

INFORMER

Volume 68

2020—Third Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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Community Support and Engagement

Nebraskans have been rallying around the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) as they show support and appreciation for the great work NSP personnel do every day. Various Troopers have found kind notes on their cruisers, the Superintendent's Office has received numerous heart-warming phone calls and letters, social media accounts are getting messaged, donations have been flooding in, and meals have been getting paid for and/or provided. The support Nebraskans show for their law enforcement folks has certainly been appreciated by the Nebraska State Patrol.

As the law enforcement profession faces so much adversity, even the smallest gesture reminds us exactly why we do what we do. We love Nebraska and we love to serve.

Additionally, with COVID-19

restrictions lifting, the NSP has been able to re-engage with communities across Nebraska. Troopers have been invited to attend school and business functions, have a booth at the Nebraska State Fair, participate in presentations, partake in parades, and even be a guest speaker at some events. We have even been able to hold trainings again and attend conferences as well.

Although we aren't out of the woods yet with COVID-19, the NSP is happy to be re-engaging with the citizens we serve. The health and safety of

those we interact with continues to be a top priority of ours every day.

These small gestures of appreciation and community interactions aren't the only reason we serve, but they certainly reaffirm that the vast majority of Nebraskans proudly support law enforcement professionals.



I would like to express my extreme gratitude to troopers 199 and 307 for stopping to assist my friend on the side of 80 this morning. Their assistance in helping us get her tire changed was invaluable. All too often we hear all the negative about those that serve and protect. Much less often do you hear about the good they do day in and day out. I would definitely like to recognize that. Thank you again for all your assistance.

Honoring Fallen Lincoln PD Investigator Mario Herrera

With honor and a heavy heart, the NSP assisted laying to rest fallen Lincoln Police Department Investigator Mario Herrera, who had previously served as an NSP Carrier Enforcement Officer early in his career.

On August 26, Lincoln Police personnel, including Inv. Herrera,

were attempting to serve a warrant on a subject who was connected to a March 2020 homicide. During the operation at a residence occupied by two males, one of them opened fire on officers and struck Herrera.

Inv. Herrera was immediately transferred to a nearby hospital.

Nearly two weeks later, in the early morning hours of Sept. 7, Herrera succumbed to his injuries.

The time following Herrera's death was trying, but NSP personnel stepped up to assist any way they could.

(continued on page 6)

Around the State

Troop A

Troop A has produced unequivocal results in the 3rd quarter of 2020, despite all the challenges faced due to COVID-19 and civil unrest.

Pursuits are once again prevalent in the Omaha Metro area. The NSP has utilized various resources and relied on allied partners as they combat excessive speeding and reckless driving. Troopers have conducted numerous traffic selectives over several months targeting such dangerous driving behav-

iors. Due to their great work, numerous felony cases were developed during these selectives.

The Investigative Services Office has been extremely productive as well. They have worked everything from commercial interdiction and prescription fraud to confiscating dozens of illegal firearm and seizing record amounts of narcotics

and cash. These efforts have undoubtedly made communities safer all across Nebraska.



Violation Location	In the County of DOUGLAS - 01	In the City
	Location at or near 72ND L STREET	
	Latitude 41.201005	
In violation of:		
OFFENSE	Statute/Ordinance Section 69-6,186C4	Offense Description SPEEDING
	Speed 109 mph in 45 mph Zone	Tracked RADAR
	Comments:	

Troop B



On August 15th, Trp. Kloster responded to a report of a subject who had accidentally shot himself in the abdomen while cleaning his firearm in an apartment in South Yankton, NE. Trp. Kloster, who is a certified EMT, rendered aid to the victim immediately. Due to his advanced training, Trp. Kloster was able to dress the wounds to control the bleeding, obtained the victim's vitals, and began stabilizing the patient

before the ambulance arrived on scene.

In another case, Troop B personnel displayed great teamwork in follow-up investigations. It all began when one Trooper located a subject parked on the road in rural Pierce County. Drugs were located and the subject was arrested. This sparked a follow-up investigation which lead to

the recovery of stolen property in Madison County. With the assistance of Troop B ISO, further investigations with this same subject lead to cases in other areas of Nebraska and into Iowa.



Troop C



Third quarter appears to be busy for Troop C also—it kicked off with an attempted murder in York on the evening of July 1st. York Police Department responded to a hang-up 911 call, and once on scene, Officers discovered a man appearing to strangle a woman who also had multiple stab wounds. At the request of York Police Department, the NSP is assisting with the investigation.

Nearly a month later in an unrelated incident, Troopers arrested two men following a pursuit on I-80 and a search of cornfields. A Trooper observed a Jeep Liberty traveling at a high rate of speed near Grand Island. The Trooper attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle, but the vehicle refused to stop and continued eluding Troopers. After crashing into a pole, getting back on I-80, and continued reckless driving, Kearney Police Department successfully

deployed stop sticks which brought the vehicle to a stop. At this time the two occupants fled on foot into a cornfield. With the help of the ASD and PSD, both suspects were located in a nearby field three hours later.



Troop D

Trooper Goodschmidt located a literal ton of marijuana during a chance encounter. On August 15th, Trooper Goodschmidt performed a motorist assist on a commercial marked box truck experiencing mechanical issues along I-80 between Cozad and Lexington. Throughout the interaction, Trooper Goodschmidt developed reasonable suspicion and conducted a consensual search of the vehicle. The probable cause search yielded 2,295.4 pounds of marijuana in boxes labeled to be electronics. Dawson

County Sheriff's Office provided assistance during this incident.

Investigators with the CODE Task Force also discovered a drug operation in North Platte. They conducted an undercover delivery of Alprazolam pills at the suspect's place of business where he took possession of the mail. With a search warrants in hand, CODE Task Force Investigators searched his business and residence which yielded pharmaceutical

drugs and a Barret BMG 50 caliber rifle and ammunition. This successful undercover operation was made possible with the cooperation of Investigators from the US Postal Service, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security, FBI, North Platte PD, and NIAC analysts.



Colonel's Corner



As we say goodbye to summer and welcome the cooler weather of autumn (my favorite time of year) it is instructive to look back at our accomplishments and challenges so far this year. We've said goodbye to some longtime friends with the passing of Barb Klinetobe, Lt. Craig Loveless, and Trp. Fahnholz. We've lost a great deal of talent and experience with numerous retirements so far this year and more yet to come before the year is over. We've weathered the storm of riots and protests in our urban centers with great professionalism and character. And of

course, we are still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic that has upended our personal and professional lives.

Around the corner we have local, state, and federal elections which are sure to draw cheers and jeers depending on your political preferences. Some folks are predicting unrest regardless of the outcome of the elections. That may or may not be true, but if it comes to fruition, I know NSP will handle those challenges with the same professionalism as demonstrated in recent unrest. The times we live in may prove challenging, but our Troopers, Civilian staff and volunteers have never shied away from dedicated service to our state. As we continue to address the challenges of our times, I want to thank each of you for your continued service to the public, your teamwork and compassion for each other, and for steadfastly maintaining the mission and values of this great agency we call the Nebraska State Patrol!

Speedy Summer Comes to a Close

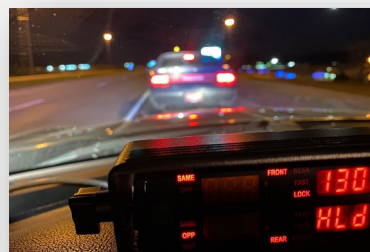
Throughout the summer, excessive speeding was prevalent across the State. Troopers issued speeding citations for motorists driving in excess of 100 MPH by the hundreds. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Troopers issued 390 such citations.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 100 MPH speeders have been cited at nearly twice the rate when compared to 2019 statistics.

2019: Jan. 1 through Oct. 1 — 454 citations

2020: Jan. 1 through Oct. 1 — 823 citations

As we head into fall and winter, Troopers will continue patrolling Nebraska roads to monitor for dangerous drivers.





Troop E

Noteworthy lifesaving action was taken by Trp. Wallace, Trp. Goodwin, and Sgt. Copp on August 21st in Troop E. All three gentlemen were in close proximity and responded to a possible drunk driver. Trp. Wallace observed a vehicle in the ditch on the opposite side of the road with the motor still running and in gear. Upon making contact, Trp. Wallace discovered the driver to be unconscious and non-responsive. Trp. Goodwin arrived on scene shortly after and assisted Trp. Wallace with removing the

individual from the vehicle. At this time, both Troopers noticed the driver was no longer breathing and was turning blue in the face. They immediately began CPR. Sgt. Copp jumped right in and assisted as well. Due to the quick action of these three Troopers, the individual began breathing again before EMS personnel arrived to and took over emergency medical care.

In another area of Troop E, Troopers were overwhelmed

with the immense gratitude displayed by the residents of a Scottsbluff neighborhood as they publicly displayed their appreciation for law enforcement. Residents displayed a blue colored lights on the front of their houses, proudly waved their United States and thin blue line flags, and cheered with joy and appreciation as local law enforcement personnel drove through the area. Moments like these are humbling reminders of why Troopers do what they do.

Troop H

During the 3rd quarter of 2020, Troop H ISO continued work on numerous important investigations. The criminal unit opened 15 new investigations and assisted allied agencies with many others – these included homicides, suspicious deaths, in-custody deaths, child exploitation, sexual assaults, and theft. Most prominent was the investigation into the homicide of Kayla Matulka, of Malmo, which led to the arrest of Matulka's

fiancé, Kolten Barnes, of Lincoln. The investigation began on the morning of July 15, and is ongoing. The investigation involves several NSP divisions, including Investigative Services, the Technical Crimes Division, and the Patrol Division, as well as the Saunders County Sheriff's Office.

Troop H Patrol Division continued its highway and public safety mission through diligent

police work, compassionate service, and teamwork. Troopers contacted almost 6,000 motorists for a variety of traffic and criminal violations. They arrested 88 impaired drivers, cited 154 motorists for traveling 21+ mph over the speed limit, and issued citations for approximately 331 drug/alcohol violations. Additionally, Troopers made more than 55 felony arrests just within the third quarter.

Carrier Enforcement



Third quarter was full of excitement for our Carrier Enforcement folks. They worked several overturned semi crashes, celebrated retirements, worked selectives, surprise inspections, and even gave back to truckers during Trucker Appreciation Week.

During Operation Safe Driver Week, the NSP partnered with members of the Nebraska

Trucking Association to assist in speed enforcement. Their work included efforts such as "Trooper in a Truck." Werner Enterprises even showed our Troopers the different driver training simulators they have.

Throughout the third quarter, Troopers also performed surprise inspections across the State. In total-surprise or not surprise-Troopers executed

4,883 inspections between July 1st and September 30th. These efforts resulted in just over two hundred out-of-service driver violations and 176 out-of-service vehicle/truck violations.



Camp 63

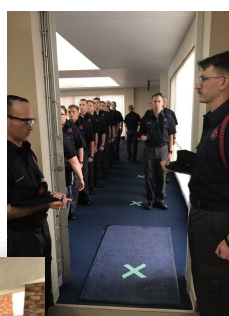
Even with the challenges of a global pandemic, the NSP continues moving forward with training another recruit camp. Twenty-four individuals began their journey of becoming a Trooper on July 6th, 2020, and 20 remain as third quarter wraps up. These recruits are still going strong as they progress through training.

The day-to-day life of a recruit is very structured and full of growth. Their day typically begins with a morning

workout, breakfast, and the raising of our United States flag. Then comes a full day of training. The Basic Recruit Camp curriculum is full of in-class learning and applied skills scenarios. Recruits are learning everything from Emotional Intelligence to Defensive Tactics and everything in between.

From the outside looking in, one could fail to recognize the incredible relationships these recruits are building with themselves, one another, and with

instructors. The gained skills and knowledge coupled with the relationships built really prepare recruits for a successful career with the Nebraska State Patrol.



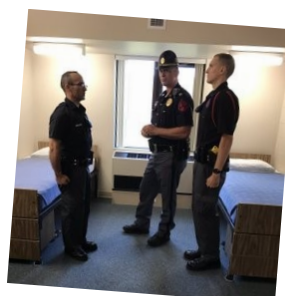
The gained skills and knowledge coupled with the relationships built really prepare recruits for a successful career with the Nebraska State Patrol.

With the pandemic in full swing still, the Training Academy staff continues monitoring the health and safety of all recruits in Camp 63. Additionally, TA

Command Staff are keeping an eye on their personnel to ensure they are staying healthy as well.

As a team, everyone is adjusting as needed and remains committed to reducing the risk of someone contracting the COVID-19 virus.

Thus far, Camp 63 recruits are remain housed 2 to a room in the barracks, are marching as a team, are training as one large group, and still have the freedom to go home on weekends. Commanding personnel, general TA staff, and instructors are interacting in accordance to what they are comfortable with.



Featured Divisions: Accounting & CID

Accounting

Recently, Accounting completed the NSP's biennial budget request submission covering two fiscal years for consideration to the Governor's Office and the Nebraska State Legislature. The budget request was submitted on September 15th. If approved and passed as part of the Legislature's Budget Bill, it will go into effect on July 1, 2021 and remain in effect until June 30, 2023.

The budget request process is multi-faceted. It involves (1) evaluating the fiscal needs of the Agency; including anticipated increases/decreases in core costs, the impact of vacancy savings, carry-over that exists from the prior year budget, and new costs as a result of strategic changes and projects, (2) reviewing and consolidating the many requests received throughout the year which are largely detailed by Agency leaders in the Phase III financial/budget request documents, and (3) incorporating input and guidance from the Governor's Budget Office and Agency Command Staff. Expense trends, averages, authorized full-time employee levels, and the

general basic operational needs of the Agency are also evaluated.

In total, the budget request submission for the upcoming biennium totals \$96,819,372 with \$71,770,194 being dedicated to personnel costs. This includes costs for 740 employees—482 sworn and 258 civilian. The budget request includes expenditures from multiple General Fund, nine Cash Fund, one Revolving Fund, and several Federal Fund appropriations.

At this stage, the Budget Request submission is just that—a request. In order to become effective, there are several additional steps in the process that must occur. These include the formulation of recommendations by the Governor to the Legislature, the review and modification by the Appropriations Committee which then becomes the basis for the Budget Bill, and lastly, the Budget Bill passage by the Legislature. Upon implementation, Accounting continuously monitors the status of the new budget to ensure the plan is

effectively carried out from a fiscal perspective.

In the Grants Section of Accounting, they have been busy collaborating with NSP project managers to develop and submit federal funding applications totaling over six million dollars. These funding proposals support a variety of NSP programs statewide, including drug interdiction, homeland security, criminal history improvements, and Crime Laboratory capacity. The NSP anticipates funding notifications to be announced later in October. For the first time ever, this most recent round of grant application budgets included an indirect cost rate, which will provide the NSP additional funding toward administering federal awards.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, the Grants Division is also overseeing the Agency's effort to recuperate the costs associated with our unprecedented response to the historical COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to monitor federal and state funding provisions as they evolve.

Honoring Fallen Lincoln PD Investigator Mario Herrera



(continued from page 1)
Troopers participated in the procession,

assisted with traffic control, covered calls for service, utilized the PSD Bomb Dog, and had Bomb Technicians onsite as a precaution. The NSP Honor Guard humbly completed their tasks where needed and

the NSP ASD partnered with Omaha Police Department to conduct a flyover at the cemetery after TAPS was played.

When a peace officer is killed in the line of duty, it is felt nationwide. In the case of Inv. Mario Herrera, it hit home because of his close ties to many Troopers across the State, as a graduate of NSP Camp 39. Several of Herrera's

campmates are still with the NSP and fondly remember him as an incredibly kindhearted, positive person.



CID

CID is in the midst of implementing the new user-based online appointment scheduling system in Lincoln and Omaha, and will deploy statewide in



October and into November. This project includes several efficiency initiatives such as the elimination of manual data entry in multiple software systems, which will save troop areas significant amounts of time per appointment. The system also allows customers to pay for services online with a credit card or e-check. In addition, all fingerprinting services and best practices are being standardized for

use in each troop areas. Concealed Handgun Permit (CHP) applications continue to be received in record numbers, with a total of 15,819 permits being issued YTD. Fingerprint-based background checks (excluding CHPs) are also at record levels, with 23,716 being received so far in 2020.



Intern Spotlight

Troop C welcomed a new intern to the team in September. Kailey Call has been selected to intern with teammates in Grand Island as she finishes her final semester at Central Community College in Hastings. She is working to attain her Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.

Kailey's interest in Criminal Justice began at a young age



and she's eager to get hands on experience with our Agency. She hopes to someday become an official member of the NSP family.

The NSP looks forward to working with Kailey. We will welcome her with open arms should she decide to pursue a career with us.

Motorist Assist Program Incident

With great sadness, the Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Department of Transportation, and Metropolitan Area Planning Agency announce the passing of John Holcomb, 70, of Omaha, who was a volunteer in the Metro Area Motorist Assist Program (MAMA). Holcomb was killed in a traffic crash on Highway 75 in Omaha, while performing his motorist assist duties on July 30th.

John Holcomb had served in the MAMA program since 2014. During his service, he logged thousands of miles on metro area roadways and assisted countless motorists in need of help.

The MAMA program is coordinated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) and has been serving metro area drivers since 1998. Dozens of

volunteers have served during that time. Motorist assist volunteers work in two-person teams, which was the case during the July 30th incident. The other volunteer present at the crash was not injured.



New Hires

July 2020

- Caitlyn Wensel, Forensic Scientist I
- Travis Bauer, Trp. Cand.
- Simon Bessmer, Trp. Cand.
- Aaron Borcyk, Trp. Cand.
- Matthew Brown, Trp. Cand.
- Nicholas Buck, Trp. Cand.
- Scott Cruz, Trp. Cand.
- Tyler Evans, Trp. Cand.
- Gideon Fink, Trp. Cand.
- Aaron Hartley, Trp. Cand.
- Scott Hild, Trp. Cand.
- Nathan Karr, Trp. Cand.
- Joshua Ko, Trp. Cand.
- Chase Landry, Trp. Cand.
- John Lonnborg Jr., Trp. Cand.
- Kaleb Mayfield, Trp. Cand.
- Glen McGavren, Trp. Cand.
- Joel McGrew, Trp. Cand.
- Grant Moody, Trp. Cand.
- Andrew Ochoa, Trp. Cand.
- Donnita Pfeifer, Trp. Cand.
- Justin Pleskac, Trp. Cand.
- Jenna Riddle, Trp. Cand.
- Aaron Scott, Trp. Cand.
- Matthew Wagner, Trp. Cand.
- Megan Liechti, Comm. Specialist
- Tiffanie Leffler, Admin. Assist. II
- Lauren Vallee, Forensic Scientist I
- Eric Shanks, Federal Aid Admin. II

August 2020

- Ellen Lynch, Security Guard
- Christine Garcia, Records Tech.
- Caitlin Eckert, Crime Analyst
- Jessica Hale, Comm. Specialist

September 2020



Promotions

July 2020

- Joseph Hansen, Exec. Pro. Trp. to Exec. Pro. Sgt.
- Andrew Hewitt, Criminal Inv. to Patrol Division Sgt.
- Sarah Schoen, Fed. Aid Admin. II to Curriculum Coordinator
- Jeffrey VanDerslice, Records Tech. to Staff Assist. I
- Jeffrey Wilczynski, ISO Lt. to Prof. Stand. Capt.
- Alexis McQueen, Records Tech. to Staff Assist. I
- Sarah Stahly, Records Tech. to Records Supv.
- Gerri Green, Forensic Tech. to Records Supv.
- Russell Lewis, Troop C Capt. to Admin. Serv. Maj.

August 2020

- Clinton Elwood, ISO Sgt.

to Patrol Division Lt.

September 2020

- Russell Lewis, Troop C Capt. to Admin. Serv. Maj.

Transfers

July 2020

- Gerald Krolikowski, CE Capt. to Process Imp. Capt.
- Justin Parsons, CE Trp. To Drug Inv.
- Antonina Anderson-Trumble, Admin. Assist. II to Crime Analyst
- Jason Scott, Troop A Capt. To Special Ops. Capt.
- Matthew Sutter, Prof.

Stand. Capt. To Troop A Capt.

August 2020

- Dylan Lynch, North Platte Crime Analyst to Omaha Crime Analyst
- Jason Morris, Patrol Trp. To Crim. Inv.
- Eric Jones, Patrol Lt. to ISO Lt.

- Henry Dimitroff, Patrol Trp. To Crim. Inv.
- Greg Miller, Omaha Patrol Lt. to Lincoln Patrol Lt.



September 2020

Resignations

July 2020

- Laura Jimenez, Staff Assist.
- Gideon Fink, Trp. Cand.
- Tyler Evans, Trp. Cand.
- Samantha Bowersmith, Comm. Specialist
- Brian McCuen, CE Inv.
- Shannon Hatcher, Comm. Specialist
- Marcia Mack, Records

Tech.

- Brenda Test, Crime Analyst

August 2020

- Steven Holst, Records Tech.
- Erin Frahm, Crime Analyst
- Pamela Wunderlich, Security Comm. Spec.
- Allison Gegzna, Staff Assist. I

- Stephanie Hayes, Comm. Specialist

September 2020

- Keri Bower, Staff Assist. I
- Kristin McLain, Comm. Specialist
- Winter Anderson, Research Analyst
- Sarah Bucher, Forensic Scientist II

Retirements

July 2020

- Buck Boje, Patrol Division Lt.
- Robert Rudloff, Patrol Division Trp.
- Russell Stanczyk, Admin. Serv. Major

Sgt.

- Steven Kerns, Carrier Enforcement Trp.
- Timothy Pickering, Patrol Division Sgt.



September 2020

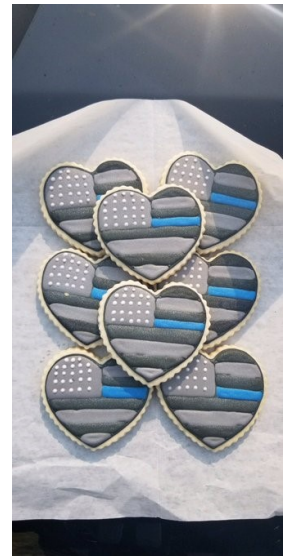
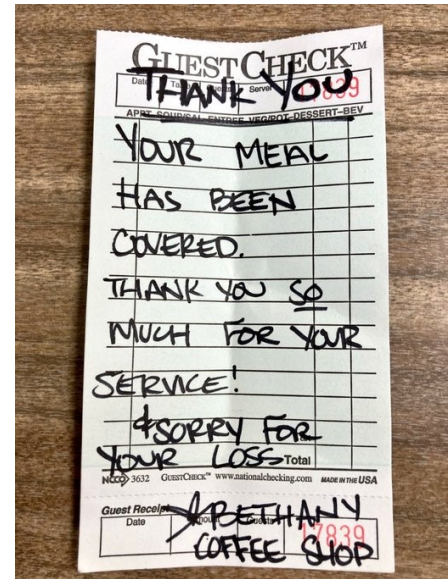
- Joel Smith, Patrol Division

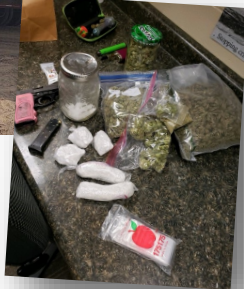


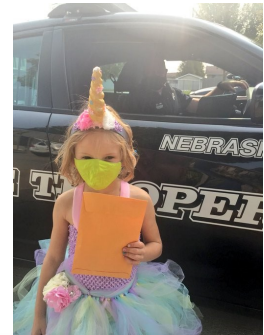
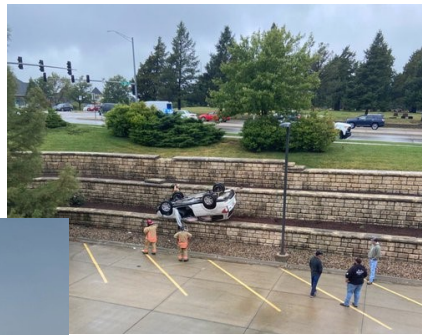


*All images were
taken by
various NSP
personnel and
friends around
the State during
the third
quarter of 2020!*









Dear Captain Schmidt,

I want to pass along a sincere thank you to Trooper Matt Naughtin. On July 7 at approximately 17:30, my 30-year-old Volvo overheated on I-80 westbound about four miles east of Paxton. The problem was a deteriorated gasket that allowed water to escape the cooling system. Trooper Naughtin noticed my vehicle and stopped to check the situation. I told him I was contacting AAA for a tow service and that I didn't want to trouble him.

A few minutes later, he returned and offered to help in an extraordinary way. He said he could make a new gasket using materials from his home, which wasn't far from our location. He used a pen and pad to trace an outline for the gasket and later returned with one he had made along with three gallons of fresh water. The repair held for 620 miles to Logan, Utah, and got me home safe.

Trooper Naughtin went well out of his way to help me that afternoon. He was courteous and professional, and he did everything to safeguard his, mine, and the safety of other drivers. I'm very grateful to Trooper Naughtin and for the kind service he provided. I wish him very well in his career.

Many thanks,



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PATROL

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<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/>

For further information about what it means to be a Trooper, visit <https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/nebraska-state-patrol-0>.



**In memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice
while serving the State of Nebraska**

Loyal M. Zink (#43)

John T. Meistrell (#67)

Vernon C. Rolfs (#129)

Marvin L. Hansen (#98)

Duane F. Nichols (#133)

Raymond M. Koerber (#108)

George W. Amos Jr. (#9)

Michael D. Farber (#427)

Robert J. Chad (#221)

Donald Matejka (#192)

Mark P. Wagner (#168)

Jerry L. Smith (#373)



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