

2022 FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR!



It is with great pride and pleasure that the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., announce Major Heidi S. Scripture, #3579 (*Ret*) as the recipient of the Association's 2022 Former Trooper of the Year!

A proud member of the 97th Class, Heidi's enlistment began on April 3, 1981. A Road Trooper at heart, Heidi proudly enjoyed postings in Troop "B" at Totowa Sub, Somerville, and Netcong Stations, and at Troop "D" where she served as Assistant and Station Commander of Newark Station, and as the Troop "D" Task Force Officer. A consummate professional, Heidi blossomed as a commander, helping organize security operations for the 2000 OpSail festivities in Jersey City and the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

In September 2002, Heidi was promoted to Captain, and assigned as the Troop "D" Commander. Unfortunately, her tenure as Troop "D" Commander was a brutal time that involved the December 3, 2002, horrific, accidental death of Trooper I Christopher S. Scales, #4575, and two separate roadside shootings.

The first ever woman to command the Turnpike, Heidi's competence and character during this difficult period shown true as she handled each situation with consideration and professionalism. Colleagues praised her poise and compassion in her handling of each incident, especially in light that they occurred while she was grieving her father's recent passing.

In early 2004, Heidi returned back to Troop "B," as Troop Commander where she was promoted to Major. There she noticed how aesthetically unpleasing the outside of Totowa Headquarters was and immediately undertook a plan to build a monument dedicated to the Troopers who had died in the line of duty from the Troop "B" region. Her vision established a program to sell pavers to help fund the project. Together with Sergeants Richard Aschenbach, #4265 and Mark Mangan, #4638, and Lieutenant Raymond Lasso, #4067, they carved out an area dedicated to serve as a commitment to never forget the Troopers who had paid the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the families left behind. Area donors also chipped in and before long, Meier Stone Company was on site to construct the monument. Thanks to Heidi's initiative and vision, a beautiful dedication ceremony took place that included the family members of those Troop "B" Troopers, who had died in the line of duty. It remains a focal point of the Troop "B" Headquarters Complex to this day.

In 2005, Heidi's abilities were again recognized when she was transferred to Division Headquarters, Field Operations Branch as the Deputy Branch Commander. In June 2010, Heidi was elevated to the position of Interim Deputy Superintendent of Operations, where she remained until her retirement from State Police service on June 1, 2011, at the rank of Major!

Heidi's State Police career afforded her the opportunity to meet and become involved with ancillary organizations that she has proudly carried into her retirement. Heidi's intimate involvement following the death of Trooper I Scales in December 2002 opened the door to her becoming a member of Concerns of Police Survivors and her involvement with the NJSP Survivors of the Triangle - C.O.P.S. Chapter. As their current sitting Treasurer, Heidi also manages their website and posts each Fallen Troopers' picture on Facebook on the Anniversary of their End of Watch. She is also the chairperson of, organizes, and personally runs their

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annual Golf Tournament in October. She also works closely with their landscaper to maintain the health of their grove of Memorial Dogwood Trees and takes care of the placement of holiday wreaths and decorations. And, she also serves as the Survivors liaison with the New Jersey State Police and their support association.

A team player, Heidi's State Police career also offered her the opportunity to engage with her fellow Jersey Troopers outside of their normal duties. Heidi is a former piper with the Pipes and Drums of the Blue and Gold, and the longtime coach of the NJSP Women's Softball Team, which by the way, just won their second consecutive, East Coast Tournament Championship! As a former member of the NJSP Lady Blue and Gold, Heidi also participated in several Habitat for Humanity home build project's including one in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Upon her retirement from the State Police, Heidi joined the Former Troopers Association and immediately volunteered to become a member of the Board of Directors. Over the past ten-years, she has been involved in virtually every aspect of Association Business. She currently serves at the Association Treasurer, and is a member of the Finance Advisory Council where she collectively tables, analyzes, addresses, and advises the Boards of the FTA, the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., and True Blue and Gold, Inc., on financial aspects of their individual and collective business initiatives. She also chairs the Bylaws Subcommittee and is a member of the Last Patrol Subcommittee.

An active member and Trustee of the Passaic County 200 Club for almost two-decades, Heidi currently serves as its Board Secretary, Chairperson of the 200 Club Scholarship Committee, and serves as their Law Enforcement Representative and member of its Valor Awards Committee where she actively participates in the presentation of awards and scholarships at their annual awards/scholarships dinners.

Heidi is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement, whose Mission is to foster professional and personal relationships with women in the Mid-Atlantic region and provide up to date training and promote law enforcement as a profession.

During her career, Heidi was honored by New Jersey Assembly Speaker, Joseph J. Roberts. Jr. with a ceremonial resolution in honor of her exceptional efforts as an outstanding "Women in New Jersey." She completed the Certificate, Executive Management Program from Northwestern University, and received a Certificate of Appreciation from The United States Secret Service for her efforts and superior contributions to the law enforcement responsibilities of the United States Secret Service.

In her spare time Heidi trains and hunts with her Vizsla dogs. She currently is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Vizsla Club of Greater New York. Heidi participates in Field Trials and Hunt Tests, helps train other peoples' Vizsla dogs, and is a Junior and Senior Hunt Test Judge.

Heidi has earned this award through her selfless service to the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Association, Inc., the New Jersey State Police, the Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S. Chapter, and the many other organizations and programs she volunteers her time and expertise. She is truly a compassionate and professional woman, and a true friend to all! Please join me in congratulating Major Heidi S. Scripture, #3579 (*Ret*) as the 2022 Former Trooper of the Year.

My Sincerest Regards,
Lt. George J. Wren, Jr., #3680 (*Ret*)
President – Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc.