

2023 FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR!

It is with great pride and pleasure that the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., announce Captain Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr., #3065 (*Ret*) as the recipient of the Association's 2023 Former Trooper of the Year!



Nick began his State Police career on January 30, 1975, when he enlisted in the New Jersey State Police as a proud member of the 91st Class. Since his first days in the State Police, Nick has been a self-motivated, energetic individual, who always works towards his full potential. As a young Road Trooper in Troop 'B,' Nick began his career patrolling the rural lands of northern New Jersey and the heavily travelled corridor highways that crisscrossed the mountainous landscape. He worked closely with senior Troopers to gain a better understanding of the importance of servicing the citizenry and visiting travelers in their many needs and concerns that Jersey Troopers handle daily and turning a routine road stop into a patrol-related-arrest and subsequent criminal investigation. Nick's work ethic and investigative prowess earned him a reputation as a go-to Trooper and seasoned criminal investigator.

When an opportunity for specialist selection occurred, he applied for and received a position in the Narcotics Bureau. There he learned the drastic difference between being a proud, uniformed Jersey Trooper and a seedy, undercover narcotics detective. Several years later, another opportunity came about that offered the now seasoned undercover detective an opportunity to expand his skills in many other areas of organized criminal investigations via an assignment in the Intelligence Bureau where he conducted in-depth and complex investigations, targeting traditional and non-traditional organized crime groups, involved in labor racketeering, loansharking, narcotics trafficking, official corruption, illegal gambling, and extortion. Nick remained in the Intelligence Bureau throughout the remainder of his State Police career, rising through the ranks, ultimately attaining the rank of Captain as the Intelligence Bureau Chief, before retiring from State Police service on March 1, 2000.

Throughout his twenty-five-year State Police career Nick was recognized as an intelligent and dogged Trooper and Detective who received many accolades for his accomplishments. While Nick's State Police career was certainly one to be emulated, his nomination to this prestigious award was not based solely on his loyal and dedicated twenty-five-year service as an enlisted member and commissioned officer of the New Jersey State Police, but his seventeen years of tireless, dedicated, volunteer service as a member of the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc.

Upon his retirement from the State Police, Nick immediately joined the Former Troopers Association and has steadfastly remained an ardent and supportive, loyal Member in Good Standing! As an energetic member of the Board of Directors since 2009, and throughout his entire tenure at the Former Troopers Association, Nick's leadership, and financial and business acumen has been the stimulus for continued growth in the health and strength of the Association by constantly proposing and implementing a wide

2023 FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR!

range of initiatives and best business practices. His forward-thinking leadership has been priceless in the evolution of the Association and in drawing in new members. Nick was the catalyst and an instrumental driving force in the reorganization of our Fraternal/Social organization, the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., into three distinct, yet affiliated corporations, to include our 501(c)(3) Public Charity, the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., and our For-Profit, Logo Merchandise Sales Operation, True Blue and Gold, Inc. While serving as FTA Vice President 2012 through 2017, Nick also served as a Trustee on the Board of Trustee Directors of the New Jersey State Police Memorial Association as the FTA Representative. During that time from 2015 through 2017, Nick also served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustee Directors of the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc. As in his former and now present leadership of the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Nick has personally enhanced and increased the functions of each entity. Presently, Nick serves as the Association's 1st Active Past President since January of 2022. He has proven that his efforts result in improved efficiency and effectiveness, and his outstanding character clearly demonstrates the Honor, Duty, and Fidelity of a true Jersey Trooper.

During the Covid 19 epidemic, while still Association President, Nick and George Wren via the Former Troopers Association and the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation respectively, established a cooperative venture with Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, #5243 and the New Jersey State Police to design and construct a Memorial Columbarium on the grounds of the State Police Museum and Learning Center to replace the former Memorial Garden which had failed structurally, threatening the safety and wellbeing of the historical Log Cabin. Their motivation and dedication to not only facilitate construction of a new state of the art Memorial Columbarium, but to incorporate a complete total rehabilitation of the entire Museum and Learning Center Courtyard is nothing short of miraculous. Together they overcame overwhelming funding, logistics, planning, design, and approval processes to move forward in producing a final resting place worthy of those who have honorably served our Outfit, Jersey Troopers, and their Spouses. This project is breathtakingly beautiful and serves as a truly crowning achievement.

Prior to and during his State Police career, Nick began pursuing a college degree by attending Warren County Community College and Seaton Hall University in his spare time. In 1985 through 2009, Nick was also the Vice President – Account Representative and Loan Origination Officer at JDJ Financial Group, Marksboro, NJ, where he originated \$5–20 million of residential and commercial financing annually.

Throughout his State Police career and in retirement Nick has attained specialty training in Advanced Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement, Tradition and Non-Traditional Organized Crime, Missing Persons, Police Supervision, Intelligence Analysis, R.I.C.O. Prosecution, Incident Command, and Financial Investigative Techniques, Dynamics Leadership Training, OSHA Training, Internal Investigation Training, NJ SORA Training (Security Officer Registration Act), NJ SORA Instructor (Security Officer Registration Act), and has been designated a Use of Force Expert in the Essex County Superior Court.

Since his retirement from the New Jersey State Police, Nick has not shown any sign of slowing down in his contributions to "The Outfit," the NJ Law Enforcement Community, and public service. In March 2000 through the present, Nick established and operates Statewide Security & Investigations, Inc., in Newton, NJ. This diverse company provides consultation and various types of security, executive protection, and armed security, investigative services to law firms, insurance

2023 FORMER TROOPER OF THE YEAR!

companies, and corporations in all areas, including defense, workmen's comp, product liability, and family law. Nick's services have been called upon to coordinate and provided executive protection to President William Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Joseph Lieberman, Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Governor James McGreevy, and Retired General H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

In March 2000 through November 2004, Nick also served as Director of Corporate Security & Compliance Officer of the Kushner Company/Westminster Management of Florham Park, NJ. In that capacity, Nick directed asset and employee security related issues for the billion-dollar real estate corporation, focusing on liability, theft, workmen's compensation, physical security, electronic security systems, and training.

Nick has been and continues to be directly involved in the Former Troopers Financial Advisory Council; the NJ State Troopers Superior Officer Association; the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc. (1st Active Past President); the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc. (Chairman); New Jersey State Police Memorial Association (Former Trustee); New Jersey Law Enforcement Officers Association; and is a former member of the New Jersey Apartment Association Terrorism Task Force; and vice-chairman for the National Institute of Justice, National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center.

Leading up to this year's nomination, as Chairman of the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Nick has certainly outdone himself in his planning and outstanding fundraising for the 1st N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation / Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Golf Outing. This charitable outing "teed-off" on September 12, 2023, at Trump National Golf Club, Bedminster, N.J., far surpassing all expectations for a first-time golf outing, all thanks to Nick's energy!

His reputation is emulated and respected by active and retired Troopers throughout the state. His honesty and integrity are beyond reproach. His competence and character are the epitome of the core values of the New Jersey State Police, "Honor - Duty – Fidelity." It is undeniable that Captain Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr., #3065 (Ret) is exactly the type of recipient our Former Troopers Association is proud to bestow this coveted honor upon. He constantly represents our Former Troopers Association and our beloved New Jersey State Police with honor, dignity, and professionalism.

Nick has earned this award through his selfless service to the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Association, Inc., and the many other organizations and programs he volunteers his time and expertise. He is truly a compassionate and professional executive and leader, and a true friend to all! Please join me in congratulating Captain Nicholas C. Soranno, #3065 (Ret) as the 2023 Former Trooper of the Year.

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