently attending an accredited 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: Alyson Honrath, Secretary, 701 Howell Drive, Brielle, NJ 08730. Applications for the 2023 drawing are due prior to April 30, 2023. Applications for scholarship and “interest-free” loans can be found on the FTA website.

BESSIE’S CORNER



I want to wish everyone a wonderful and joyous holiday season filled with laughter, love, family, and friends! If you haven’t done so already, now is a great time to set up your Member Benefits Online System account. Here are just some of the things that can be done at your convenience:

The Member Benefits Online System (MBOS) gives registered users internet access to pension and health benefit account information and online applications. Some options include:

- Retrieving your Personal Benefits Statement
- Designating a Beneficiary
- Getting a Pension Loan
- Applying for Withdrawal
- Applying for Retirement
- Retrieving your letters and statements

Information and instructions on how to set up an MBOS account can be found here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbos-register.shtml>

Please, feel free to reach out to me if you need assistance setting up an MBOS account. You can reach me either by phone: 609-649-3221 or by email: BJones@ftanjsp.org.

Another new addition is Benefitsolver through your mynjbenefitshub. You can view an informative video through this link, scroll to the bottom to “Videos:” <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/>

For those retirees who are required to pay additional premiums for their Medicare benefits, keep an eye out within the next month or so for information on reimbursement of those additional premium payments from NJ Pensions and Benefits. **Please take note of the following Medicare premium price change and income limits. 2023 Medicare Premiums are decreasing to \$164.90, AND this amount is reimbursed, MONTHLY, in your pension check.** If your income is higher than the limits listed below, then you are required to pay additional premiums for your coverage and the additional premium payments are reimbursed annually. Income limits are as follows, which was taken directly from the Social Security Administration’s website. As noted, the IRMAA brackets are increasing again for 2023, although the [Part B premiums are decreasing](#). Here are the Part B premiums for 2023 (for each income range, based on 2021 tax returns, the applicable premium is shown on the right; for incomes that are subject to IRMAA, the premium shown includes the IRMAA surcharge):

| Table 2. Part B – 2023 IRMAA | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Individual | Joint | Monthly Premium |
| \$97,000 or less | \$194,000 or less | \$164.90 (no IRMAA) |
| > \$97,000 – \$123,000 | > \$194,000 – \$246,000 | \$230.80 |
| > \$123,000 – \$153,000 | > \$246,000 - \$306,000 | \$329.70 |
| > \$153,000 – \$183,000 | > \$306,000 – \$366,000 | \$428.60 |
| > \$183,000 – \$500,000 | > \$366,000 – \$750,000 | \$527.50 |
| Greater than \$500,000 | Greater than \$750,000 | \$560.50 |

NEW THIS YEAR are payment of Part D (prescription) premiums, which ALSO will be eligible for reimbursement from the NJ Division of pensions and Benefits.

For Part D, the IRMAA amounts are added to the regular premium for the enrollee’s plan. Part D plans have varying prices, so the full amount, after the IRMAA surcharge, will depend on the plan. Note that

if you are a Medicare Advantage policy member – and that plan includes prescription drug benefits – then both Part B and Part D IRMAAs are added to the plan premium (Medicare Advantage enrollees pay the Part B premium in addition to any premium charged by their Advantage plan).

| The following income levels (based on 2020 tax returns) trigger the associated IRMAA surcharges in 2022: Table 3. Part D – 2022 IRMAA | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Individual | Joint | Monthly Premium |
| \$91,000 or less | \$182,000 or less | Your Premium (no IRMAA) |
| > \$91,000 – \$114,000 | > \$182,000 – \$228,000 | \$12.40 + Plan Premium |
| > \$114,000 – \$142,000 | > \$228,000 – \$284,000 | \$32.10 + Plan Premium |
| > \$142,000 – \$170,000 | > \$284,000 – \$340,000 | \$51.70 + Plan Premium |
| > \$170,000 – \$500,000 | > \$340,000 – \$750,000 | \$71.30 + Plan Premium |
| Greater than \$500,000 | Greater than \$750,000 | \$77.90 + Plan Premium |

You can review information regarding your retiree benefits through this link.

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/pension-retirees.shtml>

Don't yet have an MBOS account? Don't want to wait on hold indefinitely? If your computer supports Live Chats, you can live chat with a rep from Pensions and Benefits Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM, if Live Chat is not possible, send them an email at the email address found in this link:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/contact.shtml>

This link also provides contact information with telephone, and mailing address. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7 am until 4:30 pm.

This link will provide information regarding retiree pensions and how to make changes, etc. If you have an MBOS account, you can log into your account and get much of this same info, but specific to your retirement account.

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/pension-retirees.shtml>

Please be sure to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B 2 to 3 months PRIOR to turning 65. This applies to your spouse as well. Benefits, including information on enrolling in Medicare upon turning 65 and what plan(s) you and eligible dependents move over to. Can be found here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/hb-retired-shbp.shtml>

Aetna Medicare Advantage Plans: Medicare Advantage plans, sometimes referred to as "Part C" or "MA plans," provide Medicare Part A (inpatient hospital insurance) and Medicare Part B (outpatient medical insurance) coverage. The Aetna MA plans offer access to providers nationwide, with the same benefits in or out of network, and no referrals required.

SHBP Medicare-eligible retirees can enroll in the following Aetna Medicare Advantage plans: Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO ESA 10; * Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO ESA 15; Aetna Medicare Advantage HMO and Aetna Medicare Advantage HMO 1525.

**Not all State retirees will be eligible for Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO ESA 10*

Spouse or Partner with Different Medicare Eligibility than the Member Medicare-eligible retirees enrolled in a non-Medicare Advantage plan and who have a spouse or partner who is not Medicare eligible will move to the Aetna MA plan while the spouse/partner and/or any covered children remain in the non-Medicare-Advantage plan. Similarly, retirees who are not eligible for Medicare but have a spouse or partner who is Medicare eligible will remain in their non-Medicare-Advantage plan (along with any covered children) while the spouse/partner is transferred to the Aetna MA plan.

Fact sheet 23 provides information regarding Medicare Enrollment, it can be found here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/factsheets/fact23.pdf>

Do you have additional questions or need guidance with forms or changes? Just give me a call or email me. Reach out to me anytime at 609-649-3221 or bjones@ftanjsp.org.

REPORTING A DEATH

Social Security, if collecting a SS check or receiving Medicare and Pensions and Benefits should be contacted as soon as possible regarding the reporting the death of a retiree OR spouse. To contact Social Security, please call: 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). You can speak to a Social Security representative between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Contact NJ Pensions and Benefits at 609-292-7524. It is recommended that this telephone number be written down and kept with your important papers, so it is readily available when needed. The sooner they are contacted, the sooner any survivor benefits and insurance benefits can be completed. After contacting Pensions and Benefits, please reach out the FTA office to notify the FTA office of any changes at 609-882-2000, EXT 2220.

Surviving Spouses of Retirees Tax Implications:

After the passing of a retiree or spouse, the surviving spouse will need to have the income tax adjusted for the pension. The default is set to 2 deductions and will need to be changed to “1” to offset any end of year tax “surprises.” This can be done with your accountant, or online through your MBOS account. If you do not have an MBOS account or access to a computer, a paper W4 will need to be submitted to have the tax withholding changed.

A **LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT** is available to eligible retirees through the State of NJ. This life insurance benefit is provided through Prudential and the benefit is equal to 50% of the final year of salary of the retiree. This benefit is payable to your listed beneficiary. Beneficiary info can be accessed through your MBOS account, and if it needs to be changed, you can do it online. If you do not have an MBOS account, the form can be accessed through the first link listed above. If you do not have computer access, you will need to contact Pensions and Benefits at 609-292-7524 and have them send you a form to change. NJ Pensions and Benefits’ hours are 7 am until 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Information regarding death benefits can be found here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/factsheets/fact40.pdf>

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/factsheets/fact10.pdf>

Information regarding Designation of Beneficiary:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/forms/eb0215.pdf>

Any questions or concerns? Reach out to me, at any time, by either phone or email My email is bjones@ftanjsp.org or at **609-649-3221**. If you know of a member who doesn't have computer access, or needs assistance setting up a MBOS account, please have them reach out to me.

Happy holidays!
Bessie

MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT:

As a follow-up to the Reimbursement of Medicare Parts A & B, I received the following information from Sergeant Daniel R. DeVault, #3376 (Ret), advising that after a two-year battle with the N.J. Division of Pensions and Benefits (NJDP&B) he finally won his appeal of a prior denial for reimbursement of Medicare Part B. According to Sergeant DeVault, he received a letter from NJDP&B in September 2020, directing him to obtain Medicare Parts A and B. Upon doing so, his repeated requests to NJDP&B for reimbursement went unanswered or were denied resulting in his appeal. The NJDP&B repeatedly referenced Title 53:5A-44.1 as the means for their denial. However, Title 53:5A-44.1 clearly states: Medicare premium reimbursement: *Any retirant of the State Police Retirement System established pursuant to P.L. 1965, c. 89 (C. 53:5A-1 et seq.) who pays the premium charges under Part A and Part B of the federal medicare program covering the retirant and the retirant's spouse shall be reimbursed by the State for the premium charges paid under Part A. "Medicare" as used in this act means the coverage provided under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act as amended in 1965 or its successor plan or plans.* Additionally, **N.J. Admin. Code § 17:9-5.5 Medicare refunds, (a) where the State, directly or indirectly, reimburses the retiree for the Medicare Part B charges,** goes into detail on how and when Medicare Part B reimbursements are made to the retirant. As such, should you experience any denial from the NJDP&B for reimbursement of Medicare Part B reimbursements please seek out these two statutes when making your request and any subsequent appeal.

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

QUARTER CENTURY CLUB MEMORIAL DONATIONS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| John Rosko, #3574 | Lt. Louis P. Jasmine, #1404 | \$ 100.00 |
| Cliff Miller, #2347 | Capt. Russell R. MacArthur, #1508 | \$ 25.00 |
| Cliff Miller, #2347 | Capt. Nicholas V. DeLuca, #1928 | \$ 25.00 |
| Cliff Miller, #2347 | Lt. Thomas W. Evans, #2331 | \$ 25.00 |
| Cliff Miller, #2347 | Capt. Peter Hausch, Jr., #1683 | \$ 25.00 |
| Katherine Worth | Beloved Husband of SSgt. Mel Worth, #816 | \$ 50.00 |
| Frank Szynal, #3152 | Trooper Thomas M. Green, #2950 | \$ 25.00 |
| Janice & Richard T. Ryan #2032 | Honored Son of Lt. Bernard "Barney" Ryan, #445 | \$ 100.00 |
| Janice & Richard T. Ryan #2032 | Proud Brother of Lt. William B. Ryan, #1725 | \$ 100.00 |
| Shirley Wilson | Dear Friend of Capt. Nick DeLuca, #1928 | \$ 50.00 |
| Shirley Wilson | Beloved Husband of Lt. Robert A. Wilson, #2813 | \$ 50.00 |
| Barry Arrigo #1831 | Lt. Louis Jasmine, Sr., #1404 | \$ 50.00 |
| Karen & Tom Wilkinson | Loving Daughter of Capt. Daniel J. Jordan, #1404 | \$ 500.00 |
| Mrs. Judith DiGiandomenico | Beloved Husband of Sgt. Frank DiGiandomenico, #2438 | \$ 100.00 |

LAST PATROL

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

SGT. ALVAN F. MONZO SR., #1543



MONZO, ALVAN F.

#1543 passed away on November 5, 2022, he was 91 years old. He enlisted in the State Police as a proud member of the 52nd Class on July 15, 1957, and retired on October 1, 1982. Prior to his State Police Service, he proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Predeceased by his wife Marie Monzo and son Alvan F. Monzo, Jr., he is survived by his daughter Susan Malanche, his daughter-in-law Carol Monzo, two grandsons, and one great grandson.

SGT. WILLIAM E. THOMPSON, #1555



THOMPSON, WILLIAM

E. #1555 passed away on July 28, 2022. He was 94 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on July 15, 1957, as a member of the 52nd. Class. He retired on August 8, 1982. He is survived by one sister Elizabeth Possehl, two daughters Linda Gorhan (Charles) and Deborah Hensly

(Riley), three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

DSFC. CHARLES E. DAMMANN, #1283



DAMMANN, CHARLES

E. #1283 passed away on November 1, 2022, at the age of 97. He enlisted in the State Police on October 1, 1954, as a proud member of the 46th Class and retired on August 20, 1981. He was preceded by his wife Gertrude Dammann, one daughter Gayle Jones, one grandchild, and two great grandchildren.

DSFC. AUGUST K. WISTNER, #2897



WISTNER, AUGUST K.

#2897 passed away on October 29, 2022. He enlisted in the State Police on June 22, 1973, as a member of the 88th Class and retired on October 1, 1999. He is survived by his wife Carol Wistner, his daughters Katherine Wistner and Donna Mouchtaris and her husband Dr. Petros Mouchtaris and three grandchildren.

DET. I MICHAEL J. GORE, #3195



GORE, MICHAEL J.

#3195 passed away on September 12, 2022. He was 66 years of age. He enlisted in the NJ State Police on January 19, 1978, as a proud member of the 93A Class and resigned on August 26, 1988. He is survived by his wife Kelly, children Michael, Mason, Melody, Morgan, Mary and 3 grandchildren.

TPR I. ERNEST C. BLASE, #1993



BLASÉ, ERNEST C.

#1993 passed away on October 28, 2022, at the age of 83. He enlisted in the State Police on June 7, 1965, as a member of the 67th Class, and retired on November 1, 1979. He is survived by his wife Joanne, two sons, one daughter, two stepdaughters, and 7 grandchildren.

DSFC. WARREN W. HILDEBRANDT, #2062



HILDEBRANDT,

WARREN W. #2062 passed away on September 21, 2022, at the age of 83. He enlisted in the NJ State Police on December 20, 1965, as a proud member of the 69th Class and retired October 9, 1991. He is survived by his Wife Judith, his daughter Deborah Ravettine, two sons Bradley Hildebrandt and Captain Douglas H Hildebrandt #4301 (NJSP Retired) and 6 Grandchildren.

MAJOR WILLIAM J. BAUM, #945



BAUM, WILLIAM J.

#945 passed away on Sept. 29, 2022. He as 96 years old. Major Baum was a member of the 37th Class graduating on August 1, 1950, and retired on August 1, 1980. Prior to enlisting in the State Police, he proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Major Baum is survived by his wife Doris, son Robert, daughter Susan Brown and one granddaughter Danielle Brown.

DSFC. STANLEY A. ADAMS, #1316



ADAMS, STANLEY A.

#1316 passed away peacefully on October 11, 2022, at the age of 92. He enlisted in the State Police on August 20, 1954, as a proud member of the 46th Class and retired on January 1, 1981. Previously deceased by his wife Jeanne Adams, he is survived by his 5 children, Daryl Beale, Robert Adams, Doreen Seno, Stephen Adam, and DSFC Douglas M. Adams, #4353 (Ret), 14 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

**LIEUTENANT PETER A. KOWAL
#4398**



KOWAL, PETER A.

#4398 passed away on September 20, 2022.

He was 59 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on August 14, 1986, as a member of the 105th Class and retired on January 1, 2014. He is survived by his wife Dawn, son Peter, daughter Marielle, his parents Sgt. Anthony Kowal #2572 (Ret) and his wife Loretta, his brother Lt. Joseph Kowal who retired from East Brunswick PD, brother Anthony and sister Christine.

LIEUTENANT LEWIS T. WENTZ #2597



WENTZ, LEWIS T.

#2597 passed away on September 14, 2022, he was 74 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on 05/15/ 1970, as a proud member of the 81st Class and retired on November 1, 2003, at the rank of Lieutenant. He is survived by his wife Jill, his children Christine, Diane, and Thomas, stepchildren Steven, Jake, and Michael, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandson, his siblings John, David, Edward, George, and Sgt. Christian Wentz, #3677 (Ret), William, Florence, Jacqueline, and Alice.

LETTERS TO THE FTA

To: Former troopers Association,

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to thank you for the lovely plaque you sent.

Sincerely,
The Baum Family
Burlington, NJ

09/27/22
Constance Barna-Voohees
Hendersonville, NC

To Whom It May Concern,

I received my 09/22 copy of the AFNJST mag. My husband was Lt. Thomas Barna #1080. He was killed in 1978. I am now 87 years old and look forward to reading it!

Thank-you
CeeCee
(Great Grandma mamie)

Patricia Leclair
Burlington, NJ

Dear FTA,

Just wanted to thank you for a very lovely day on August 19th at your picnic. It could not have been nicer. We had a wonderful time. My late husband was Anthony Lukis #1754. End of Watch May 4, 1966. I was hoping too maybe see anyone from his class that maybe I would have remembered but did not. All in all a wonderful time. We thank you as this entails a lot of work. Much appreciated.

The Lukis Leclair Family

Mr. Craparotta,

Thank-you very much for the wonderful service for my father Dan Jordan on Sept. 22nd. Your kind words along with Colonels Callahan and Williams will always be remembered by my family. Please accept this contribution to the Former troopers Fund. I hope to make a contribution each year for my dad. He would have loved that.

I am proud to be part of the State Police family. Please know it really meant so much to us all.

With sincere thanks and gratitude,
Karen Jordan Wilkinson

Lt. John Ouweleen #1759 (Ret)
Sebastian, Florida

Lt. George Wren, Jr. (Ret) President
Association of Former troopers New Jersey, Inc.
P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear George,

I was both extremely honored and deeply humbled to receive the beautiful memorial plaque and in knowing that in engraved paver stone will also recognize my family on the Memorial Trooper Walkway. The proudest day of my life was when I received my badge, and I always considered it a privilege to serve. My contribution was an exceedingly small gesture when compared to the

selfless service and great sacrifice of those we remember in the memorial Columbarium. There is not a day that goes by when I fail to remember comrades lost in the line of duty.

This is a particular worthy cause and I applaud the steadfast dedication that you and the association have shown in carrying the effort to fruition. The memorial is a somber, moving, and completely fitting tribute to the fallen, and I am grateful that I was able to contribute. You mentioned a trip to Florida in March. I will mark my calendar and very much look forward to seeing you.

Very Respectfully,
Lt. John Ouweleen #1759 (Ret)

Sabrina Robinson
Burlington, NJ

28th November 2022

Dear Board of Trustees of the Former Trooper heritage Foundation,
I am writing to express my gratitude to this foundation for choosing me to be the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from your foundation. I was thrilled to be chosen to receive this scholarship. It is greatly appreciated. This will help me continue my studies at Stockton University.

I am currently studying as a Psychology major with a concentration in mental health at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ. I am currently wrapping up my first semester of my freshman year. Thank-you again for selecting me for this scholarship.

Sincerely
Sabrina Robinson

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers
P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear President Soranno:

I know that this is coming a year late, but I just saw the September 2021 Association of Former NJ State Trooper Newsletter which highlighted Trooper Tom Iskrzycki and his role as the President and founding member of the STFA. I wanted to thank you the article.

Many years ago, I was married to a Trooper who was one of Tommy's closet friends. Therefore, I watched firsthand from the 1980's through their retirement in the 1990's the accomplishments, struggles, wins and losses. I also witnessed the toll it all took on his life.

He had incredible men who stood beside him over the course of those years such as Steve Cermak, Ed Lennon, and alike. However, it was the unwavering commitment to improving the lives of NJ Troopers that drove Tommy to do what he did. He wanted Jersey Troopers to be #1 in the Country, to have the best training, working conditions, salaries, promotional opportunities,

pensions, weapons, and vehicles. free higher. He wanted them to be safe, treated fairly and respected. He was also the voice for families of fallen troopers to ensure they received as many benefits as possible including pensions, free higher education at NJ institutions, etc. He fought like no other person I know to improve the quality of life for enlisted and retired and fallen New Jersey State Police members.

Tommy Founded the STFA back in the 1960's when working conditions, compensation, ect., were deplorable. Retired troopers who endured those times understand and appreciate what he did to improve their lives. However, younger generations of men and women who wear the badge have absolutely no idea how he changed lives. This is what I think is so very sad!

I guess this is my longwinded way of saying "THANK-YOU" for not forgetting Tommy, for recognizing him for all he did for the organization he loved and for helping to remind people how his work continues to benefit the members and families of the NJ State Police. He was one of the few selfless men in the world! I so appreciate your recognition.

Sincerely,
Maureen O'Brien Murphy

11/05/2022

Aidan Grant

Re: 2022 NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Scholarship Award

To Mr. Nicholas C. Soranno, Ernest J. Volkmann and all NJ Former Troopers Heritage Members

I just wanted to take a minute (albeit) a bit delayed) to sincerely thank you for the scholarship grant provided to me in May of this year. My grandfather, who I only knew for a short while before his passing, was very proud of his career and association with the NJ state Police and he would have been very excited to know of your kind gesture in offering me this scholarship in his name. My father has told me many stories of my grandfather and the State Police, including his participation on the many softball teams sponsored by the organization. The strong history behind the NJ State Police organization and its association with my grandfather has made this scholarship very special and I just wanted to pass that along

Very truly Yours,
Aidan Grant
(Grandson of Kenneth T Grant #1996)

FTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

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| 1976-1977 | EDWARD NETTERMAN, #488 | 2008-2009 | HARRY C. McCURDY, #2117 |
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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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GEORGE J. WREN, JR. – PRESIDENT

PATRICK J. REILLY, JR. – EDITOR

CORPORATE COUNSEL

CARL J. SORANNO, ESQ

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Or "For the Good of the Order" _____ Amount Donated \$ _____

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Please send me _____ FTA Decals at \$3.21 per decal (*sales tax included*), totaling \$ _____
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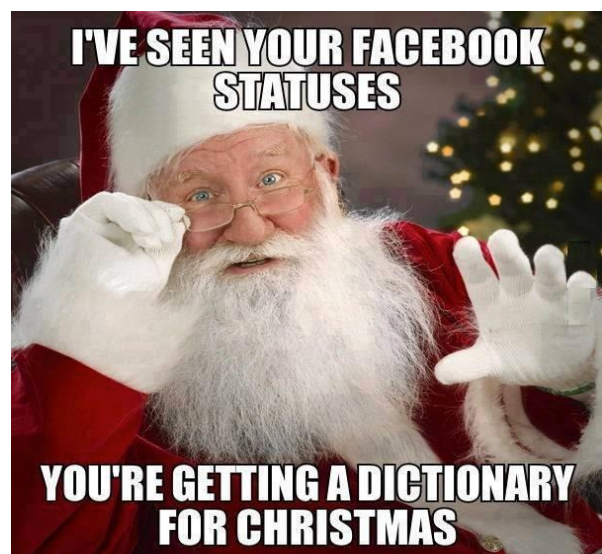
AUTO SHIELDS

The **ASSOCIATION OF FORMER NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS, INC.**, in fellowship with **TRUE BLUE AND GOLD, INC.**, has authorized the sale and display of the pictured Auto Shield. Each shield bears a registration number assigned to the buyer. Proceeds benefit the many charities undertaken by the FTA organizations.

To purchase a shield, simply contact **TRUE BLUE AND GOLD, INC.**, @ (609) 882-2000 x3067. Each shield now costs \$148.94 (shipping, handling, and sales tax included).

STATE POLICE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION PAVER PROJECT21

Currently, the SPMA has sold out pavers. In the coming weeks the Committee will meet with a contractor to have an additional walkway installed at the Museum and Learning Center and continue with the Paver Project. In addition, with the rising cost of contractor supplies and labor the price of the paver will increase from \$150 to \$200. While the project is on hold pending the install of a new walkway, purchasers may still continue to purchase the paver or wait until the completion of new walkway. Updates will be posted in the FTA and SPMA Websites. Reserve your spot today and give the gift that will last a lifetime. For more information and order forms call on Adele at (856-547-2135), at adelegolf@gmail.com, or see the order form on our website.





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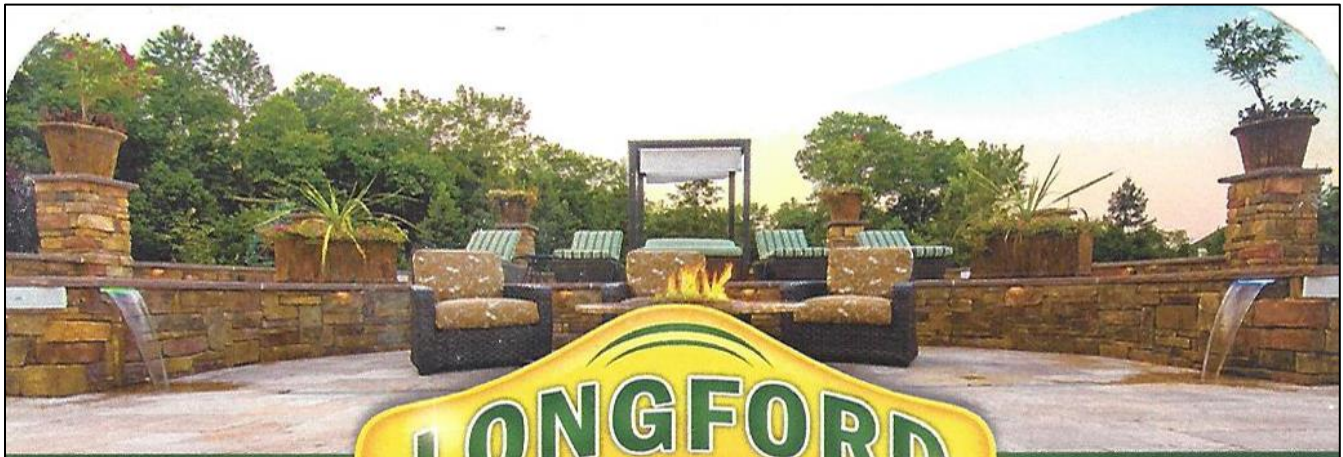
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Whether you are a first time homebuyer with a 3% down payment or a seasoned homeowner in need of a refinance, I will help you navigate the process. Prime Time Mortgage Corp. offers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac conventional and jumbo loan programs with fixed interest rates. FHA, VA, USDA and Reverse loan programs with fixed interest rates are also available. Each Trooper has unique needs. It is my job to identify the correct loan program. Most importantly, special consideration is given

to New Jersey State Troopers, New Jersey State Employees and their families. Competitive loan terms with NO closing costs are made available. I will also provide a proposal with low closing costs so that you are able to make an educated decision. The nicest phone call that I get is when a Troop is simply looking for advice. If you are already working with another lender, I am happy to help you understand the loan terms and provide reassurance. I pride myself on the fact that there is never any pressure to do business with Prime Time Mortgage Corp. Please keep us in mind for any mortgage related needs. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime directly at 973-699-1983 anytime 24/7/365.

Sincerely,
Louis G. Schornstein
Vice President
NMLS #5490

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