



TRUE BLUE & GOLD

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER
DECEMBER



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COLONEL'S COMMENTS



Season's Greetings from Division Headquarters in West Trenton. Although I am certain that none of us will be too heart-broken to see 2020 come to a close, this past year has allowed The Outfit to shine once again as 2020 challenged the men and women of the New Jersey State Police in ways never before imagined and certainly not taught to us in Building 26 at Sea Girt. From setting up community based COVID testing sites, building out field medical stations with the Army Corp of Engineers, purchasing and distributing millions of pieces of personal protective equipment, and overseeing mortuary affairs, our troopers were the "Go-to-People" at each and every turn. That remains the case as our All Hazards Incident Management Team gears up to serve as a critical part of vaccination distribution operations as they move forward. Our training and traditions have molded us into problem solvers and have designed us to bring calm to chaos and I have had the humbling honor of witnessing that each and every day throughout this pandemic.

On a very somber note, it is with a heavy heart and much remorse that I let you all know that we also experienced a tragedy in our State Police family within the past month. A

member of the 161st State Police Class, Recruit Lucas Homeijer, succumbed to his injuries received while participating in an active counter-measures exercise during training. Luke is the son of retired Sgt. Don Homeijer #4392 and the nephew of retired SFC Charlie Homeijer #2786. We are obviously all devastated by the loss of this phenomenal young man and I ask that you keep Luke's mother Denise, brother Jake, Don, Charlie and the entire Homeijer family in your prayers. From what I have learned about Luke and the man of service that he was, I have no doubt that he would have made us all proud as a Jersey Trooper. God Bless you Luke!

The Outfit continues to plan for our 100th Anniversary which will undoubtedly offer us all a tremendous opportunity to reflect on a "Century of Service" to the citizens of New Jersey. While in their Class A uniforms, all enlisted members will be wearing a brass plate with "100 Years of Service" under their nameplate. We also have ten marked troop cars being painted as "black and whites" with our old emblem on the doors. Our honor guard members and I have been fitted for our "throwback" uniforms which were worn by our first troopers and we also recently qualified with our replica revolvers from 100 years ago. We look forward to mounting up on our horses at every chance we get with the members of our recently reinstated Mounted Unit that is taking the lead on the construction of new stables at Division Headquarters. I am certain that regardless of what we wear, regardless of what car we drive, and regardless of which horse or Harley we ride, that the fine traditions of the New Jersey State Police will be carried on because of the character and work ethic that make up the core values of each and every Jersey Trooper.

I will conclude by reporting that on December 8, 2020, myself and Lieutenant Colonels Geoff Noble, Jeff Mottley, Fritz Frage, and Scott Ebner, along with Major Sean Kilcomons, went to West Point to place a wreath on the final resting place of Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf. Although this annual event only allowed a handful of us to attend, it was a powerful ceremony which offered us the chance to honor our first Colonel and to set our sights on the next 100 years. It is my hope that Colonel Schwarzkopf is looking down upon us all with tremendous pride and overwhelming satisfaction in how his vision from so long ago has grown into the best Outfit on earth. May 2021 come with an abundance of health and peace for all of you and your families. God bless you all and as always, stay safe out there.

Colonel Patrick J. Callahan #5243

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I, along with the FTA Executive Board and Membership, want to extend our sincere condolences to the entire Homeijer Family. It was absolutely a shock to hear of this tragedy. I am sure that Lucas was seeking a dream that he had since a young child, following the careers of his father and uncle. May God Bless him.

As we close out this awful year that has brought much sadness and unknown challenges, I hope that all of you and your families continue to be safe from this awful virus. With the hope that a vaccine will be available, shortly, I pray that we all can get back to some sort of normalcy, which would allow us to celebrate the Division's 100th Anniversary.

Again, I want to thank George Wren for his dedication to this publication for over 11 years and welcome Captain Pat Reilly, as the new editor. I wish him and his exceptional team good luck and personally thank them for taking on this most important responsibility. I assure you as President, the FTA will maintain transparency and keep our membership informed on all matters.

Due to Covid-19, we held our first virtual General Meeting, via Zoom, on November 7, 2020. Although attendance was low, it was a complete success and well received by our membership. Moreover, it provided the platform to adhere to and comply with our by-laws. I congratulate our board members that were elected to another term.

In regards to the case against the AG's directives to unmask law enforcement officers for disciplinary action, I want to congratulate our legal team, working in conjunction with our corporate counsel, and the other State Police unions, PBA, and FOP. Although denied in the lower courts, the case is now scheduled to be heard by the NJ Supreme Court. We will continue to fight for our members as well as all Troopers.

The Columbarium project is extremely exciting and is moving along, nicely. Without any unexpected issues, we are hoping to break ground in early March 2021. I assure you that the renovation of the courtyard at the Museum and Learning Center will have a substantial facelift for the future and will surely be a focal point for the 100th Anniversary activities.

Personally, I want to thank Lt. Daniel Morocco, Sr. #1377 for his long-term commitment and dedication to the Association of Former NJ State Troopers. For over 55 years, Lt. Morocco has supported our organization. Recently, he has secured a very substantial donation for the Education Fund. God Bless you sir your efforts will support many deserving candidates into the future.

I would be remiss not to remind everyone again of this year's recipient of the Former Trooper of the Year Award, Major Albert Della Fave #4040. Due to Covid-19, the presentation of this award has been postponed from the 2020 Fall General Meeting to a Division major significant event to be announced in the near future. I am looking forward to recognizing Al with his family present. My heartfelt congratulations.

Lastly, Rhonda, I, and the entire Soranno family want to wish all of you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. May God bless you, your families, the New Jersey State Police, and the United States of America.

Warmest Regards,
Nick Soranno

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and our Staff, greetings and a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each of you and your families. As 2020 comes to a close, I can hear a sigh of relief by all to get this year behind us and look forward to 2021. This past year has seen much heartache for our membership and extended families. With great news concerning the vaccine to COVID-19, the immediate future looks brighter. We continue to keep our impacted members and their families in our thoughts and prayers and know that the FTA is with you.

I along with the entire Board would like to express a sincere "Thank-You" for a job well done to Lt. George J. Wren, Jr., #3680 (Ret). George has steered this publication for nearly 12 years and 33 newsletter issues. Throughout George's tenure as editor, this publication has grown in leaps and bounds. It is a highly sought after periodic publication for our membership to stay connected to the Outfit. These will be big shoes to fill going forward and not taken lightly. George has moved into new leadership roles within the FTA and as an organization we are grateful for his past contributions and look forward to his guidance and dedication that will benefit our membership and this organization. Below is re-publication of George's farewell to his readership.

From: Lt. George J. Wren, Jr. #3680

After eleven-years of publishing this newsletter I have decided to hang up my Editor's Hat and pass the torch on to Capt. Patrick J. Reilly, Jr. #3570 (Ret) with new ideas, fresh perspectives, and the time to adequately publish this periodic publication. I have enjoyed the research, writing, and publishing of each of the thirty-three issues that started with the first True Blue & Gold Newsletter in December 2009. Over the course of those eleven-years, I've become more and more involved in our organizational business structure, and as a Vice President, Chairman, Liaison, and Editor, to name a few, many aspects of administering our FTA, our NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, and our True Blue and Gold Logo Merchandise Store operations have come my way. Unfortunately, with each new task it has become more difficult to find the time for conducting research, writing, and publishing the newsletter.

True Blue & Gold has afforded me the greatest opportunity and privilege to meet Active and Retired Jersey Troopers residing throughout New Jersey, across the United States, and even foreign venues far from the Garden State. I've been blessed to be able to interview our most senior Jersey Trooper, Major Hugo Stockburger, #504 at 100 years of age, and addressed our most junior Jersey

Troopers just prior to their graduation from our esteem State Police Academy. I've also met and become acquainted with some retirees that continued to excel after departing State Police service, like Sergeant Robert J. Delaney, #2853 (Ret) who became an outstanding NBA Referee, authored a couple books on Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, and volunteered to become involved in charitable fundraising, ultimately, volunteering to become a Trustee Director on our NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation; and Lt. John Ouweleen, #1759 (Ret), an Internationally Renowned Marathon Runner, who at eighty-years of young age still competes, and WINS! Lt. Ouweleen is an amazing man and a highly respected representative of our Outfit of Jersey Troopers. I'm proud to say that over the years documenting his success he's become a good friend. Every person I've met has given me insights that have gone into these many pages.

I would like to personally thank my predecessor, Captain Franklin J. 'Jack' Caldwell, #1629 (Ret) for giving me the opportunity and support to take on this important task. His faith in me to take this newsletter into a new chapter of FTA reporting is greatly appreciated. Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank my lovely wife, Sandy. While many may think publishing a newsletter three time per year doesn't take all that much time, I can assure you it's much more involved than you think. Patience is a virtue that few possess, and over the years I've been blessed with her support and understanding. Don't get me wrong, at times it has been trying, but she's been the most important support I've ever had. Thank you, Sandy!

I trust that the FTA Board of Directors will endeavor to secure the services of a new Editor, one with new ideas and the energy to continue on with this important publication. As always, I am available to draft an article or two, but it's time to turn the reins over to a new Editor. In parting, Thank you all, and My Best Regards to you and your families!

Who knows, from time to time you may even see my name as a byline on an article or two!!

FTA MEETING REMINDER

Subsequent to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTA Winter General Meeting was held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m., via a ZOOM Video Conference Meeting. This technology enabled our members to access this Board meeting. Going forward into 2021, we will post our dates for the Spring and Fall meetings.

FEATURED MEMBER



Lieutenant Colonel Drew F. Lieb, #2964 (Ret.)

Lieutenant Colonel Drew F Lieb was born in Hoboken, NJ. He grew up in Fair Lawn, New Jersey and attended Fair Lawn High School (FLHS). Drew was a member of the FLHS 1970 State Championship Lacrosse Team. He received an Associate in Arts degree (AA) from Bergen Community College and both a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree and a Master of Arts degree (MA) from William Paterson University. Drew also completed additional postgraduate work at the University of Virginia. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy, 180th session, as well as the Naval Post Graduate School (NPS), Executive Leaders Program (ELP), Cohort ELP 1101.

Drew is a member of the 90th class of the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) and graduated from the Academy on June 27, 1974. His career spanned 33 years and he retired as the Deputy Superintendent of the Homeland Security Branch on November 1, 2007. Upon graduating from the Academy Drew was assigned to Troop B and was stationed at Sussex, Clinton, Hackensack and Little Falls Stations. During this timeframe, Drew also served with the Underwater Recovery Unit. He then transferred to Troop D and was assigned to Newark Station. In 1979 he was transferred to the Casino Bureau and was promoted to Detective. In 1980 Drew was assigned to the Arson Unit. In 1982 he co-founded the State Police Bomb Squad with Detective John Rumplash creating the Arson/Bomb Unit. He served as the Bomb Squad Commander during his tenure with the unit and was promoted to Detective Sergeant, Detective Sergeant First Class, and Lieutenant. In 1999 Drew was assigned as the assistant Bureau Chief in the Special Investigations and Services Bureau (SISB) where he was promoted to Captain and assigned as the Bureau Chief of SISB. In 2004 Drew went on to become the Bureau Chief of the Counter Terrorism Bureau. In that position he also served as Assistant Director for the Governor's Office of Counter Terrorism. In 2005 Drew was promoted to Major and commanded the Special Operations Section. In 2006 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was assigned as the Deputy Superintendent of the Homeland Security Branch which consisted of the Special Operations Branch and the Emergency Management Section. Some of the recognition Drew received during his career was the NJSP Certificate of Commendation for Valor, NJSP Certificate of Merit, NJSP Unit Commendation, 200 Club (Monmouth/Ocean) Valor Award (2 Awards), CIA National Foreign Intelligence Community Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the New York City Police Department Honor Legion.

Drew served as a union officer in the State Troopers Fraternal Association (STFA), the State Troopers Noncommissioned Officers Association (STNCO) and the Superior Officers Association (SOA). He

served as the Recording Secretary of the STFA, the Investigation Section Liaison of the STNCO and Sergeant-at-Arms and Treasurer of the SOA.

Upon his retirement from the State Police Drew served with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) as the Deputy Director, Operations Division. He was responsible for the command and control of daily operations to coordinate emergency response efforts across all levels of government, law enforcement, emergency management, nonprofit organizations, the private sector and other jurisdictions to protect the citizens of New Jersey. Program areas he directed included investigations, intelligence, training, outreach/special projects, and the Counterterrorism (CT) watch desk at the New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC).

Drew next served as the Director of Security for the Westfield Corporation at the World Trade Center in New York City where he oversaw security operations for their World Trade Center site.

Drew later served as a Senior Operations Specialist with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) at Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, Colts Neck, NJ.

Drew also served for 33 years in the Coast Guard and Navy Reserves (NR). First as an enlisted member of the Coast Guard and then he received an Officer Commission in the Navy Reserves. Designated an Information Dominance Warfare Officer (Intelligence) he served with the NCIS, the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), the Atlantic Intelligence Command (AIC) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). During his tenure with these intelligence commands he served in the counterintelligence, counterterrorism and criminal investigation disciplines. He attended basic and advanced intelligence training, NCIS basic Agent training, foreign counterintelligence training and basic and advanced counterterrorist training. He was assigned as an Officer/Agent with the NCIS and served in that capacity in several different NCIS Commands. He served as the Executive Officer (XO) as well as the Commanding Officer (CO) of NR NCIS 0297 in Newport, RI. Drew was recalled to active duty for Operation Desert Storm and served in Europe and Southwest Asia. He was again recalled to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom serving throughout the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). Drew served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was the lead investigator on several Al Qaeda bombing /suicide attacks to include the tanker MV Limburg bombing off the coast of Yemen. He deployed with SEAL Team Three (3) and Polish GROM Special Forces coalition forces as part of the first mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom to capture the Gulf oil platforms (GOPLATS) in the North Arabian Gulf. Drew established the first NCIS Force Protection Cell along with the British 42 Commandos in Umm Qasr, Iraq and he later served with Task Force 20 in Baghdad, Iraq which captured numerous high value targets (HVTs) known as the "DECK OF 52".

In addition to military awards for his work during the Iraq War; Drew was awarded the NCIS "Counterterrorism Agent of the Year" award. He was the first and only Naval Reservist to ever receive this prestigious award. Drew was also awarded the Department of Defense's "Counterintelligence Officer of the Year" award for his actions during Iraqi Freedom.

Drew retired from the Navy Reserve in 2014 at the rank of CAPTAIN (O-6). His last assignment was with the Pentagon's Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs concentrating on complex catastrophes and Department of Defense response protocol.

Understanding the number of challenges faced by returning wounded warriors; in 2009 Drew teamed up with DSG Gary McWhorter, (NJSP, RET), and became one of the founding members of Troopers Assisting Troops (TAT) where he serves as TAT's Vice President. TAT is a grass roots nonprofit

organization made up of retirees and active Jersey Troopers and friends providing support to returning wounded warriors from the Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve theaters with local recreational and rehabilitative programs. TAT initiated their first event in September 2009 at the State Police Academy where approximately 75 wounded warriors from Fort (FT) Drum, NY, Ft Dix, NJ and local alumni of the Wounded Warrior Project attended a three-day event. The warriors were afforded the opportunity to go deep sea fishing, enjoy a world class barbeque and were treated to nightly entertainment. Counselors were available to help with questions concerning Department of Veterans Affairs compensation, education and employment. Retired and active Troopers supported the entire event. This event has run continuously for the past 11 years. In addition to this event TAT has supported wounded warriors in home modification and remodeling for handicapped access.

TAT expanded its mission to include providing service dogs and the dog's required training to wounded warriors. In partnership with the "K9s for Warriors" organization TAT provides funding to purchase service dogs for wounded warriors suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Military Sexual Trauma (MST) as a result of their military service post 9/11. The cost of each K9 is in excess of \$15,000. By partnering with "K9s for Warriors" to provide service canines the wounded warriors are empowered to return to civilian life with dignity and independence. To date, TAT has funded 35 service dogs for wounded warriors and continues to provide for many more. This program saves two lives; the wounded warrior's life by providing comfort and service and the life of the canine as each canine is a rescue dog.

Drew and his wife Theresa reside in Wall Township, Monmouth County. He has four children and eight grandchildren. Drew's son Shaun is a Naval Academy graduate serving on active duty with the US Navy as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer, CAPT (O-6), presently assigned to the Special Operations Command (SOCOM). His son Matthew, a former Marine, is a military contractor stationed in Ottawa, Canada, his third son, Michael is a Vascular Surgeon with a practice in Medford, NJ and his daughter Tara is a Nurse Supervisor at Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine, FL.

Submitted by: Major Joseph Cannatella #2852 (Ret)



FTA 2020 FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR

It is with great pleasure that we announce **Major Albert Della Fave, #4040 (Ret)** as the recipient of the Association's 2020 Former Trooper of the Year Award. Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of meeting Al knows him to be a consummate professional and a true, "Gentlemen in the saddle." As this announcement came out just prior to publication of this issue, a thorough overview of Al's accomplishments will be detailed in the next issue of the newsletter. Hopefully, we will be able to have a worthy event to appropriately bequeath this coveted award to our talented recipient. In the meantime, here's just a few of Al accomplishments!

A proud member of the 102nd Class, Al's enlistment began on June 16, 1985. After serving at various posting in Troop "C," Al returned to the Academy in 1989, this time as an Instructor. There he

passionately molded recruits and Troopers alike in the importance of gaining knowledge while enhancing character traits, towards achieving successful careers as Jersey Troopers. In 1993, Al's talent for effective communication and writing led to his appointment to the Superintendent's - Public Information Office. In this capacity, Al served as the Outfit's chief spokesperson, guiding communication and positive public relations between the New Jersey State Police and its constituency. Never hesitating to assist anyone within or outside the Outfit, Al became tremendously active regarding community/media issues. As Director of Communications, Al transformed the Outfit's public information approach from defensive and reactive to engaging and proactive by instituting a first, "full-service" media relations office, and by developing a reliable and interactive relationship with print and television reporters resulting in a cultural change in much of New Jersey's law enforcement press management. In 2008, Al was promoted to Major and assigned to the Regional Operations Intelligence Center as Task Force Commander, where he served until his retirement on November 1, 2009. An active member of the Pipes & Drums of the Blue and Gold since 2001, Al made his first appearance with the band as MC for the State Police Banquet that year. And believe it or not, Al fills in for Santa Clause at the Division Christmas Party annually!

In retirement, Al has served as the Press Information Officer at the NY/NJ Port Authority Police Department, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, and does freelance media consulting for law enforcement executives in the Tri-State area. He is intimately involved and influential with the Ocean and Monmouth County 200 Clubs and has served as a School Resource Officer in Toms River. Supported by his lovely wife Diane, son Albert, and daughter Alyssa, Al is faithful to his church and is a driving force with the Societa' Madonna Dei Martiri in Hoboken, where each year the Societa' awards scholarship checks during the event to Community Funds, Inc, an organization that represents 60 residents of Hoboken that lost their lives in the 911 attacks. A member in good standing of the FTA since October 2008, Al serves as our Public Information Officer and has done a spectacular job on our social media platforms! Thank you Major Albert Della Fave, #4040 (*Ret*), and Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

MEDIA MATTERS

Media Matters, but serving our membership MATTERS more! I'm happy to report that our expanded social media presence and improvements made within the Association have translated into many added member benefits to include: significant connectivity in resolving member health coverage/pension issues, legal assistance, member wellness/mental health/grieving support and financial help to FTA family members in need.

In less than a year we have grown our Facebook audience from approximately 1000 to over 7000 followers. The increased following has been extremely beneficial in increasing retired Trooper and Associate memberships. Most important are the behind the scenes successes in addressing membership issues through the added open communication that private direct messaging provides.

It is glaringly evident that our Association's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) have seen great success, but I can't stress enough just how important the help of our entire FTA Family is to our continued success in providing relevant content. That being said, I feel it important I reiterate why I cannot allow our followers free access to post any happy, sad, or important content on our FB page. Quite frankly it would make my life so much easier, however, hateful anti-law enforcement trolls would jump at the chance to post freely on our page. Many of you may have seen the disgusting comments and

memes posted by anti-police/ACAB (All Cops Are Bastards) groups on some of our posts. I must be constantly vigilant in policing the comments to assure they are removed immediately in order not to offend our law enforcement friendly family.

I continue to ask you to simply Direct Message the FTA page your content or just tag us for posting. There are quite a few recent member submitted posts that demonstrate just how easy this can work. Please don't hesitate for a second to send me anything you feel news-worthy to the FTA Family.

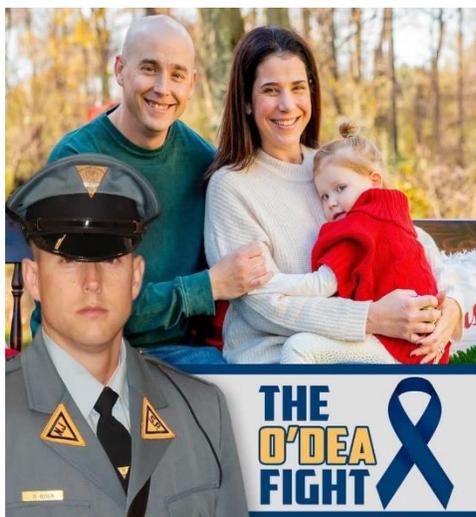
Finally, I echo the sentiments of the Colonel, President Soranno, our newsletter editor and all who serve the FTA in wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season. Be blessed - stay safe and well.

Major Al Della Fave, #4040 (Ret)

BUSINESS UPDATES



N.J. FORMER TROOPERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.



On behalf of the Officers and Trustee Directors of the Heritage Foundation, I would like with personally wish ever Active and Retired Member of our Outfit a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and the Happiest of a coming New Year. To say that 2020 was a “Happy Year” would be a struggle on many fronts. 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 Columbarium Project. Hopefully, before the next issue of True Blue and Gold is published, we will have a finished project to show.

On another note, in mid-July we received information that an active Jersey Trooper, Sergeant Dennis S. O’Dea, #6552 had been diagnosed with Stage 3 Colon Cancer. Without hesitation our Heritage Foundation unanimously approved an immediate donation of \$1,000, but that was just the beginning. Executive Officers of the FTA, the Heritage Foundation and True Blue and Gold quickly stepped up and the pot grew to \$3,500. A check was quickly furnished to the Troopers United Foundation who is spearheading the fund-raising to assist Sgt. O’Dea, his wife and sole care provider Danielle, and their three-year-old daughter in this life-threatening battle. Our fundraising efforts continue, and to date, we have generously received over \$5,500 in donations for the good Sergeant and

his Family. Our sincere appreciation to everyone who has graciously donated to a fellow Jersey Trooper and his Family in their time of need. Please keep them in your prayers. 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, just in time for the upcoming holiday season. 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 gift or keepsake.

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



FTA SOCIAL EVENTS

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

All OLD-TIMERS' GET-TOGETHERS is currently still on for April 29, 2021 at the Frog Rock Country Club. If COVID-19 persists we will cancel or postpone it to a later date and post on the FTA Web Site. None of the other Get-To-Togethers have been scheduled.

Florida Winter Party Update

It is with sincere regret that the annual FTA Florida Winter Party, hosted annually in Melbourne, Florida, has been cancelled. After recent years of declining attendance, last year's low turnout, and the pandemic, the board's decision was to cancel the Florida Get Together until further notice. However, I assure you that we are looking into other alternatives for the future.

Until a decision is made, I refer anyone, specifically members residing or visiting Florida, to contact Moe Waschmann, who is hosting monthly luncheons in the southwest Florida area. He can be reached at 239-292-8992. He is always looking to add you to his list of attendees, active or retired.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Moe for his dedicated 25+ year service to our organization, as a loyal member in good standing. While serving on committees, Moe's services were exemplified by and esteemed work ethic and dedicated participation on many FTA Annual Picnics and years of hosting the annual Florida Winter Parties. Thank-you Moe.

SAVE THE DATES

THE 2020 STATE POLICE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE- *CANCELED*

The annual State Police Holiday Party & Open House has been canceled due to the State's COVID-19 restrictions on indoor and outdoor activities. Know that jolly old Saint Nicholas and Mrs. Clause are working hard to assure your families have a wonderful Christmas.

“If you don't believe you will not receive”



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 next year.*

BESSIE'S CORNER



I am sure many are looking to the end of 2020 and looking towards a much better 2021. As 2020 comes to a close, I want to wish everyone a pleasant, happy and thankful holiday season!

I have received quite a few phone calls these last few months, with the majority being complaints of contact, or lack of, from Pensions and Benefits. Unfortunately, the contacts I had, have since retired and I also must call the main number 609-292-7524.

Myself, as well as many of you have been extremely frustrated with trying to get through, long wait times, being disconnected after long wait times, no answer, etc. Even ending emails has not produced any better results. I have pulled this from their website regarding services during these trying times:

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/covid19-importantinformation.shtml>

I would urge anyone who is having issues to please send an email through this link:

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/assets/contact/contact-treas.shtml>

Or contact the State Treasurer, **Elizabeth Maher Muoio at 609-292-6748 and/or any of your other State Representatives.**

I have also been receiving calls regarding enrolling in Medicare. Please be sure to contact the Social Security Administration at least **2 months PRIOR to turning 65**. Due to the pandemic, shortage of staff, closures, etc. you want to be sure that Pensions and Benefits receives proof of enrollment by your 65th birthday. If Pensions and Benefits does not receive proof of enrollment, **they will discontinue your benefits through the state**. You can find more info about enrolling in Parts A and B here on Page 2:

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/documents/factsheets/fact11.pdf>

Upon turning 65, the State will automatically enroll you in Medicare Prescription Part D, so there is no action on your part for Part D ONLY. You are reimbursed MONTHLY in your pension check for the standard Medicare premium amount for 2020 of \$144.60. Any additional premiums paid above the standard amount due to additional income must be submitted either quarterly or annually to Pensions and Benefits for reimbursement. Info about that is found below. **The standard rate for Medicare Parts A & B for 2021 will be \$148.50**. The new rate will be reimbursed starting with your February pension check.

Also, only the enrollee turning 65 needs to enroll in Medicare, other eligible dependent(s) will remain in their current medical plan until they turn 65. At that time, they must also enroll in Medicare to be eligible to continue with benefits through the State.

Upon turning 65 and enrolling in Medicare, Medicare becomes your PRIMARY insurance and the State Health Benefits – Aetna Medicare Advantage plan becomes your SECONDARY insurance. Both membership cards should be presented for all doctor and hospital visits to ensure proper billing.

REPORTING A DEATH

I understand it is a stressful event, but I can't stress enough the importance of making contact with Pensions and Benefits AS SOON AS POSSIBLE at 609-292-7524, Option 1. This enables important information to be sent to the surviving spouse, eligible dependent(s) regarding pension, health benefits and life insurance. This will also ensure that payments are stopped for the retiree and reduce the possibility of any funds having to be paid back, and pension payments and health benefits issued in a timely manner for the surviving spouse and/or eligible dependent(s).

I have also received calls regarding contacting Pensions and Benefits and not receiving any information from Pensions and Benefits regarding death benefits, etc This has been causing a long delay in the surviving spouse receiving much needed pension payments and continuation of health benefits. . Again, I urge you to contact State reps and express your dissatisfaction.

Surviving Spouses of Retirees Tax Implications:

After the death of a retiree, the surviving spouse should be sure to change their exemption status from 2 to 1. Failure to do so, could result in additional tax implications at the end of the year. The easiest way to do this is through MBOS. If the retiree does not have an MBOS account set up, you would need to submit a corrected W4 directly to Pension and Benefits. The W4 form can be downloaded here:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4.pdf>

Pensions and Benefits Retiree Health Benefits Info Website:

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

Pension Info for Retirees:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/factsheets/fact68.pdf>

Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan Info:

I have also received a few phone calls regarding the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan for those turning 65. Here is the link for more information: <https://www.aetnamedicare.com/sonj/en/index.html>

Here is the link to see the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan Design Chart for 2020:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/hb/oe2020/hr0995.pdf>

Additional Medicare Premium Payments Information:

Medicare premium payments are due quarterly to Social Security, and are reimbursed MONTHLY in your pension check. If you are subject to additional Medicare premium payments due to a second job or above the limits in annual salary, you are entitled to reimbursement of those additional premium payments from Pensions and Benefits.

Due dates for the previous year are usually included in a pension statement at the beginning of the following year and also published on Pension and Benefits website under Letters to Retirees:

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

Change in Life Event/Change of Coverage:

Any time there is a life changing event (marriage (new spouse/dependents), divorce, death of spouse, adoption, or change in medical or dental coverage), a change form must be completed and submitted to Pension and Benefits. I can't express enough how important it is to ensure your beneficiary information for life insurance and pension are current and up to date. This is the link for the form to complete to add or change a dependent.

NON MEDICARE: <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/hb/oe2020/hr0943.pdf>

MEDICARE: <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/hb/oe2020/hr0944.pdf>

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 last year of salary for the retiree. This benefit is payable to your listed beneficiary. Not sure who you listed as that beneficiary so long ago? You can access that information through your MBOS account, and if it needs to be changed, you can do it right online. If you do not have an MBOS account. You can download a form here:

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

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.

Information regarding death benefits can be found here:

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

Information regarding Designation of Beneficiary:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/factsheets/fact68.pdf>

For more information regarding this benefit and the Certificate of Group Life Insurance, click here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/documents/forms/life-sprs.pdf>

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.

Happy Holidays to All!! Bessie

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Rosa Was Never Alone

"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear." — Rosa Parks

By Bob Delaney

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks sat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus and refused to give up her seat to a white man. It would become a moment that defined a movement, forever shaping the course of Civil Rights history in the United States with that simple gesture of bravery and defiance.

Though she sat alone that day, Rosa Parks truly was never alone. Her strength was anchored in what drives human resiliency. Confronting fear and rising above ignorance is often triggered by an incident

such as the one she faced. In this case, the cause was a segregationist system that she felt compelled to challenge.

So Rosa Parks made a stand by sitting. The late Civil Rights icon John Lewis would say she was getting into “good trouble, necessary trouble.”

“I had given up my seat before, but this day, I was especially tired,” Mrs. Parks later explained. “Tired from my work as a seamstress, and tired from the ache in my heart.”



She based her decision on all she had experienced and all that she knew. She knew, for instance, of the brutal and heartless murder of teenager Emmett Till in Mississippi and the verdict freeing his killers only weeks earlier. She knew right from wrong. And she knew enough was enough.

Through the lens of time, here is what *we* know: Rosa Parks was a beacon of courage and hope. While history paints a picture of a passive woman refusing to give up her bus seat, the truth is she was a lifelong Civil Rights activist before becoming the catalyst for the Montgomery bus boycott. And if we look deeper, we understand she was never alone in her iconic act.

The fact is, there are countless examples like Rosa’s in communities across the country – little-known individuals whose acts of courage confronted and helped change the status quo of racial injustice and inequity. They may not be household names like Rosa Parks. But learning their stories and recognizing their contributions can enrich us as a nation during this critical moment of awakening in race relations and human rights.

Eighteen years before Rosa changed history, for instance, Minnie Rogers was in the midst of creating change in Bradenton, Florida. During my NBA officiating career, I lived in that community and came to hear of her story. It began in 1937 when President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal was rolling out with 4.9 billion dollars to build new parks, bridges and schools – an astronomical amount of money in that era.

“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”– Rosa Parks

Mrs. Rogers had a vision for the Manatee County 13th Avenue Community Center. She shared that vision with her friend, legendary educator Mary McLeod Bethune, whose name would one day grace the institution of higher learning she helped to found, Florida's Bethune-Cookman University.



Together, hoping to further this idea, they met with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. But pause for a moment to think about that. In 1937, arranging a meeting with the First Lady was only one formidable hurdle in the process. How did they get to Washington D.C.? Today's mindset is to hop on a flight and arrive in the Nation's Capital in a matter of hours. But back then, such a trip required a train ride – not simply for two women but two “colored women” traveling in separate train cars from white passengers.

You can imagine how many kitchen-table meetings took place prior to that trip – and how many times she must have heard “Are you crazy?” or “You can't do that.” Yet her unstoppable determination led to that meeting with Mrs. Roosevelt to gain support for her plan and helped propel her vision into a reality. She eventually opened the 13th Avenue Community Center, serving area children and families each year. While living in the Sarasota-Bradenton area, I would drive by the 13th Avenue Community Center and never knew of Minnie Rogers' influence.

Like most things in life, until you become involved, you don't truly understand. I was recruited to become a member of the 13th Avenue Community Center board and it was then that I became educated and aware of its founder, Mrs. Rogers. It drove me to learn more about her leadership. I heard from those who knew her and how she would stop kids from playing with toy guns or pretend to hold guns with their hands – directing them to instead use their hands and minds to make a better community. She was not timid in using her voice and her love to benefit future generations. Leadership is an “influence relationship.” And the leadership that Minnie Rogers displayed served as one step in the Civil Rights march. That is why Rosa Parks was never alone. Both women were integral parts of a leadership movement that transformed communities and our world for the better.

Today, the 13th Avenue Community Center is now known as the 13th Avenue Dream Center, where thousands of children and families are benefitted every year. New location. New facilities. Same servant leadership mission started by Minnie Rogers decades ago. Learning about our community leaders provides a better understanding of our community roots.

Our history is rich with stories of such leaders, who stepped forward to enhance life for others. Here is another.

The night before Veterans Day in 2013, former NBA great and U.S. Navy veteran David Robinson and I had SEAL team. The next morning, we were honored to be guests at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery, with President Obama conducting a wreath-laying ceremony. During the President's speech, he introduced 106-year-old Richard Overton, who had served in the South Pacific and Iowa Jima and at the time was the oldest living World War II veteran.



I listened to the President’s words and thought of how Mr. Overton fought for his fellow soldiers, his country, for me – and for my family. It struck me that if I was living during that time, he and I would have not used the same restrooms or been able to drink from the same water fountains. Yet he fought for me. At the conclusion of the ceremony, David and I moved the fastest we had since running the NBA floors to meet this great American.

We spoke and thanked him for his service and wanted to capture this moment with a photo. David snapped pictures as I shook Mr. Overton’s hand and thanked him repeatedly for everything he had done for all of us and our country. It was probably too many “thank yous” in Mr. Overton’s mind, because he tightened his grip, pulled me closer and said, with a wink and a smile, “You know, I can still do more.” I often think of Mr. Overton – a man at 106 years of age who still saw opportunities to make a difference. He passed away six years later yet his leadership legacy lives on, connecting citizens who made an indelible impact on the world like Minnie Rogers and Rosa Parks. The fact is every community has individuals who reinforce the reality that Rosa was never alone when she changed the course of history. She may have been by herself, but so many others stood – or more accurately – sat with her in that pivotal moment.

Their stories need to be told, too. Take the time to learn about everyday folks from your town, city or state who, like Rosa Parks, took action to make our communities a better place, and changed the world in the process. You will be enriched to learn about amazing women and men, many of whom may not be household names but who changed neighborhoods and lives forever.

*Bob Delaney is a retired NBA Referee and former Vice President NBA Referee Operations/Director of Officials. He has authored *Covert and Surviving the Shadows*, sharing his experiences from his harrowing undercover law enforcement career. Bob is a highly decorated New Jersey State Trooper who*

infiltrated organized crime in the 1970s. He experienced Post-Traumatic Stress as a result of that three-year undercover investigation. Bob currently serves as a Southeastern Conference (SEC) Special Advisor and an NBA Cares Ambassador. He has received the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Mannie Jackson Human Spirit award; and President Obama's Volunteer Service Award. Additionally, Delaney, a 2006 New Jersey City University Hall of Fame inductee, was honored with the NCAA's most prestigious lifetime award in 2020. The President Theodore Roosevelt Award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the ideals of college sports, and is named after the former president whose concern for the conduct of college athletics led to the NCAA's formation in 1906.

“Each person must live their life as a model for others.”

— Rosa Parks



SUBMITTED BY: ROBERT DELANEY

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

FTA 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers in conjunction with the N. J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation are proud to announce the 2021 Scholarship Awards Program for graduating High School Seniors. Applicants must be the child, grandchild, stepchild, or step-grandchild of a current or deceased FTA Member in Good Standing. Applicants will be rated on community service, athletics, National Honor Society Membership, SAT / ACT Score, GPA, class ranking, AP / Honors courses, and staff recommendations.

Scholarships consist of a \$1,000 Debbie Chesko Memorial Scholarship, which has been awarded annually since 2013 to honor the former FTA Benefits Coordinator, who passed away in 2012, funded by the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation; a \$1,000 Memorial Scholarship honoring fallen members

of the NJSP in the name of Trooper William L. Carroll, Jr., #3296, who died in the line of duty on the N.J. Turnpike in 1984, funded by his widow, Michelle Carroll, who also serves as a Trustee Director of the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, and the NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S. Chapter; a \$1,000 Memorial Scholarship in honor of Richard Salvatore Soranno, funded by his uncles - FTA President Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr., and FTA and Heritage Foundation Corporate Counsel, Carl J. Soranno, Esq. This year we are pleased to also introduce the Captain Peter E. & Eleanor J. Baker, #1600 Memorial Scholarship! This \$1,600 annual scholarship in recognition of Captain Baker's Badge # is funded by their children: Patty, James, Connie, and Meg. Lastly, subsequent to the tragic passing of Recruit Lucas Homeijer, during training of the 161st Class, the N. J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation has established the Lucas Homeijer Memorial Scholarship Fund in his memory. This as yet, undetermined amount scholarship is being funded via solicited donations and will be awarded during the FTA 2021 Scholarship Program. Thank you all for your gracious funding of these scholarships!

Additionally, there will be \$500 scholarships awarded to outstanding students at the discretion of the committee, with the remaining awardees picked via random drawing, funded by the Heritage Foundation. Applications for the FTA Scholarships will be posted on the FTA Web Site in January 2021, under the INFORMATION / FORMS tabs, and must be completed and returned to the FTA Office by April 20, 2021.

Scholarship awards will be announced at the May 1, 2021, FTA General Membership Meeting. Any questions contact a member of the FTA 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.

Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Educational Fund

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. The program consists of (5) annual scholarships being awarded, 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, 812 Briarcliff Avenue 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 Web Site.

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

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

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION: OPERATION LUCKY CHARM

The Investigations Branch, Atlantic City Metro Task Force Unit (ACMTFU) initiated Operation Lucky Charm on October 14, 2019. Members of the ACMTFU began the investigation into a violent drug trafficking operation. The organization was identified and has been associated with violent crime to include shootings and homicides in Atlantic City, NJ. During the course of the investigation, it was learned that several individuals operated a firearms and drug trafficking network that spanned from Atlantic County, NJ to Onslow County, North Carolina. As part of the drug trafficking operation, wholesale amounts of CDS to include heroin and crystal methamphetamine along with firearms were trafficked between NJ and NC. In particular, wholesale amounts of heroin were packaged and processed in NJ for street level and mid-level sale in both identified states. Firearms and CDS were also obtained in NC and Georgia then trafficked back to NJ for distribution.

During the course of the long-term investigation, ACMTFU utilized several sophisticated and advanced techniques to uncover the illicit activities of the organization. The techniques included the insertion of an undercover detective to conduct controlled purchases of heroin, the use of cooperating witnesses and confidential sources to conduct controlled purchases of heroin and a multitude of electronic surveillance methods. In regards to the NJ based drug trafficking network, between October 2019 and August 2020, the cooperating witnesses and the undercover officer purchased an aggregate of over 1,000 bags of suspected heroin from the group of individuals, including to conduct CDS transactions on his behalf.

As part of the first phase takedown for Operation Lucky Charm, ACMTFU members coordinated with local, county, and federal law enforcement to dismantle the individuals' NC drug trafficking network. As part of the takedown, ACMTFU members provided intelligence developed during the course of electronic interception to introduce an undercover officer. As a result of probable cause provided by ACMTFU members along with the undercover's interaction with the individuals, a search warrant was executed in Sneads Ferry, NC.

The following evidence was seized 2,810 bags of heroin, 2.7 grams of raw heroin, 46.7 grams of crystal methamphetamine, \$17,286.00 in US currency, 40 rounds of .40 caliber ammunition, 1 round of 9mm ammunition, CDS paraphernalia to packaging and processing materials. Two individuals were arrested and are currently incarcerated in the Onslow County Detention Center.

During the second phase takedown of Operation Lucky Charm, the NJ based drug trafficking operations were targeted and search warrants and a consent to search were executed at various residences. The search warrants/consent to search resulted in the arrests of five individuals and the seizure of the following items at the first location in Atlantic City, NJ., 20 grams of raw heroin, 85 grams of marijuana, 4.8 ounces of MDMA, and bulk seizure of over \$50,000.00 in US currency.

Multiple locations in Atlantic City, NJ were searched and resulted in the seizure of 74 Oxycodone PLDs, 10 ounces of crack cocaine, 7 grams of marijuana, 21.5 grams of raw heroin, 79 bricks of heroin and 79 loose wax folds of heroin, CDS Paraphernalia, \$2,985 in US Currency and a 9mm Taurus handgun.

A search at a location in Galloway, NJ., resulted in the seizure of 1.5 grams of heroin, 1 gram of crack cocaine, 261 various rounds of ammunition, and 1 extended handgun magazine.

In addition to Operation Lucky Charm, ACMTFU members also conducted parallel investigations of drug trafficking operations in Atlantic County, which resulted in charges for the three individuals for Maintaining a Heroin Production Facility, Possession and Distribution of CDS -Methamphetamine, Cocaine and Heroin, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

During the course of these investigations, it was uncovered that two individuals were utilizing a room at a motel in Absecon, NJ to maintain a heroin and crack cocaine production facility. Both individuals were distributing wholesale amounts of heroin at the motel. The subsequent investigation resulted in the seizure of 28.5 grams of cocaine, 4 grams of weed, 15 grams of raw heroin / fentanyl, 23.5 grams of methamphetamine, 5 Endocet PLDs, 18 Oxycodone PLDs, 15 bricks of packaged heroin, Paraphernalia consistent with production, including a hotplate, grinder, scales, rubber bands, wax folds, cutting material, and a 2014 Audi SUV (value \$38,000.00). Both individuals were lodged in the Atlantic County Jail.

As a result of the overall investigation, ten individuals were charged with numerous criminal charges including but not limited to Distribution of CDS, Conspiracy, Possession of CDS within 1000 of school-zones, and Possession of CDS.

Submitted by: Detective I Sammy Cubero #7017

FIELD OPERATIONS SECTION:

Troopers revive retired State Police Sergeant pulled from I-80 wreck



Troopers Kyle Gorman, left, and Pierre Haddad, both from Troop B - Totowa

Two New Jersey State Police troopers revived an unconscious and unresponsive retired sergeant after he was pulled from a multi-vehicle crash on I-80 in Bergen County on Tuesday, authorities said.

Troopers Kyle Gorman and Pierre Haddad, both from Troop B in Totowa, arrived at the wreck in Saddle Brook near milepost 61.8 as an off-duty firefighter pulled a man from one of the cars,

state police said. Troopers revived an unconscious and unresponsive retired sergeant after he was pulled from a multi-vehicle crash on I-80 in Bergen County on Tuesday, authorities said.

Retired State Police SFC Peter Visconti was unconscious and not breathing. Tpr. Gorman used a defibrillator to perform CPR. After several tries with the device, Visconti regained a pulse but was still gasping for air and struggling to breathe.

Tpr. Haddad, who is also an EMT, used an oral airway tube to assist his breathing with oxygen until paramedics could arrive and take him to a hospital.

SFC Visconti has made a full recovery from his injuries and immediately went back to thank the two troopers. The actions of Gorman and Haddad, along with several unnamed bystanders saved SFC Visconti's life. We are all grateful for their actions.

On April 14, 2020 at 11:48pm Trooper Robert Waldrop was on patrol in the Hamilton Station area of I-295. A concerned motorist advised Tpr. Waldrop that a woman appeared to be attempting to jump of the overpass bridge. When arriving he observed an 18-year old woman on the opposite side of the chain-link fence. The woman was distraught and contemplating jumping to her death. Tpr. Waldrop moved quickly to grab her shirt through the fence and began comforting her. He was able to maneuver her to safety and get her to ground level. EMS responded and transported the woman to a nearby hospital for evaluation. Tpr. Waldrop's quick and decisive actions saved this woman from death.

On October 27, 2020 at 11:58am Staff Sergeant Ryan Kauffman and Trooper Uri Boyd were dispatched to a report of woman leaning over the Driscoll Bridge in Woodbridge Township. When Tpr. Boyd arrived he observed a 22-year-old woman standing on the shoulder looking over the concrete edge of the bridge. While speaking with the woman it was obvious that she was distressed and contemplating jumping from the bridge. Tpr. Boyd made the determination that he had to act swiftly based upon his observations of the woman. At this time SSGT. Kauffman arrived on-scene and assisted in moving the woman back from the edge. They escorted her back to their vehicle and awaited EMS. Throughout this interaction our troopers comforted the woman and lent much needed empathy. If not for the swift and decisive action by Boyd and Kauffman a life would have been lost.

Our Road Troopers continue to remind us of their unsung heroic actions that occur on a daily basis.

You can reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 or [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org). Be sure to pass along to friends in crisis.

Submitted by: Lieutenant Dante Ruocco #6090

HOMELAND SECURITY BRANCH:

On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at approximately 1200 hours, an Active Shooter incident occurred in a busy residential/business section of Jersey City, where two armed assailants, a male and female, traveling in a stolen white rental van, traveled to a Jewish grocery store. They parked the van outside, exited the vehicle armed with long guns and proceeded into the grocery store, where they actively shot and killed the store owner, a worker and a customer. The assailants then barricaded themselves in the store during which time Jersey City Police began to arrive to the scene. At this time, an active exchange gun battle took place. As this event continued, it was also learned that a Jersey City Police Detective was discovered fatally shot at a separate location in Jersey City, the threat assessment was clear that this was a Domestic Terrorist / Multi Phased Attack and at the time it was believed that there could be additional assailants. As the event continued, an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) was located inside the suspects' rental van. It was also suspected that the suspects may have explosives on their person as well. It is important to note that during this incident, there was an active Jewish School with children present that was located above the Jewish Grocery Store and children in a Catholic School across the street where the assailants van was parked with the IED inside. At this time, the NJSP Bomb Unit was requested by the Newark FBI Field Office and the Jersey City Bomb Squad. This request was in regards to the IED located and for Tactical Bomb Technician support regarding the assailants that were barricaded at the time, inside of the grocery store.

DSFC Michael Klag, Det. I Joseph Byra and Det. II Tyler Dalrymple were detailed to the scene. DSFC Klag established communication with Special Agent Bom Tech Chris White, FBI Newark Field Office and the Jersey City Bomb Squad and coordinated a Bomb Staging area on scene, which would prove to be extremely beneficial to the Bomb Unit assets / members arriving on scene. Numerous law enforcement agencies from across the area including New York, responded to this scene. By DSFC Klag creating a Bomb Staging area on scene, all Bomb Unit supporting assets had one central location to meet, stage equipment and brief / deploy personnel as needed when they arrived on scene.

Upon arrival to the scene, DSFC Klag immediately began to command the Bomb Operations and brought calm and coordination to an extremely overwhelmed and chaotic scene. Klag coordinated operational plans with the FBI and the Jersey City Bomb Squad relating to the two suspects located in the grocery store and the IED that was discovered in the van. DSFC Klag also coordinated the safety of the children that were present in the schools by ordering that they not be evacuated, but safely locked down inside the structures that they were located in. DSFC Klag also coordinated several operational plans in regards to the use of Bomb Unit Robots in order to potentially clear and check the two suspects that at this time, were non-responsive inside the grocery store. It was believed that the two suspects may have had explosive devices on their person, based upon the IED that was located in the van and history of these types of attacks. Klag also needed to plan for the recovery and the render safe of the IED that was located inside the van. Det. I Byra and Det. II Dalrymple began to coordinate all of the needed equipment from the staging area and took the lead in setting up a Joint Bomb Squad Operations Command Post with the Jersey City Bomb Squad and the FBI. Det. I Byra and Det. II Dalrymple began to set up Robotics with the necessary tools and equipment that may be needed for deployment into the grocery store. Det. I Byra and Det. II Dalrymple had also established a manual access rigging plan as a backup in order to move and clear the bodies from the grocery store. Det. I Byra would also be assigned to assist the NJSP TEAMS Unit in order to support their security mission by integrating with them as a Tactical Bomb Technician for Bomb Unit assets into their Detail. As the incident had progressed, it would be discovered that the two suspects were not alive, however, this scene was still not safe to operate in. At this time DSFC Klag

established four phases to the Bomb Operations that needed to be conducted: 1 - Safely Secure the pipe bomb from the van and clear the van for any secondary explosive devices; 2 - Remove and clear the suspects bodies from the grocery store for any additional explosive devices (This was essential before this scene could be handed over to investigators and Crime Scene personnel); 3 - Establish an offsite location in order to conduct a full Render Safe Operation of the pipe bomb; 4 - Coordinate with the FBI Evidence Response Team for IED evidence collection that would be sent to the FBI National Explosives Laboratory.

DSFC Klag and the FBI would need to coordinate this with the NJ Attorney General's Office representatives, Jersey City Command Staff and the NJSP Major Crimes Unit. Klag established the NJSP Bomb Unit as the lead in coordinating these four phases in order to make the entire scene safe for investigators and for the final Render Safe Operation Phase. Donning protective equipment and utilizing specialized gear, Det. I Byra and Det. II Dalrymple, would manually access the van, where they were able to safely retrieve the pipe bomb from the van and secure same into an explosive storage container. Byra and Dalrymple placed themselves in harm's way for the protection of life and property. After this was conducted, Byra and Dalrymple then cleared the van for any additional immediate threats. Klag, Byra and Dalrymple, would then lead the operation to remove and clear the suspects bodies from the grocery store for any additional explosive devices. In order to accomplish this, Klag, Byra and Dalrymple would then incorporate the manual access rigging plan. Each of the suspects' bodies would then be removed from grocery store by manually attaching a rigging line to each body, where they were safely removed from the scene and cleared for any additional explosive devices. These first two phases were essential in order to make the entire scene safe to continue operating in, specifically for the children that were locked down in the schools and for the follow-up crime scene investigation.

DSFC Klag would then move to the third and fourth phases of the mission and was able to locate a safe location in order to transport the pipe bomb to and conduct the Render Safe and Evidence Collection Operations. Once all of the NJSP Bomb Unit and FBI assets relocated to this second location, Klag, Byra and Dalrymple began a methodical render safe operation that involved numerous manual approaches on the device, and the use of robots and specialized equipment. Klag, Byra and Dalrymple donned protective equipment and made manual approaches to the device in order to conduct diagnostic X-Rays of the pipe bomb, which would help to establish the specialized equipment required to fully render the device safe. The render safe operation would utilize robotic operations along with a non-energetic tool in order to disassemble the pipe bomb. This operation depended on the advanced training and skill sets that Klag, Byra and Dalrymple have received and possessed regarding robot operations and the use of their render safe tools, in order to carry out this mission. What was so imperative about this operation that they conducted, is that they minimized the potential for the pipe bomb to initiate. It would later be Determined that this pipe bomb had the potential to kill / seriously injure people up to 500 yards away. This specific Render Safe Operation, minimized the potential for serious injury and additional property damage to the surrounding area. The Render Safe Operation was successful, safely rendering the pipe bomb safe and completely separating all of the components of the IED.

At this time, the explosive filler, pipe and components were safely separated, which also provided for the maximum amount of forensics / evidence that would be collected. The FBI Evidence Response Team began their evidence processing. Klag, Byra and Dalrymple assisted with this operation regarding a briefing to the Evidence Response Team in reference to the Render Safe Operations that were conducted. There was a significant amount of evidence recovered at this scene and the state that it was recovered in, would be extremely beneficial to the FBI National Explosive Laboratory personnel. This evidence would also be utilized to confirm if there were additional individuals or groups that were part of the initial two attackers plan and possibly planning other attacks within the State of New Jersey. This was a direct result of the Render Safe Operation that Klag, Byra and Dalrymple had conducted. Klag, Byra and Dalrymple

would also be asked to assist the NJSP Major Crimes Unit and the FBI to provide bomb technician technical support with additional evidence that would be recovered during the investigation portion of this incident.

Klag, Byra and Dalrymple played a critical role in this extremely chaotic incident by bringing Calm, Leadership and Command. This proved to be successful, which was evident in the safe / successful conclusions to each of the four phases of the operation. These Members went above and beyond the call of duty, specifically as it applied to their mission as Bomb Technicians. They should be commended for their outstanding work – not only upholding the values of Honor, Duty and Fidelity within the NJSP, but also for their professional representation of their assigned mission as Bomb Technicians across the country and around the world.

Submitted by Lieutenant Louis J. Maniace #6327

SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECTION:

State Police Sergeant, Good Samaritan rescue 8 from sinking boat



A State Police Sergeant and a Good Samaritan combined to rescue eight boaters from a vessel sinking in the Point Pleasant Canal on Sunday, officials said as the 26-foot boat began taking on water at around 5 p.m., the Samaritan helped five people aboard get off, while the captain and two others stayed aboard as they tried to get the vessel to a nearby dock, according to State Police.

Sgt. Michael Krauchuck, a member of the Marine Services Bureau, arrived within minutes in a State Police boat and tied the sinking vessel to his as the distressed boat took on more water in rough conditions. As Krauchuck pulled the boat he realized it was taking on water too fast and was close to sinking. He then pulled the three-remaining people on board onto the State Police boat and cut the lines before it sank.

“Sgt. Krauchuck’s quick and decisive actions may have helped prevent a tragedy,” State Police said in a Facebook post. The Good Samaritan was not identified. All of the people aboard were evaluated, but none were injured.



New Jersey State Police ✓

February 22 · 🌐

Troopers Rescue Distressed Kayakers in Barnaget Bay

Last Wednesday, troopers from the Marine Services Bureau Point Pleasant Station rescued two kayakers who were struggling to stay afloat after one of their kayaks capsized in the Barnaget Bay.

At approximately 2:52 p.m., Staff Sergeant Paul Rodemann and Trooper I James Duff were dispatched to the report of two distressed kayakers a mile off the coast of the Barnegat Municipal docks. When troopers arrived, they observed one of the victims hanging onto the other victim's kayak, which was also taking on water due to the rough conditions.

The troopers immediately pulled both kayakers onto their vessel and provided them with dry clothes to prevent the onset of hypothermia. The victims were transported to the Barnegat Municipal ramp, where they were met by medical personnel. They were treated on scene and released.

Our troopers in the Marine Services Bureau patrol our State's coastline and waterways year-round and this is another example of their great work.

Outstanding job by SSgt. Rodemann and Tpr. I Duff for their lifesaving rescue.



Submitted by: Sergeant First Class Adam Graczk #6101

COMICS & CONSIDERATIONS

“The Person Who Says It Cannot Be Done Should Not Interrupt The Person Who Is Doing It.” – Chinese Proverb

“Success Does Not Consist In Never Making Mistakes, But In Never Making The Same One A Second Time.” – George Bernard Shaw

One today is worth two tomorrows; what I am to be, I am now becoming.

~ Benjamin Franklin



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Vice President
NMLS #5490

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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 X:3067. Each shield now costs \$148.94 (shipping, handling, and sales tax included).

STATE POLICE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION PAVER PROJECT

If you're still looking for that special gift or can't decide on what to buy the person who has everything, don't worry. Phase II of the State Police Memorial Association's 'Walk of Honor' still has room.

You can help support the Memorial Association while leaving a lasting tribute to a Trooper or special person by purchasing a personalized engraved paver. Pavers have been installed in the new walkway and are engraved on site. Your paver will forever remain an important State Police landmark. 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.



QUARTER CENTURY CLUB MEMORIAL DONATIONS

<u>Contributed by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Eleanor Piperata	Captain Alfred G. Piperata, #1490	\$130.00
Joan Mazzacco	Captain Charles A. Kuy1, #1894	\$100.00
Allen Conard	Trooper Anthony Lukis, Jr., #1754	\$50.00
Charities Aid Foundation	For the Good of the Order	\$4.00
Phyllis Chiappelli	SFC Raymond Chiappelli, #1281	\$100.00
Charities Aid Foundation	For the Good of the Order	\$4.00
Warren Ferry, #1806	Captain Richard Regan, #1513	\$50.00
“	SFC Charles Ewell, Sr., #1741	\$50.00
“	Lt. Kurt Mackeprang, #1685	\$50.00
“	DSFC Charles Salter, #1616	\$50.00
Judith DiGiandomenico	Beloved Husband, Sgt. Frank DiGiandomenico, #2438	\$100.00
Richard Palumbo, #3134	DSFC Richard Vanderclock, #2761	\$200.00

In addition to our Quarter Century Club donations the following were made in support of Sergeant Dennis S. O’Dea, #6552 and his family!

Joseph & Beverly Genova, #4876	\$50.00
Philip Coyne, Sr., #2236	\$100.00

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

Rachel Quinn	\$50.00
Marco Peralta, #3734	\$100.00
TNZ Painting and Lawn Care	\$20.00
John Gavaghan, #3193	\$50.00
Roy Baker, #4357	\$50.00
Troopers Assisting Troops	\$1000.00
Michael Geraghty, #4385	\$100.00
Deborah Dunne, #3486	\$100.00
Daniel Ballance, #2998	\$20.00
Louis Frolich	\$100.00
Debby Turzo-Dellavalle	\$10.00
Robert Dafeldecker, #2326	\$100.00
Joseph Lucas, #1852	\$50.00
June Rose English	\$50.00
John Jackson, #3403	\$100.00
Nicholas Soranno, #3065	\$300.00
Ernest Volkmann, #2547	\$50.00
Dennis Villone, #2132	\$25.00
Greg Crane, #3965	\$150.00
Patrick McNamara, #3555	\$100.00

John Emer, #2857	\$40.00
Erin Callaghan	\$50.00
William Madden, #2752	\$100.00
Kelly Haegele	\$50.00
Barbara McNally	\$50.00
Paul Butrico, #4142	\$1,000.00
Melissa & Jeffrey Fuentes	\$100.00
William Johnson, #3405	\$50.00
Thomas Cunningham	\$10.00
Jerianne Kinney	\$100.00
The Glenn Burger Service Insurance Co, Inc.	\$250.00
Richard Ryan, #2032	\$100.00
Dean Mackey	\$100.00
Maureen Breznovits	\$50.00
Gerald & Linda Murphy	\$25.00
Robert & Shirley Legezdh	\$100.00
Eric & Kimberly Nobbs	\$50.00
Robert & Debbie Lerner	\$100.00
Ronald & Linda Franz, #2242	\$75.00
Michelle & Carmelo Huertas, Jr., #3251	\$50.00
Bryan & Rosalinda Highley	\$100.00
James & Geraldine McSorley, #3652	\$100.00
Austin F. O'Malley, #3804	\$100.00
Alexandra Hampton	\$100.00
John J. Burke, #3844	\$100.00
James & Patricia Anstatt, #3833	\$25.00
Kathleen & Andrew Dinnell	\$100.00
Colonel Carl A. Willams, #1872	\$200.00
Mary Ann MacDonald	\$50.00
Robert J. Long, #3903	\$25.00
George & Sandy Wren, #3680	\$100.00

Thank you all for your gracious support and generosity!

LAST PATROL

**MAJOR VINCENT P.
O'DONOGHUE, #1654**



**O'DONOGHUE,
VINCENT P.**

#1654 passed away on Nov. 24, 2020. He was 88 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on April 1, 1960 as a member of the 56st Class and retired at the rank of Major on July 1, 1987. He proudly served in

the United States Air Force. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary.

**SFC. PEDRO "PETER"
VELEZ, #2632**



VELEZ, PEDRO

#2632 passed away on November 23, 2020. He was 76 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on July 24th, 1970. He retired on August 1st, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Gloria and his two daughters, Renee Ricchezza and Michele Gittens. In addition, he is survived by his two sons-in-law, Joseph Ricchez Esq, and Lt. Jason Gittens (Gloucester Twp PD), and three grandchildren.

**TPR. JOHN GULDA,
#2782**



GULDA, JOHN

#2782 passed away on October 10, 2020 at the age of 71. He enlisted in the State Police on December 17th, 1971. He was enlisted for two years and served with the US Marines in Vietnam. He is survived by two daughters, Michellie Gulda and Christine Davoli and significant-other Elise Hoffman. John was stepfather to OJ Peterson and the late Jimmy Peterson and dear brother of Harry and wife Cathy Gulda and the late Thomas Gulda. He is also survived by his nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**SFC. HARRY J. VAN
LENTEN, #1051**



VAN LENTEN, HARRY J. #1051 passed away on Sept. 20, 2020 at the age of 93. He enlisted in the State Police on July 6, 1952 as a member of the 39th Class and retired on August 1, 1984. He was predeceased by his wife Marie Van Lenten. He is survived by his sons Mark and Keith and four grandchildren.

**SSGT. DAVID S.
ZEIGMAN, #4421**



ZEIGMAN, DAVID S. #4421 passed away on Oct. 27, 2020 at the age of 57. He enlisted in the State Police on Aug. 14, 1986 and retired on July 1, 2013. He is survived by his mother Shirley Zeigman, his wife Raenee, his brothers Steven and Monty Lobb, his sister Denise Lobb.

**LIEUTENANT PHILLIP
C. KOREJKO, #2385**



KOREJKO, PHILLIP C. #2385 passed away on Oct. 24, 2020 at the age of 74. He enlisted in the State Police on Feb. 7, 1969 as a member of the 77th Class and retired on Nov. 1, 1995. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He is survived by his wife Doreen; brothers Michael, George, Edward, Kevin; sister JoAnn Becker and was predeceased by his sister Teresa Korejko. He is also survived by his son Benjamin; daughter Karianne Creedon; two grandchildren and his nephew Tpr. Michael Korejko #7222 of Troop A.

**SGT. DAVID E.
BAGINSKI JR., #2901**



BAGINSKI, DAVID E. #2901 passed away on Oct. 26, 2020 at the age of 69. He enlisted in the State Police on December 12, 1973 as a member of the 89th Class and retired on Oct. 1, 2000. He is survived by his wife Gina Baginski, his brothers NJSP Sgt. (Ret) Loren Baginski #4266 and David M. Baginski, his daughter Katie Thomas and 4 grandchildren.

**TPR. JEROME A. EPPS,
#2291**



EPPS, JEROME A. #2291 passed away on June 22, 2020 at the age of 83. He joined the State Police on May 17, 1968 as a member of the 75th Class and served until May 11, 1973. He is survived by his two daughters, Terry Epps and Jacquelyn Epps-Hardy.

**TPR. WILLIAM J.
DEBLOCK, #3005**



DEBLOCK, WILLIAM J. #3005 passed away on Oct. 20, 2020 at the age of 68. He enlisted in the NJ State Police on Jan 30, 1975 as a member of the 91st Class. He left the NJ State Police on Feb. 18, 1977 to join the NY State Police and retired as Deputy Superintendent at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is survived by his wife Christina and his children Jason, Andrew, Mathew, Allison Berlin and 10 grandchildren.

**LIEUTENANT PERRY A.
ASHMAN, #2474**



ASHMAN, PERRY A. #2474 passed away on October 16, 2020 at the age of 76. He joined the State Police on Oct. 17, 1969 as a member of the 79th Class and retired on Sept. 1, 1998. He is survived by his wife Marie Ashman, two daughters Julie Stanger and Jill Whitewood, his sister Bonnie Bertram and three grandchildren.

**SFC. MICHAEL J.
TRUPKIEWICZ, #2359**



TRUPKIEWICZ, MICHAEL J. #2359 passed away on Oct. 18, 2020 at the age of 78. He enlisted in the State Police on Oct. 18, 1968 as a member of the 76th Class and retired on Nov. 1, 1997. He was predeceased by his wife Melanie Trupkiewicz in 2007. He is survived by his children Michael J. Trupkiewicz IV, Mark Trupkiewicz, Melanie Enyedy, Debra Sutton, Michele Colavolpe, Michael R. Trupkiewicz, Diane McKenna and four grandchildren.

**LIEUTENANT THOMAS
MCCREIGHT, #1942**



MCCREIGHT, THOMAS #1942 79 years old, passed away on Oct. 6, 2020. He enlisted in the State Police on August 17, 1964 as a member of the 65th Class and retired on Sept. 1, 1991. He is survived by his wife Patty, his sister Mary Palmer, his brother Jim, his children Kerri, Joe and Tom Jr and 26 grandchildren.

**CAPTAIN RONALD H.
FRANZ, #2242**



FRANZ, RONALD H.

#2242 passed away on Sept. 28, 2020. He was 75 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on Dec. 15, 1967 as a member of the 74th Class and retired on Dec. 1, 1999. He is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Dr. Stacy Franz, son Mathew Franz, sister Patricia Schiavo and three grandchildren.

**CAPTAIN RAYMOND J. VANDEN
BERGHE SR., #1520**



VANDEN BERGHE,

RAYMOND J. #1520 passed away on Sept. 24, 2020. He was 88 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on August 3, 1956 as a member of the 51st Class and retired on July 1, 1987. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps. He is survived by his daughter Barbara, sons John and Eric, brother Jim, and five grandchildren.

LETTERS TO THE FTA

Submitted by Capt. Dan Morocco Jr. #3654 (Ret.)

In 1964, then Trooper Daniel Morocco #1377, memorialized an observation made during his assigned duties at the Governor's State House Security, Trenton, NJ, of numerous civilian state workers from various state departments in charge of the collection of licensing fees (i.e., firearms registration fees, motor vehicle licensing fees, etc.) hand carrying bank bags filled with cash/checks to various affiliated banks. This, of course, presented a significant risk of robbery or worse. Keep in mind, the technology to electronically transfer money did not exist during this time and bank visits were the only means to satisfy such monetary transactions.

Tpr. Morocco presented a recommendation for the New Jersey State Police to facilitate such deliveries on a scheduled basis. This recommendation was submitted and presented via the chain of command to the Civil Service Commission and resulted in a monetary award in the amount of \$5,000., this being a significant amount of money for its time. Because the policies prohibited troopers from accepting monetary awards, Tpr. Morocco chose to donate the funds to the then recently developed Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers (AFNJST), Education Fund, Inc. In September 1965, Trooper Morocco was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Capt. John Wallace, then Chair to the AFNJST Education Fund, Inc. (photo/certificate).

Fast forward to 2020, Lt. Daniel Morocco's, #1377 (Ret. in 1981), generosity and commitment once again facilitated a significant donation to the Education Fund. For many years, Daniel served as a Board Member to the Community Blood Council of New Jersey. For unexpected reasons, the Council closed its doors and all assets were liquidated. Each member of the Board member was given the opportunity to recommend a registered nonprofit organization in which to donate residual funds. Dan's first/foremost recommendation was the AFNJST, Education Fund, Inc.

Subsequent to his career with the New Jersey State Police, giving back and volunteering continued to be a priority for Dan. Not only did he later become a Board Member to the AFNJST, Education Fund, Inc. and a Board Member to the Community Blood Council of New Jersey, Dan volunteered a great deal of his time to organizations such a Catholic Charities, Volunteers of Mercer County and Morris Hall Senior Care Facilities. He received "Volunteer of the Year" awards from both the Volunteers of Mercer County as well as from Morris Hall Senior Care Facilities, both of which heavily rely on volunteer support. In addition to his continued service with the AFNJST, Education Fund, Inc., he continues to support numerous functions and activities at the Our Lady of Good Council Roman Catholic Church in West Trenton, New Jersey. His greatest passion remains his family, friends and the State Police family.

The AFNJST 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 continues offering 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. Further, 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. The Association believes in the membership and families that makes up the rank and file of the New Jersey State Police. Its heritage runs deep, its commitment to the public it serves is vigilant and unwavering, and its professionalism in the delivery of police services that protect, preserve, and safeguard the constitutional and civil rights of all citizens through impartial and courteous law enforcement practices is its principal mission.

During a meeting on October 16, 2020, at the New Jersey State Police Headquarters, West Trenton, NJ, Colonel Patrick Callahan presented a plaque to Lt. Daniel Morocco Sr. for his long standing and continued support to the Education Fund, Inc. Also in attendance were Major Kevin McPartland (Retired), former Chair and current Board Member to the Education Fund, Inc., Captain Robert Kilmurray (Retired), Secretary to the Education Fund, Inc., and Captain Daniel Morocco, Jr. (Retired), Chair to the Education Fund, Inc



16 November 2020

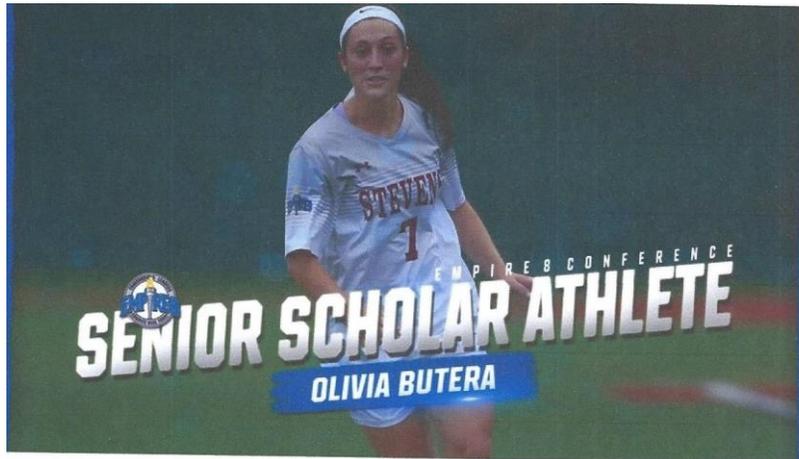
FTA Board,

RE: The zoom meeting on 110702929 the Education Program discussed on scholarships. I mentioned our Granddaughter Olivia Butera had been a recipient and after some "bragging" on my part Nick (Soranno) suggested I forward some information and a picture to have published in the newsletter.

The Proud Grandparent—

Lt. Lenny Walden #2133 and Marene Walden





CLOSER LOOK

Butera recently graduated from Stevens as one of the more decorated student-athletes in program history. She was named to the school's President's List during each of her eight semesters on campus. The honor recognizes student-athletes that receive a grade point average of 3.75 or greater. Butera was recently inducted into Omega Chi Epsilon, the National Chemical Engineering Honor Society, which recognizes chemical engineering majors with a GPA greater than 3.75.

On the field, the three-time All-Conference First Team selection helped lead the Ducks to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. She also earned All-Region honors twice during her illustrious career. In the community, Butera helped worked to develop the 'Ducklings Program' - A program where Stevens student-athletes volunteer to help teach lessons to elementary school students within the Hoboken School District. She also wrote lesson plans and coordinated with Hoboken school administrators to bring the students to Stevens to provide them with a true 'student-athlete' experience.

According to Pack, a biology professor at Utica "The women's award this year was the most hotly contested and competitive in recent memory. Olivia edged out the field by being extraordinarily well-rounded, both on the field and off, even in a slate of nominees defined by their well-roundedness. She is an academic all-American with a 3.86 GPA, having done important research on Flint drinking water. On the field, she has been recognized as a First-Team All-Conference selection three times and was a First Team All-East region last year. The qualifications of the women she edged out for this award were truly outstanding, and that speaks very highly of her as a student-athlete."

Ernest Volkman & the Association of Former New Jersey State-Troopers, Inc.:

Thank you so much for selecting me to be one of the lucky recipients of the 2020 FTA college scholarship. I feel very fortunate and appreciative to the FTA for their generosity in awarding me this scholarship. My grandfather, Walt Zarsky (#1696 retired), and my dad, Kevin Walsh (#5804 active) are also beyond grateful to the FTA. With the cost of college being so high, and me being the oldest of 4 kids, having this scholarship money to help pay for my freshmen year really makes an impact and is truly a very special gift.

My classes at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) began on August 25, 2020. All of my classes this first semester are fully remote, due to the Covid pandemic. However, I am taking 20 credits in my major of Mechanical Engineering, including Calculus, Physics, Computer Science, Intro To Engineering, and Microeconomics. I take my studies very seriously and am confident that I will succeed.

Thank you once again! Regards,

Matthew Walsh



Dear Mr. Nicholas C. Soranno and FTA Board Members.

Thank you so much for selecting me for the Former Troopers Association Scholarship award. I will be attending Rowan University in the fall and this award will significantly help in achieving my academic goals.

Sincerely,

Sean Allen

Son of Greg Allen, #5117

December 1,2020

Colonel Patrick Callahan
PO Box 7068
West Trenton, N.J. 08628

Dear Colonel Callahan,

All too many times I'm sure you receive letters of complaint or criticism about our men in blue, but this is not one of them. My husband Lt. Perry A. Ashman Badge #2474 just passed away in October from a surprised and short bout with cancer.

The reason for this letter is to acknowledge to you the "brotherhood" of the NJ State Police-is strong and heartwarming. Not only did receive cards, messages and phone calls from so many former "brothers", but invaluable advice on all fronts.

I am especially grateful to William Trump, one of the directors of the FTA. Bill was able to help me put a claim into the VA on my behalf since it's a possibility Perry being stationed in Vietnam could be a cause for his death. Not only did he help me fill out numerous forms, but was instrumental guiding me to the right person to process said claim.

My husband was so very proud to be a member of the NJ State Police all his career and now that he is gone I still feel a part of this wonderful family.

May God bless you and all our "brothers" both on the job or retired and keep you safe.

Sincerely,

Marie A. Ashman

cc: Nicholas Soranno, President Former Troopers Association

CHANGE-PERSPECTIVE

The definition of "change" is when used as a verb; "make or become different or take or use another instead of." When used as a noun; "the act or instance of making or becoming different or coins as opposed to paper money."

I like the definition "make or become different." When I was President of the FTA, I used to speak to the State Police Academy class on the Wednesday before they graduated. One of the topics I spoke about was change. I would tell them that they will experience much change while in their upcoming careers. You either embrace the change or allow it to dictate a bad outcome for you or your career. I also spoke

about their dash and body cameras with audio and the publics increased access and use of cameras. A trooper today has to be alert at all times as law enforcement has certainly become a harder career.

When I entered the State Police on May 5, 1967, I started at about \$7,200 a year which was about \$2,000 a year less than my previous employment. But I was single and still living at home with Mom and Pop. As far as health-care in those days, it was only offered to the employee and not the family at this time. Around 1969 Governor Richard Hughes granted health-care to the families of all State employees. This turned out to be a great benefit. The pension benefits also changed for the better. When I came into the State Police I was understood that you stayed until age 55 and would retire with a 50% pension. Then came the changes for both the local police, paid fireman and State Police. The 25-year service pension at 60% was now the norm. Then that increased to 65% and 70% if you stayed 30 years. The State Police also has a 20-year pension at 50% however with no medical.

A bad change for State employees was the passing of pension law, Chapter 78 in 2011. This law changed the health benefits for State employees who did not have 20-years of service by July 1, 2011. They now had to pay up to 35% of their health care costs which for a trooper is about \$900+ a month for the family plan. That cost is also realized into retirement as well. This was also the same law which suspended our cost of living raises (COLA).

Certainly, a great change was when troopers created our first union and bargaining unit. The State Troopers Fraternal Association or STFA (thanks to long time STFA President Tom Iskrzycki) helped in obtaining excellent raises and benefits for the rank and file. Soon after the establishment of the STFA came NCO and Superior Officers Associations.

Of course, there were changes I struggled to embrace. The change was in 1976 begin the eight-hour day instead of living in the Barracks was difficult. I thought that Troops "A", "B" and "C" should have stayed in the Barracks life. You could always get an eight-hour assignment at Division Headquarters or work on the Turnpike or Parkway which were eight-hour assignments. I went along with this change and continued to work eight-hour rotating shifts until promoted to SFC. Again, due to new labor laws and negotiations with the STFA, we were destined to go to the eight-hour day. I again accepted these changes and many more that came along during my career. Now road troopers work a 12-hour shift, which I think is too long of a day driving a troop car. As always, my concern is for the Road Trooper and their welfare when changes occur.

Now in 2020 we have the Covid-19 Pandemic which has brought the most changes to our lifestyle and challenges our health as never seen before. Hopefully, as the vaccine is regulated and administered, we can see an end to this and normalcy will return.

I'm a traditionalist type person, a moderate conservative who tends to resist change as I get older. Think about yourselves. As you get older are you getting more resistant to change or do you accept change as it comes? The one thing we do know is that CHANGE is evitable!

Submitted by: Capt. Sal Maggio (Ret)
Past President FTA

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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

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