



TRUE BLUE & GOLD

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER
NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS

SEPTEMBER 2021



SUMMER 2021 ON THE HUDSON BAY

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COLONEL'S COMMENTS



Greetings from Division Headquarters where the columbarium project is making steady progress by the Museum and Learning Center. I have watched the construction and renovation of the courtyard by the Log Cabin over the past few months and trust that this project will be a fitting tribute to mark our 100th Anniversary of service and certainly honor those troopers who will be interred here. We were honored to meet recently with world-renowned sculptor, Brian Hanlon, who has taken on the task of sculpting an eight-foot statue of Colonel Schwarzkopf who will oversee the grounds. I would be remiss if I did not thank the FTA for their role in this project, especially George Wren who I have seen here every day leading this project from a drawing on paper to a reality that will stand for ages.

The State Police 5k Chase was another tremendous success and we were honored to have Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy run alongside of us once again on what was a hot and humid Saturday morning. As always, Colonel Williams and the entire State Police Memorial Association along with Captain Nevin Mann made this event a memorable one. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Randy Wetzel of our Troop D Risk Management Office who was the overall winner coming in at 18:04 which is an unbelievable 5:50 per mile pace!! Well done Randy!!

The Colonel's Cup Golf Outing made for another special event at Mercer Oaks as our State Police family came together in celebration of our 100th Anniversary. As always, I had my orange vest and orange hat on due to safety concerns over how much time I spent in the woods looking for my ball!! I am now well aware of why they call that course Mercer Oaks!! Thanks to all who made it such a successful day.

It was awesome to have the FTA Picnic on the grounds at Division Headquarters. There was a tremendous sense of camaraderie that filled the pavilion and surrounding grounds and I thoroughly enjoyed catching up with both retired and active troopers and their families. A special thanks to our State Police facilities staff who went above and beyond in renovating that area in time for the picnic.

I am glad to report that the 162nd State Police Class reported to Sea Girt on August 2nd. A total of 196 recruits came through the gate and as of this writing, 179 remain in training. The graduation for this class will be held on January 14, 2022 and will soon be followed by 200 new recruits slated for the 163rd class that will start training in March of 2022.

Now seems as good a place as any to wrap up this article as we head into the autumn months and the final quarter of our 100th Anniversary. I continue to remain honored and humbled to be surrounded by the women and men that make up this phenomenal Outfit. Regardless of the mission which has recently included the ongoing pandemic response, reducing gun violence, taking down heroin mills, supporting refugees from Afghanistan at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, and the day-to-day grind of dedicated civilian and enlisted members throughout the Division, I am reminded daily of why the rest of the nation looks to the New Jersey State Police for direction in successfully mitigating the challenges we face in law enforcement. God bless you all and as always, stay safe out there. - Colonel Patrick J. Callahan #5243

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As we enter the final months of 2021, I have to say that serving as president for the past four years has been extremely challenging. As in our personal lives, nothing is the same as we knew it. That is also true for the Former Troopers Association. The impact of Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the Florida Parties, Troop Get Togethers, Picnic, and Open Meetings.

However, it was great to get together at the FTA Picnic held at Division Headquarters in July. I know that it wasn't what everyone was used to, but the committee chaired by Pat Reilly, put it together very quickly and made it an extremely great event for everyone. I thank the Division and their staff for providing the assistance to our FTA Board in preparation for this event.

It is very exciting to announce that the renovation of the courtyard and columbarium at the Museum and Learning Center is moving along very nicely. I am extremely hopeful that the Division will host the dedication, along with the re-internments from the Memorial Garden, by October 2021. I want to thank everyone involved, especially all the contractors, suppliers, and donors for their support. A special thank you to Vice President George Wren, who has overseen the preparation and construction of this project, daily.

Over the past few months, the FTA Executive Board has been in serious conversations with the Governor and Legislative leaders regarding the reinstatement of the COLA. I assure our members that we are doing everything we can to reach that goal. Without going into detail, we know that it is a priority, and we are optimistic.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the FTA cocktail party on Friday evening, October 1, 2021, prior to the 100th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 2, 2021. The FTA is excited and proud to participate in these festivities. Furthermore, I expect to be hosting an FTA open meeting and lunch for our members on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at the Museum and Learning Center.

Warmest Regards,
Nick Soranno

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and our Staff, greetings we hope your summer months were filled with exciting and relaxing events. The upcoming festivities planned over the October 1st and 2nd weekend to formally acknowledge and celebrate the "Outfit's" 100th Anniversary are outlined in this newsletter. Please attend and make it another lifetime memory.

The FTA Board has identified Lt. Greg Septer (Ret.) to assist our members with Military Affairs. Greg's vast professional experience both in the Military and State Police will directly benefit our members and their families. We are excited to have Greg on-board as an unbelievable resource and look forward to his vital input for our Military members.

It should also be understood that the Board continues to work on areas of major concerns for our members as well as all troopers. Specifically, HR 218, COLA reinstatement, Health Care, Discipline are all issues on the table. Because of sensitive discussions between parties, information as to positive traction is slow and sometimes limited. It requires the FTA to work in confidence with these various agencies until we can alert our members. Understanding that it is problematic, worse is when individuals criticize the Board we have to absorb the negativity and do so because in the long run we are working toward the betterment of all troopers. I realize patience is personal due to the impact you are realizing, but be assured that we are working toward better conditions for all troopers and families at all times.

Also on May 14th, 2021 the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association and the NJ FOP jointly filed a Motion of Summary Judgment against the State of New Jersey regarding the state's LEOSA statute. The motion filed in New Jersey Federal Court asks the court to rule that the NJ RPO permit statute is unconstitutional and the federal LEOSA statute preempts NJ's law. Several settlement conversations between parties failed to reach an agreement. FLEOSA believes they have a strong case and that it will be heard in federal court with many organizations filing supportive briefs.

(Portions from Larry Cosme's FLEOA National President letter to membership)

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

162nd New Jersey State Police Class Reports for Training

On August 2, 2021 the New Jersey State Police Academy Staff welcomed the 195 recruits of the 162nd Class to the State Police Training Academy in Sea Girt, N.J. for their first day of training. For 24 weeks, recruits will report to the academy every Monday morning and remain on base for training until they are dismissed on Friday. Our badges are earned, not given. Join us in wishing the best of luck to the men and women of the 162nd Class. I believe each and everyone remembers DAY ONE at their Academy.



SPOTLIGHT

TROOPER THOMAS J. ISKRZYCKI #2066



1965

Recruit Thomas J. Iskrzycki #2066

What do you think of when you hear the name Thomas Iskrzycki? First "LEGEND" then a focus to attention, audacious, colorful wardrobe, outrageous, and a total disregard for political correctness. Those folks closest to Tom think of "Brilliant" when recalling their interactions. His talent was to create the situation where whomever he was negotiating with would walk away shaking their heads. They would shake their heads because they could not believe this guy (Tom) just made them agree to almost anything he wanted. The man had a talent that ingratiated himself in a manner that you always ended up agreeing with him.

Trooper I Thomas J. Iskrzycki served over 33 years with the Division. Tpr. I Iskrzycki had many opportunities to be promoted to higher ranks however he chose to be the President and founding member of the State Troopers Fraternal Association (STFA) and then the National Troopers Coalition (NTC). The idea of forming an organization to represent troopers was initiated in the Northeast region of the United States by Trooper Thomas J. Iskrzycki, President of the State Troopers Fraternal Association of New Jersey. Tom thought it would be a good idea to have troopers throughout the region get together for a picnic to socialize and compare benefits such as salaries, working conditions, pensions, weapons, and vehicles. This dialogue would allow each association to be armed with negotiable comparisons at contract time. The National Troopers Coalition (NTC) began in 1973 and was incorporated in 1977. Trooper Iskrzycki was the first National President.

There has never been a Trooper who worked harder for the rank and file. This dedication consistently exposed him to be at peril for his job and pension. Tom's focus was to create better working conditions, better salaries, better healthcare, and better pensions for all the members. He accomplished this with a team of dedicated members following his lead. The residual affect was that other unions as well non-unionized members who directly benefitted.

It is always important to recognize our roots and why we are where we are today. Tom Iskrzycki is front and center as to why today's troopers have the benefits they enjoy. It is

important to remind ourselves of his selfless efforts over his career and beyond that dedicated his time to our betterment. Always remember the sacrifices Tom has made and the in-roads he created with our elected officials as force to be reckoned with when negotiating. Today's unions are carrying Tom's torch and continue to fight for its members. We at the FTA Board salute Trooper I Thomas J. Iskrzycki #2066 for a lifetime of dedication for the greater good of the members and their families of New Jersey State Police



1992
A True Fraternity
Association presidents Thomas J. Iskrzycki #2066, Walter J. Kowal #2022, and David E. Blaker #2599 enjoy some light moments with the newly nominated Superintendent — Major Carl A. Williams of the 63RD class.



JIM DOOLEY, ED LENNON & TOM ISKRZYCKI



Tom with his son and daughter-in-law

Thank-you Chris Burgos #4276 and Richard Lokke, Esq for input

FEATURED STORY

Troopers Escorted Navy SEALs During 3rd Annual Hudson River Charity Swim

Members of the State Police Marine Services Bureau and T.E.A.M.S. Unit helped to safely escort dozens of Navy SEALs and other participants during the third annual charity Navy SEAL Hudson River Swim.

Troopers worked alongside various agencies from New Jersey and New York to ensure that the more than 130 participants made it safely across the river.

The swim helped raise funds for GI Go Fund, a nonprofit charitable organization that assists veterans, active-duty personnel, their family members, veteran supporters, and all members of the military community with finding employment, connecting to their benefits, and accessing housing opportunities.



MILITARY MATTERS –NEW

Lt. Gregory Septer (Ret.) has been designated by the FTA Board to assist with our members concerning Military matters. His experience allows him to help personnel navigate the systems necessary to identify earned benefits. Greg is a caring and dedicated Veteran who selfishly gives of his time and talents to benefits I am going to provide a little of what I can provide to the members of "the Outfit" both current and retired. This would include friends of members. As you can see, I am the ESGR-NJ Ombudsman Director. In that position these are my duties:

Ombudsman Director (OD)

The Ombudsman Director manages and oversees the State Committee Ombudsman Service and Support program. The OD provides informal mediation services to resolve a Service member's employment concerns using the provisions of USERRA as a guide. Act as the point of contact for the DoD Alternate Dispute Resolution Program. Act as the state level point of contact for all employer or service member inquiries to USERRA issues in coordination with the Employer and Military Outreach Directors. Manage and oversee the day-to-day activities of the state committee Ombudsman program. Provide assistance to resolve conflicts between employers and Service members, when appropriate. Maintain the confidentiality of any dispute resolution communications.

Division Military Liaison.

The New Jersey State Police Military Liaison Group (NJSP MLG) is a board of enlisted and civilian members appointed by the Superintendent to provide support and information to spouses and family members to augment the total NJSP effort.

The military liaison group mission is not to replace family support groups established by each branch of the service, but rather to complement their efforts to ensure total support of our own "Outfit" membership and their families. The NJSP MLG is also a forum for people to share ideas and suggestions for improving support programs, and any such ideas or suggestions will be brought forward to the Superintendent for consideration.

One mission of this board is to help bond those families of activated NJSP members together and promote a sense of camaraderie; another is to convey the Superintendent's concern for the well-being of these families by relaying vital information to lessen any feelings of isolation they may be experiencing. The board will also strive to aid families in better understanding the mission of their loved ones, keep them informed about activities sponsored by the Superintendent and/or the military liaison group, and provide an avenue for them to share some of the common rewards, tensions, and frustrations of military life. The military support group will serve as an ombudsman for all activated members, NJSP civilian employees, and families of deployed members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, and Coast Guard, coordinating and providing field support when necessary.

The NJSP MLG duties and responsibilities

1. Assist members and civilian employees' families by helping interpret state police policies, offering resources and informational services to those in need. This will be accomplished through planning, advocacy, active communication, and support activities.

2. Improve the quality of life for every NJSP family member. This is achieved by answering questions from family members about military lifestyle and referring them to organizations which may be able to assist them.
3. Coordinate support activities with union organizations, which have historically provided outstanding support to the families of activated members. These organizations include the Superior Officers Association, Non-Commissioned Officer Association, State Troopers Fraternal Association, Former Troopers Association, the Communication Workers of America and the I.F.P.T.E. Local 195.
4. A Military Affairs Officer has been established within the Personnel Bureau to carry out day to day operations as they pertain to military members of the NJSP. The Military Affairs Officer will assist units and organizations both inside and outside the NJSP to complete the mission (S.O.P C47). This position will be filled by an enlisted member who is a "Veteran" as established by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Standards.
5. Ensure that each activated member's family is being contacted regularly by the NJSP. The activated member's chain of command will also be responsible for ensuring this communication is formally documented. The OEOD may also assist with communicating with the activated members.

Greg has been personally involved and helped no less than 10 fellow troopers/Military personnel get 100% VA medical benefits.

Greg's Military experience was over 27+years in the Active, National Guard and Reserves and retired the rank of Sergeant Major (SGM)(E9). Approximately .08% of the Army ever make this rank with his career concluding as an Infantry soldier assigned as the Senior Enlisted Advisor-Reserve Affairs for the XVIII Airborne Corps in FT Bragg. This role was responsible to the Corp Commander/Multinational Corp-Iraq Commander- LTG Lloyd Austin and all reserve soldiers conducting combat operations in IRAQ.

Greg retired as a Lieutenant in the Division Warehouse handing and jokingly acknowledges he handed out a lot of socks (☺) as the Assistant Bureau Chief of Facilities.

Gregory Septer, BSIE, MSISM
 Ombudsman Director, ESGR-NJ Volunteer
 5511 Texas Ave
 Joint Base MDL, NJ 08640

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BUSINESS UPDATES

We've Moved!

Please be advised that the administrative office for the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, and True Blue and Gold has moved to the former Wilburtha Station, now the Division's "Welcome Center," and remains under the administration of our Officer Manager, Patricia A. Maldonado. Our office is now located adjacent to the True Blue and Gold Gift Shop! All contact and mailing information remains the same. Thank you!



N.J. FORMER TROOPERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

The Board of Trustees of the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation is proud to announce the list of recipients for our 2021 Scholarship Program. This, our first year of administering a scholarship program, saw multiple scholarships on several levels, funded by both private donations and Heritage Foundation allocations. Sixty-three applications were submitted and rated according to academic standing, extra-curricular activities, and volunteer service to the community. Of the six privately funded Memorial Scholarships, two were awarded by the Board to descendant applicants of the Baker and Delaney Memorial Scholarships in honor of their Family's service to the Outfit and perpetual donations to the program. A special thanks to Trustee Director, Ernest Volkmann and his Scholarship Committee for their analysis and ranking of the applicants, and their recommendation of finalists for Board consideration and approval.

Please join us in congratulating every recipient, and in thanking everyone who has donated towards this very worthy scholarship program, consisting of: the **DEBRA CHESKO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$1,000 Award to **Kaitlyn Adlassnig**, Daughter of Michele Adlassnig, #5119; the **CINDY TRUMP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$5,000 Award to **Veronica Szenzenstein**, Daughter of Glen Szenzenstein, #5221; the **LUCAS J. HOMEIJER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$2,500 Award to **Jordyn F. Nelson**, Daughter of Keith C. Nelson, #4820; the **CAPTAIN PETER & ELEANOR BAKER, #1600 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$1,600 Award to **Abigail L. Chambers**, Granddaughter of Peter & Eleanor Baker, #1600; the **RICHARD S. SORANNO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$1,000 Award to **Zack R. Kovacs**, Grandson of Steven P. Kovacs, #3024; the **TROOPER WILLIAM L. CARROLL, JR., #3296 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$1,000 Award to **Kayla E. Geleta**, Daughter of Joseph M. Geleta, #4054, and the **CAPTAIN ROBERT D. & MARY DELANEY, #978 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - \$978 Award to **Austin R. Henderson**, Great-Grandson of Robert D. & Mary Delaney, #978. Also awarded were **N.J. FORMER TROOPERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION, 2021 SCHOLARSHIP** - \$500 Awards to: **Gannon P. Brady**, Son of Gregory J. Brady, #5032; **Karlie M. Byrd**, Daughter of Joseph C. Byrd, #4858; **Morgan R. Cherry**, Daughter of Bradley D. Cherry, #5684; **Brendon F. Coffee**, Grandson of Milton L. Fischer, #1744; **Rocco S. DePersia**, Son of Richard DePersia, #4786; **Jordyn A. Holjes**, Daughter of C.D. Holjes, #4703; **Jake A. Inserra**, Son of John Inserra, #6794; **Madeline C. Isner**, Granddaughter of Robert Fuller, #2200; **Alexandria S. Jones**, Daughter of Sean D. Jones, #6035; **Elizabeth G. Jones**, Daughter of Sean D. Jones, #6035; **Laura G. Jones**, Daughter of Sean D. Jones, #6035; **Gabriela S. Kovaly**, Daughter of Michael J. Kovaly, #5173; **Harry L. Larkin**, Grandson of Edward Good, #2377; **Kinsey R. Lockard**, Granddaughter of William Sirotnak, #2005; **Timi L. Meade**, Granddaughter of Ralph E. Meade, #1335; **Ciara E. Minkel**, Daughter of Bryan J. Minkel, #5838; **Nicholas E. Reigel**, Grandson of Glenn Reigel, #3139; **Joseph C. Repetti, 3rd**, Son of Joseph C. Repetti, Jr., #5637; **Dylan T. Repici**, Son of Joseph L. Repici, #4914; **Sidney J. Schwartz**, Granddaughter of Charles Schwartz, #2714; **Olivia J. Scott**, Granddaughter of Robert Scott, #2223; **Jonathan T. Shanahan**, Son of Joseph E. Shanahan, #4921; **Kylie H. Staub**, Granddaughter of Raymond Staub, #1989; and **Andrew R. Walter**, Grandson of Ronald J. Walter, #2315. **Congratulations to ALL on your academic achievements!**

The Memorial Garden Renovation & Columbarium Project has been a monumental undertaking, one that without the gracious and very generous donations of materials and workmanship by many suppliers and contractors, we couldn't have made happen. A special thanks to FTA President, Captain Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr., #3065 (*Ret*) for spearheading a construction consortium, and our fund-raising efforts, and to our Heritage Foundation Chairman, Lt. George J. Wren, Jr., #3680 (*Ret*) for designing, supervising, and hands-on, coordination of the renovation and construction. A sincere thanks to everyone who has and will continue to contribute to this and our very worthy future charitable endeavors.



TRUE BLUE AND GOLD, INC.

The effects of COVID-19 impacted our Logo Merchandise Store operations for 15 months. Fortunately, we were able to operate our Internet, Ecom Store operation during much of the pandemic, and we sincerely appreciate your business and your support! Thanks to relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, we were also able to reopen our Store operations on June 29th with hours consisting of Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that on or about September 15, 2021, our current Ecom website address will go offline and be replaced by our new address at www.trueblueandgold.com. This new site will enhance our merchandise selection and offer monthly specials. We will be furnishing links to the new store address on all our FTA Web Sites and Social Media Platforms at that time. Thank you again for your continued business and support!

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

FTA FALL 2021 MEETING REMINDER

The FTA FALL 2021 General Meeting will be held on November 13, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. The goal is to have an in-person meeting at the Division Headquarters- Log Cabin. With an uptick in the COVID-Delta Variant, the meeting may be held via Zoom. As we get closer to the date, a final announcement, and directions to participate in this meeting will be posted on our FTA Website Announcements Box and on the Bulletin Board two-weeks prior to the meeting. Hopefully, the membership can join us either in-person or on this new platform.

FTA SOCIAL EVENTS

Former Troopers Night Centennial Cocktail Party & NJSP 100th Anniversary Gala

In conjunction with the Division's 100th Anniversary Gala at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Atlantic City on October 2, 2021, our Association of Former Jersey Troopers (FTA) will be hosting a Former Troopers Night Centennial Cocktail Party on Friday, October 1st within the same venue. This longstanding cocktail party ushered in many previous NJSP Annual Banquets and was highly regarded by all who attended. As in the past, our party is open to all active and retired Jersey Troopers and Civilian Personnel.

On-line registration for the party commenced on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, via our FTA Web Site where a registration link is posted. Upon accessing the Registration Query, simply complete the registration form and make payment via the PayPal porthole, using a PayPal account or credit card. Once your registration and payment are completed, you will be afforded a link to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino should you wish to make a room reservation for a Friday night accommodation, solely. These are very sought out historic events and are expected to sell out to their capacity quickly. Admission to the Former Troopers Night Centennial Cocktail Party is \$75.00 per person.

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

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

2021 FTA PICNIC

On July 16, 2021 the FTA hosted its annual picnic. This was the first event since 2019. It was held at Division Headquarters newly acquired Ravine Swim Club. With 275+ in attendance along with Colonel Callahan and Staff Officers, the event was well received. The pool was a hit for our younger guests. Additionally, our Pipe Band and Mounted Unit joined the event to give the attendees a nice reconnection to the Division. The hope is that we can continue to utilize this venue and include some of the suggestions by our members. Stay Tuned!

HEALTH, SECURITY & MISC. INFO.

VISITATION PROGRAM

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

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

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Educational Fund, Inc. (AFNJST), has been committed to provide educational scholarship opportunities since 2009, and interest free loans to eligible State Police family members for several decades. The scholarship program will continue to offer

scholarships to any child or grandchild of a New Jersey State Trooper (Active/Retired), who is living or deceased as set-forth in its By-Laws.

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Police, a total of ten scholarships were awarded, each in the amount of \$1,500.00. This year's scholarships were awarded in fond memory of Captain John B. Wallace, #253 (Retired September 1952) and Major John C. Crawford, #256 (Retired January 1956). Captain Wallace is recognized as a founder of the AFNJST Educational Fund, Inc., in 1964. Major Crawford is recognized for his significant contribution of \$50,000.00, which stands as the largest contribution to date. Recipients of the 2020/2021 Wallace/Crawford Educational Scholarships were: **Ryan Drew (Chris Drew, #5862); Christopher Ravelle (Salvatore Ravelle, #6378); Elise Devlin (Michael Devlin, #5254); Jane Mangelli (Anthony Mangelli, #5966); Jamie Caine (William Hutnik, #2868); Michael Malloy, Jr. (Michael Malloy, #5621); Samantha Slimowicz (Steven Slimowicz, #5789); Collin Boero (Sean Boero, #4597); Sophia Petrucci (Francis Masterson, #1686); and Faith Schusler (John Schusler, #3816).** Scholarship recipients will receive a formal notification by the Treasurer of the Fund along with a check payable to the applicant. If for any reason the recipient should change their mind about pursuing or continuing a college education, the money shall be returned to the Fund.

TEXAS RANGER WITH NJSP CONNECTION



Trooper Justin Basso, Texas Highway Patrol, grandson of Robert J. Quinn, #2308, Major Crimes Unit, received the Medal of Valor related to the mass shooting that occurred in Odessa, Texas on August 31, 2019. Trooper Basso responded to the last known location of the suspect, which was a road with several businesses. Basso, along with Midland and Odessa police officers, spotted the suspect in a hospital parking lot and began a pursuit. In the process, two police officers were injured by gunfire. As the suspect traveled toward a movie theater and open field where people were exposed, Basso took the lead in the pursuit and fired at the suspect's vehicle which was eventually struck and disabled by a Midland officer's patrol unit. Basso continued to engage the gunman and then assisted local law enforcement with securing the suspect, who died because of his injuries. A heroic effort for sure by Trooper Basso. Well Done!!

FROM FEMA WEB SITE: (Reposted)

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

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

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

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

HOW TO APPLY:

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

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

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

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

HOW ARE FUNDS RECEIVED:

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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

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

[Funeral Assistance FAQ](#)

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

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

BESSIE'S CORNER

Hello everyone! Well, I can certainly say it has been hot!! Some days I felt as if I was still in South Florida. It was pleasure speaking with and seeing the many folks at the picnic. It was a great time and certainly wonderful to see some old friends. Want to give you a heads up and let you know that I am now back in NJ area full time. My days in South Florida are done after September.

A gentle reminder to be sure to enroll in Medicare upon turning 65. It is recommended that this be done approximately 2 months prior to turning 65. Proof of enrollment needs to be sent to Pension and Benefits. This needs to be done for both the retiree and spouse prior to turning 65. It is recommended that you visit your local Social Security office or enroll online.

For those retirees who must pay additional Medicare premiums due to higher income limits, please check your end of the year pension check stub for information on having those additional premiums reimbursed. There is a due date established each year for reimbursement, if you miss the deadline date, you will not be reimbursed for the prior year's additional premiums paid.

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

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.

Please feel free to reach out to me either by phone or email with any questions you may have. 609-649-3221 or bjones@ftanjsp.org.

Change of Address and/or Financial Institution Changes

I cannot stress enough the importance of notifying Pension and Benefits with any changes to your address and/or banking information. Any of these changes need to be reported immediately as to not affect the depositing of your monthly pension check or receiving important benefit information by mail. Again, you can make these changes online through your MBOS account, but either way, please be sure they have your current address and banking information.

I do not have the access, or authority to change this information, it can only be done by you through your MBOS account or by contacting Pensions and Benefits directly.

REPORTING A DEATH

It is IMPORTANT that Pensions and Benefits be contacted as soon as possible regarding the death of a retiree. Please contact them at 609-292-7524. It is recommended that this telephone number be written down and kept with your important papers, so it is readily available when needed. Pensions and Benefits should be on the important contacts list. The sooner they are contacted, the sooner any survivor benefits and insurance benefits can be completed.

Surviving Spouses of Retirees Tax Implications:

After the passing of a retiree, the surviving spouse will need to have the income tax adjusted for the pension. The default is set to 2 deductions and will need to be changed to one to offset any end of year tax “surprises.” Another great reason to have an MBOS account set up, as this can be done online through your MBOS account.

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>

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>

A **LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT** is available to eligible retirees through the State of NJ. This life insurance benefit is provided through Prudential and the benefit is equal to 50% of the final year of salary for the retiree. This benefit is payable to your listed beneficiary. Beneficiary info can be accessed through your MBOS account, and if it needs to be changed, you can do it 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.

****IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS: ****

Pensions and Benefits 609-292-7524

Patti FTA Office 609-882-2000 Ext 2220

Bessie FTA Consultant 609-649-3221

Happy Fall!

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

It is with great sorrow that Colonel Patrick J. Callahan announces the sudden passing of Lieutenant Matthew Razukas #5939, Field Operations Section, on July 27, 2021. Lieutenant Matthew Razukas served with the New Jersey State Police for over 20 years and was a member of the 122nd State Police Class.

Lieutenant Razukas is survived by his wife, Lisette Razukas, as well as his four children. The entire New Jersey State Police family and extended law enforcement community extends our deepest sympathy to the Razukas family during this difficult time.



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

Stories courtesy of NJSP Public Information Office

NJSP Leads Multi-Agency Cooperative Deployment, dubbed "Operation Summer in the City," Targeting Violent Fugitives

Newark, N.J. - The New Jersey State Police Fugitive Unit coordinated a 2-day cooperative mobile deployment dubbed "Operation Summer in the City." This multi-agency effort led to the arrest of 20 fugitives in Essex County, which included 7 documented street gang members. These deployments will continue throughout the summer as part of a comprehensive initiative to reduce violent crime statewide.

Detectives from our Fugitive Unit, Crime Suppression North Unit, Gangs and Organized Crime North Unit, Trafficking North Unit, Cyber Crimes Unit, Real Time Crime Center North, and K-9 Unit along with members of the United States Marshals Service NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force - Newark Division, New Jersey Department of Corrections Special Operations Group, Essex County Sheriff's Office, and the Newark Police Department Fugitive Unit targeted fugitives who were in or near Newark and wanted for violent crimes or had recidivist criminal histories. The targets for the operation were identified through a collaboration between various intelligence sections within the State Police, Essex County Sheriff's Office, Newark Police Department, and criminal analysis information provided by the New Jersey State Police Real Time Crime Center North Unit.

From Tuesday, June 29, to Wednesday June 30, a total of 20 fugitives wanted by state, county, and local law enforcement agencies were apprehended in various locations throughout Essex County. The accused were wanted for various crimes including aggravated assault, armed robbery, burglary, theft, and weapons and drug offenses. All suspects were lodged at the Essex County Jail.

"Every trooper who enlists with the New Jersey State Police dedicates their lives to protecting the public from violent crime no matter where it may occur, and through the tremendous partnerships we have with our federal, state, and local law enforcement, troopers are making a difference in every part of the state through collaborative initiatives like 'Operation Summer in the City,' which targeted violent and often recidivist offenders," said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. "We will continue to combat violent crime in a multitude of ways, including community outreach initiatives, education, and law enforcement operations targeting violent offenders, and I commend the outstanding work of all of the agencies involved with this successful operation."

Operation Summer in the City is a coordinated law enforcement effort conducted in recent years to reduce crime in cities across New Jersey, which has resulted in numerous arrests of violent, dangerous, and recidivist offenders. In 2018, a sweep resulted in the arrest of 166 dangerous fugitives, including 61 documented gang members and in 2019 netted 75 fugitives, including 26 gang members.

Detectives Seize a Combined 15 pounds of Fentanyl, Heroin, and Cocaine as a result of “Operation Speed Bump”

Camden, N.J. - The NJSP, in conjunction with the Gloucester Township Police Department, have arrested three subjects from Camden, N.J., and another subject from Gloucester Township, N.J., and dismantled a drug trafficking network as a result of a 17-month cooperative investigation dubbed “Operation Speed Bump.” Detectives seized \$350,000 worth of drugs including 4 pounds of fentanyl, 5 pounds of heroin, and 6 pounds of cocaine.

In October of 2019, detectives from Gangs and Organized Crime Unit and the Gloucester Township Police Department began investigating drug activity in Camden County. During the investigation, detectives discovered a small ring allegedly distributing narcotics in the Gloucester Township and Camden City areas of Camden County. Through various investigative means, detectives linked the suspects to a drug distribution network that was operating out of several residences in Gloucester Township and Camden.

On March 30, detectives with Gangs and Organized Crime South Unit, Atlantic City Metro Task Force, Motor Vehicle Crimes South Unit, Trafficking South Unit, and Crime Suppression South Unit, along with T.E.A.M.S., Canine Unit, Gloucester Township Police Department Special Investigations Unit, Camden County Metro Police Department, the U.S. DEA, HSI, and ATF executed a search warrant at a residence in Gloucester Township and three residences in Camden, which resulted in the arrest of four subjects and various narcotic seizures.

“This operation resulted in the seizure of 15 pounds of some of the most highly addictive and deadly narcotics sold on the streets, which once processed, would become thousands of potentially lethal doses. If this operation saved just one life or prevented just one person from battling addiction, then it was a resounding success,” said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. “An operation of this magnitude requires a tremendous amount of cooperation and coordination between partnering agencies, and I am grateful to all of the dedicated law enforcement professionals who worked tirelessly to dismantle this trafficking network bringing those responsible to justice.”

This case was investigated by NJSP Police Detective I Joseph Castle #6981 and Detective Craig Palma #196, of the Gloucester Township Police Department.

State Police Detectives Arrest 19 Suspects and Take Down Multiple Drug Mills During “Operation Falling Spires”

Newark, N.J. - The NJSP arrested 19 suspects and dismantled 3 drug mills producing heroin in Newark, N.J. during an eight-month investigation dubbed “Operation Falling Spires.” The suspects distributed narcotics in wax folds stamped with the same brand names that have been linked to 15 fatal and 42 nonfatal overdoses across New Jersey.

In December 2020, detectives with the NJSP Gangs and Organized Crime North Unit began investigating alleged drug activity at the Garden Spires community complex in Newark, N.J. Based on information obtained during the investigation, detectives discovered that multiple drug mills were being operated out of the complex and were a distribution point for narcotics in the area.

On May 19, detectives with the Gangs and Organized Crime North Unit along with members of the Trafficking North, Crime Suppression North, T.E.A.M.S., K9, Fugitive, Aviation, Troop “B” Tactical Patrol, Crime Scene Investigations North, and Hazmat Units, United States Marshal Service, Newark Police Department, and Paterson Police Department executed search warrants at 7 apartments in the Garden Spires complex. As a result of the searches, detectives arrested 9 suspects and seized 4 guns, 500 grams of heroin/fentanyl mixture, 5 grams of crack, hollow point ammunition, high-capacity magazines, narcotics packaging materials, and several different stamps used to brand packaged narcotics.

Drug traffickers market their “brand” of drug by ink-stamping the outside of a wax fold with a unique image, or phrase such as “Frank Lucas,” and “SRT,” which are all examples of stamps that were recovered. The stamps “Frank Lucas” and “SRT” have been linked to a total of five fatal overdoses in New Jersey. During the on-going investigation, detectives arrested another 10 suspects.



QUARTER CENTURY CLUB MEMORIAL DONATIONS

<u>Contributed by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Harry McCurdy, #2117	Major Francis J. Pasch, Jr., #835	\$100.00
“	Lt. Paul A. Geczy, #981	\$100.00
David & Marie Aaron, #1623	Captain Daniel J. Jordan, #1405	\$100.00
Joseph Getsinger, #2697	For the Good of the Order	\$121.00
Colonel Carl Williams, #1872	Captain Daniel J. Jordan, Jr., #1405	\$100.00
“	Captain Thaddeus G. Kobiela, #1209	\$100.00
Robert J. Delaney #2853	Captain R. D. Delaney, #978 Scholarship	\$978.00
Charities Aid Foundation	For the Good of the Order	\$6.00
Pat Seagreaves	Captain Peter & Eleanor Baker, #1600 Scholarship	\$75.00
Philip Rongo, Ibex Advisors LLC	Captain Peter & Eleanor Baker, #1600 Scholarship	\$750.00
Jack & Terry Vetter	Captain Peter & Eleanor Baker, #1600 Scholarship	\$200.00
Survivors of the Triangle	Trooper William L. Carroll, Jr., #3296 Scholarship	\$1000.00
Marguerite Bernarducci	SFC Robert J. Kowalski, #1645	\$25.00
LTC Michael Fedorko, #2375	For the Good of the Order	\$65.00
“	The Fighting 77th	\$100.00
Paul Bershefski #2137	Captain Leon Adams, #1730	\$100.00
Ralph Meade, #1335	Lt. Donald G. Stout, # 1553	\$25.00
“	SFC Raymond J. Elliot, #1702	\$25.00
“	Lt. John D. Murphy, #2218	\$25.00
“	Captain Arnold Kleeberg, #1406	\$25.00
Louis Jasmine, #1404	Captain Arnold Kleeberg, #1406	\$25.00
Louis Jasmine, #1404	Lt. James F. Cuzzupe, #1431	\$25.00

LAST PATROL

LIEUTENANT JAMES J. GOLDEN, #3883



GOLDEN, JAMES J. #3883 passed away on August 28, 2021. He was 78 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on January 21, 1984, as a member of the HP Class, and retired on April 1, 1998. He served in the US Marine Corp. He is survived by his wife Betty Ann Golden his son James N. Golden, his daughter-in-law Lauren Golden and 2 grandchildren.

SGT WALTER D. MADERSKI, #1106



MADERSKI, WALTER D. #1106 passed away on August 23, 2021. He was 95 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on June 24, 1952, as a member of the 41st Class, and retired on Oct. 1, 1979. He served in the US Navy during WW 11. He was predeceased by his wife Gloria Richards-Maderski. He is survived by his nephew Dennis Hagin and his niece Judeth Hagin.

CAPTAIN ALBERT SACCHETTI, #2985



SACCHETTI, ALBERT #2985 passed away on August 27th, 2021. He was 68 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on June 27, 1974, as a member of the 90th Class, and retired on June 1, 2000. He is survived by his three children: Anthony, Anne Marie, and Patrick. In addition, he is survived by 4 grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH A. ZARRELLA, #2230



ZARRELLA, JOSEPH A. #2230 passed away on 08/8/2021. He was 78 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on August 25, 1967, as a member of the 73rd Class, and retired on July 1, 1996. He served in the US Army. He was predeceased by his wife Frances L. Zarrella and survived by his daughters Carol A. Burek and Annamarie Miller, son Joseph M. Zarrella, and five grandchildren.

MAJOR EDWARD R. MARTIN, #1215



MARTIN, EDWARD R. #1215 passed away on August 10, 2021. He was 92 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on August 1, 1953, as a member of the 43rd Class, and retired on September 1, 1985. He served in the US Air Force. He was predeceased by his wife Eileen Martin and his son Edward R. Martin Jr. He is survived by his daughter Erin Kalajian, his son-in-law Jerry Kalajian and 3 grandchildren.

TPR.I DOUGLAS W. EVANS, #3382



EVANS, DOUGLAS W. #3382 passed away on July 19, 2021. He was 63 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on June 29, 1979, as a member of the 95th Class, and retired on August 1, 1995. He also served in the US Marines. He is survived by his wife Mildred Evans, his son Douglas, his daughters Tiffany, and Amanda and 5 grandchildren.

DSFC ROBERT C. BUNTING, #2232



BUNTING, ROBERT C. #2232 passed away on August 6, 2021. He was 75 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on December 15, 1967, as a member of the 74th Class, and retired on March 1, 1988. He is survived by his wife Barbara, children and spouse Nancy and Patrick Balunis, Kerry Gilbert and Lisa Gerstenacker, and four grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT MATHEW RAZUKAS, #5939



RAZUKAS, MATHEW #5939 passed away on July 27, 2021. Lieutenant Razukas enlisted in the State Police on May 15, 2001, as a member of the 122nd Class, and had served with the New Jersey State Police for over 20 years at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife Lisette Razukas as well as his four children.

**CAPTAIN THADDEUS KOBIELA,
#1209**



KOBIELA, THADDEUS #1209 passed away on July 25th, 2021. He was 90 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on August 1, 1953, as a member of the 43rd Class, and retired on September 1, 1981. He was a veteran of the US Navy. He was predeceased by his wife Zeno and daughter Kathryn. He is survived by his two sons Edward Kobiela of Elizabeth City, NC and Stephen Kobiela of Williamsburg, VA. He is also survived by six grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

**CAPTAIN DANIEL J. JORDAN, JR.,
#1405**



JORDAN, DANIEL J. #1405 passed away on July 22, 2021. He was 91 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on May 1, 1955, as a member of the 48th Class, and retired on October 1, 1983. He also served in the US Air Force. He is survived by his wife Marion Jordan, his son Daniel J. Jordan III, daughters Kathleen Jordan and Karen Wilkinson, and 6 grandchildren.

SFC GARY C. HILL, #5067



HILL, GARY C. #5067 passed away on June 19, 2021. He was 55 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on January 15, 1993, as a member of the 113th Class, and retired on January 1, 2021. He served in the NJ Army National Guard. He is survived by his wife Sandi, daughter Kaysee Hill, stepdaughter Riley Fagan and his brother (ret) Lt. Toby Hill #5357.

SSGT DONALD G. STEADMAN, #4116



STEADMAN, DONALD G. #4116 passed away June 12, 2021. He was 62 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on June 13, 1985, as a member of the 102nd Class, and retired on July 1, 2010. He is survived by his wife Catherine Steadman; his son Thomas; daughters Sherrian, Heatherrae and Kristalynn; and 10 grandchildren.

**LIEUTENANT FRANK J. NEMETH,
JR. #2398**



NEMETH, FRANK J. #2378 passed away on June 4, 2021. He was 76 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on July 7, 1969, as a member of the 77th Class, and retired on July 1, 1999. He also served in the US Army in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife Rebecca Nemeth; his daughters Gina, Denise and Danielle; and 5 grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT JOHN D. MURPHY, #2218



MURPHY, JOHN D. #2218 passed away on May 29, 2021. He was 80 years old. He enlisted in the New Jersey State Police on August 25, 1967, as a member of the 73rd Class, and retired on January 1, 1996. He is survived by his wife of 61 years Arlene Murphy; two sons SFC Daniel Murphy #4724 (Ret) and John; two daughters Mary and Catherine, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

DET I. CHARLES R. COOPER, #3859



COOPER, CHARLES R. #3859 passed away on May 23, 2021. He was 76 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on January 21, 1984, as a member of the HP Class, and retired on February 1, 1989. He served in the US Coast Guard. He is survived by his wife Carol Cooper; his daughters Nicole Rosato, Leslie Ripoli-Medina and Ashley Barrera and 4 grandchildren.

DET I. EDWIN MUHLBECK, #1572



MUHLBECK, EDWIN #1572 passed away on May 22, 2021. He was 86 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on March 24, 1958, as a member of the 53rd Class, and retired on October 1, 1977. He served in the US Marines. He is survived by his wife Johanna, his daughter Perrilla Larssen, his brother Albert Muhlbeck and two grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother Ernest Muhlbeck.

SGT HOWARD J. VANCE, #2093



VANCE, HOWARD J. #2093 passed away on May 16, 2021. He was 84 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on December 6, 1965, as a member of the 69th Class, and retired on September 1, 1991. He served in the U.S. Marines. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, sons Howard and Matthew, daughters Karen Cooper and Bonnie Lynch, and 7 grandchildren.

SGT JOHN A. O'NEILL, #3132



O'NEILL, JOHN A. #3132 passed away on May 10, 2021. He was 71 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on May 20, 1977, as a member of the 92nd Class, and retired on July 25, 1999. He served in the U.S. Army in Viet Nam. He is survived by his wife Jennifer O'Neill, sons John A O'Neill 3rd, Michael O'Neill, Timothy O'Neill and daughter Margaret Sinanan, 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

MAJOR ERNEST WRZESINSKY, #1773



WRZESINSKY, ERNEST #1773 passed away on May 17, 2021, in Florida. He was 81 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on May 20, 1962, as a member of the 59th Class, and retired September 1, 1989. He served in the United States Air Force. He is survived by his wife Lorraine and two daughters Beth and JoAnn.

CAPTAIN LEON ADAMS, #1730



ADAMS, LEON #1730 passed away on May 4, 2021. He was 86 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on February 5, 1962, as a member of the 59th Class, and retired on February 1, 1990. He served in the U.S. Army. He is survived by his sisters Jonnie Knight-Wilder and Yvonne Smith; his sons DeShaun, Troy and Christopher, stepson Gordon Nero, daughter Tracey Goodley, and 5 grandchildren.

TPR. BLAINE K. ELMER, #3695



ELMER, BLAINE K. #3695 passed away on May 2, 2021 at the age of 64. He enlisted in the State Police on July 2, 1982, as a member of the 99th Class, and resigned from service on December 1, 1987. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Senior Master Chief after 24 years. He is survived by his son Steven Elmer and daughter Valerie Neeld. His other son, Nicholas Elmer, died of a heart attack on the morning of the motor vehicle accident which claimed Blaine's life. He had 3 grandchildren.

SGT ROBERT V. BABIAK, #1732



BABIAK, ROBERT V. #1732 passed away on April 28, 2021 in Bayville, New Jersey. He enlisted in the State Police on February 5, 1962, as a member of the 59th Class, and retired on April 1, 1987. He served in the U.S. Army enlisting in 1958. He is survived by 3 daughters Kimberly Phillips, Carol Knox, Kathleen Senet, 1 son Robert Babiak, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

LIEUTENANT RICHARD A. AVALONE, #3835



AVALONE, RICHARD A. #3835 passed away on April 9, 2021, in Naples, Florida. He enlisted in the State Police on January 21, 1984, as a member of the HP Class, and retired on July 1, 1997. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp. He is survived by his wife Kathleen Miglarese Avalone, sons Stephen David Avalone, Michael Edward Avalone, and their wives Laura Dewar Avalone and Carey Buccigrossi Avalone, grandchildren Grace Emerson Avalone, Maximo Alexander Avalone and Luca David Avalone. He also leaves behind a sister Phyllis Patricco and many wonderful nephews, nieces and cousins.

SSGT ROBERT B. BLATCHFORD, #3839



BLATCHFORD, ROBERT B. #3839 passed away on April 22, 2021. He was 73 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on January 21, 1984, as a member of the HP Class, and retired on June 1, 2002. He also served in the US Army. He is survived by his son Adam, his daughter Lori Simon and two grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT JOHN C. THOMPSON, #2545



THOMPSON, JOHN C. #2545 passed away on April 22, 2021. He was 75 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on February 6, 1970, as a member of the 80th Class, and retired on March 1, 1996. He served in the U.S. Marines. He is survived by his wife Rosalyn, brother William, daughter Lisa Thompson, son John Jr., daughter-in-law Dawn, and 3 grandchildren.

LIEUTENANT DONALD G. STOUT, #1553



STOUT, DONALD G. #1553 passed away on April 16, 2021. He was 87 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on July 15, 1957, as a member of the 52nd Class, and retired on June 1, 1988. He served in the US Navy. He is survived by his wife Patricia Stout, his three sons, Gregory, Michael and Brian, his daughter Donna Wagenblast and 5 grandchildren.

SFC WILLIAM T. MCGUIRE, #2973



MCGUIRE, WILLIAM T. #2973 passed away on April 4, 2021. He was 74 years old. He enlisted in the State Police on June 27, 1974, as a member of the 90th Class, and retired in 2002. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary McGuire in 2003. He is survived by his daughters and son-in-law Paula Gannon, Jill McGuire and Jamie and Ronald Puntolillo, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

LETTERS TO THE FTA

FTA
PO BOX 7852
W. TRENTON, NJ 08628

TO THE FORMER TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of my husband Captain Daniel J. Jordan, Jr. #1405, and my family I would like to thank the Former Troopers Association for all of their help and sincere condolences on my husband's passing.

I especially want to thank Colonel Carl Williams who assisted me with contacting the appropriate people to help me get through that difficult time and his wonderful remarks at the funeral service. My husband was Colonel Williams' Trooper Coach when Carl joined the State Police and they have been close friends ever since. I would also like to thank Colonel Patrick Callahan for his kind words at the funeral service and his offer to help for anything needed. It was so appreciated. There are so many others in the chain of State Police brethren to thank: George Coyle for the beautiful plaque, Sal Maggio, and so many others who were helpful. I thank you all.

My husband loved the State Police. He loved being a trooper. He had many accomplishments in his career after the State Police, but his fondest memories are when he was a trooper.

I thank the organization for being such a caring group for your fellow members. You are definitely a "Band of Brothers." It has been an honor to be part of the State Police family.

Most Sincerely,
Marian Jordan and family

Timi Leigh Meade
Manasquan, NJ

August 1, 2021

Former Trooper Association
P.O. Box 7852
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Former Troopers:

I would like to thank the members of the Former New Jersey State Police Retired Troopers for the generous scholarship gift. I will be attending the University of Georgia starting in late August and am so very grateful for your consideration. My Grandfather Ralph Meade and father David both served the State Police, and I grew up with great respect for the organization. Am very proud of them and their example will guide me in my time at the University of Georgia. It has been a difficult year for all of us, however, I intend to continue my education and start on a new and exciting adventure at UG. Once again, please know how very much I appreciate your gift. It will be put to good use and all the members of the NJ State Police active and former will be remembered in my thoughts and prayers.

Very Sincerely Yours

T Meade

Timi Leigh Meade

Dear George J. Wren, Jr.,

Thank-you for selecting my daughter as a recipient for the Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Scholarship. We are honored to have her chosen for this award. My family sincerely appreciates your selection as this will help fund her college education. In the Fall she will be attending Ocean County College. The she will be attending the University of Tampa starting in the Spring of 2022.

Thank-you again,
Michael Kovaly #5173

Dear Mr. Wren,

I am writing to thank you for the generous 2021 NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Scholarship Award. I recently just graduated from high school and will be attending Rowan University this coming Fall. I will be studying Music Technology with plans to become a sound engineer upon my 2025 graduation. Thanks to you I am one step closer to achieving my goals. Your generosity has lightened my financial burden allowing me to focus on my studies. Thank you and the NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation for the generous gift.

Sincerely,
Dylan Repici

Dear Mr. Wren,

I can't thank-you enough for choosing me as one of the recipients of the NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Scholarship. I am grateful and honored to have been selected to receive this generous scholarship. Which will help with tuition costs. I will be continuing my education at Gettysburg College in the Fall. I am looking forward to this next chapter of my life, and I appreciate that this scholarship will help me pursue my degree. Thank-you so much.

Sincerely,
Morgan Cherry

Dear Officers and Trustee Director of the NJ Former Troopers Heritage Foundation. Thank-you for the generous scholarship. I am attending Temple University in the Fall and will use the funds for tuition.

*Thank-you
Harry Larkin*

FTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

OFFICERS

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

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DAVID SCUREMAN, #2924
ROBERT R. WILK, ESQ., #3603

PAST PRESIDENTS

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

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS

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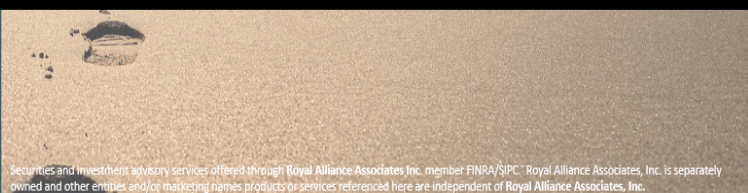
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