



Pro bono publico

Employees of Year Honored in Capitol Ceremony

The Nebraska State Patrol is proud of four exemplary employees who were recognized as employees of the year at an October ceremony in the Nebraska State Capitol.

Major Bret Friesz, a 31-year NSP veteran, was honored as the sworn supervisor/manager of the year. Friesz was recognized for his leadership role in coordinating the agency's participation in the Leadership in Police Organizations (LPO) program. LPO develops professional law enforcement officers and employees through an intense interactive training curriculum.

The civilian supervisor/manager of the year honor was given to NSP Crime Lab Forensic Laboratory Manager Celeste Laird. A 25-year employee, Laird is a subject matter expert in methods of testing for controlled substances. Her leadership abilities also helped the Crime Lab receive the highest accreditation standards possible.

Troop E- Scottsbluff Administrative Secretary Kathy Behling was honored as the civilian employee of the year. Behling has served the Nebraska State Patrol for 43 years. During that time she has adapted to significant technology and organizational changes while continuing to deliver quality work.

Trooper James Estwick, the sworn employee of the year, is a 16-year veteran of the State Patrol assigned to Troop A-Omaha. Trp. Estwick was honored for his duties as the coordinator of the Metro Area Combined Honor Guard, and for promoting safe driving practices as the Troop A Community Service Officer (CSO).



From L-R, Major Brett Friesz, Celeste Laird, Kathy Behling, Trp. James Estwick.

In this issue...

- Employees of the Year.....1
- Colonel's Corner.....2
- Awards Presented.....3
- Meet Foundation Board.....4
- Make-A-Wish Granted.....5
- Mark Williams Tribute.....6-7
- Troop Area News.....8-11
- Personnel Changes.....12



NSP Informer Staff

Editor

Mike Meyer

Contributors

Deb Collins
Christie Van Andel
Chris Peters

Field Representatives

Troop A: Lt. Kevin Bridges
Troop B: Trp. Bill Price
Troop C: Mary Jones
Troop D: Amy Elwood
Troop E: Lt. Monica Bartling
HQ Troop: Tonja Bohling
Carrier Enf: Lt. Jon Beckstead

WEBSITE

www.statepatrol.nebraska.gov

TELEPHONE NUMBER

(402) 471-4545

ADDRESS

Nebraska State Patrol
P.O. Box 94907
Lincoln, NE 68509-4907

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Colonel's Corner

We've reached the end of another year and I'm always amazed at how fast the days have gone. These first 10 months have been demanding and exciting and I feel truly blessed to be your Colonel. 2015 brought with it change, including a reorganization of Command Staff at State Headquarters. I am extremely pleased with our current command structure and feel we are poised to lead the agency into the future. With that said, we have again seen several of our most experienced officers retire after serving selflessly for many years. We thank them for their devotion not only to the citizens they served, but to their fellow employees and we wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives.



Colonel Bradley Rice

During this past year, we were also witness to poignant endings and new beginnings. In November, we laid to rest Captain Mark Williams, #406, after a valiant battle with cancer. As Director of Training at our Academy, and a 27-year agency veteran, Mark will be missed for his friendship, leadership, and his commitment to making our agency the best it can be. His legacy will continually challenge each and every one of us to wear the uniform with respect and dignity and set an example as he said to be a "good soldier." In May, we welcomed 37 new troopers to our ranks. As they embark on the start of their careers, Captain Williams influence will no doubt serve to guide them, a reminder of the loyalty, and dedication required to protect the citizens they have sworn to serve. With that in mind, you will be hearing more about "Blue Courage" in 2016 and I urge you to keep the following principles in mind:

- Wear your seat belt
- Watch your speed
- Wear your vest
- WIN- What's Important Now
- Remember, complacency kills

In closing, I look forward to what the New Year holds for the agency and am excited about the many opportunities ahead of us.



Troopers Receive Awards

For his efforts at driving home the safety message of using seat belts, HQ Troop Community Service Officer (CSO) Charlie Cook was honored at the Capitol City Footprinters Annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards in November. Cook was one of five Law Enforcement officers receiving the honor at a dinner in Lincoln. At right, Cook receives his award from International Footprinters Association Grand President Bob Hubbell, and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts.



Nebraska State Patrol Trooper Tadum Knight was presented the NSP Life-saver Award in Omaha in October. Knight was honored for helping to save a suicidal man who was on the ledge of the Highway 50 bridge over Interstate 80.



Trooper Daniel Parker received the Nebraska State Patrol Distinguished Service Award from Troop B- Norfolk Capt. Paul Hattan. Trp. Parker received the honor after a routine traffic stop led to the arrest of several northeast Nebraska burglary suspects.

Nebraska Torch Run Fundraising Success Continues

For the third year in a row, the Nebraska Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) program has been recognized for outstanding achievement. The Nebraska program received the Sapphire Award of Excellence at the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in Nassau, Bahamas in October. The Sapphire Award is given to programs raising more than \$250,000. The Nebraska program raised \$266,947 in reporting year 2014.



Accepting the award on behalf of the Nebraska program were (from left to right) Robert Taillon (Abree) Kearney PD, Seth Van Horn (Lindsay) Kearney PD, Marcus Taylor (Tonya) Omaha PD, Past Director Jeri Roeder, Lincoln PD, Director Jeff Boston (Kate) Nebraska State Patrol and James Shade (Melissa) Omaha PD .

Meet the Nebraska State Patrol Foundation Board



Passionate leadership is essential to any organization's success. The Nebraska State Patrol Foundation board is made up of former Patrol officers and business leaders who believe in the Foundation's mission of improving the quality of life in Nebraska by enhancing the law enforcement services of the Nebraska State Patrol.

The Foundation is eager to assist the Patrol. Please contact Marisue Wagner or Brady Rivers in the Grants Division with any questions related to the Foundation.

Judy Janssen is President of the NSP Foundation. A 1980 graduate of the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy, Judy worked for three years as a dispatcher before putting on the badge in Troop B. She was stationed in Norfolk and Neligh until 1989 when she was promoted to sergeant in Lincoln. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 1996, and retired from the Patrol in 2007

James Pearson, Foundation Vice President, served as a Military Police Officer in the U.S. Army and as an officer with the LaVista and Bellevue Police Departments before graduating from the Patrol Training Academy in 1966. He spent nearly 30 years with the Patrol, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1995.

Steve Shaw has been the Foundation Secretary and Treasurer since 2011. A Vietnam War veteran, Steve served five years in the U.S. Army. He retired as Chief Legal Counsel in 2010 after 37 years with the State Patrol.

Andy Anderson served in the United States Army before being stationed as a Trooper in Fremont. He rose to the rank of Field Services Major, retiring in 2007 after nearly 40 years of service with the Patrol.

Cliff Karthaus, a 1975 graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University, has worked with Principal Financial Group since 1981. He was appointed Managing Director and then Regional Managing Director of Principal Financial's Nebraska Business Center, before stepping down to serve as a Leadership Consultant in 2014.

F. Jane Tooley, a 25-year veteran of the Patrol, retired as Lieutenant in 2001. She also worked eight years with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and eleven years with the Butler County Sheriff's Office.

Kim Wolfe has held positions with the York County Sheriff's Department, Platte County Sheriff's Department, and the Columbus Fire Department. He founded and operated Midwest Medical Transport Service and Midwest Med Air from 1987 to 2015, and today owns and operates the Husker Helicopter

Doug Wyatt joined the Foundation board in December. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Nebraska Wesleyan, and graduated from the Southeast Community College Paramedic Program. Doug spent 22 years in the private ambulance industry. He is currently the Executive Administrator of Lincoln Orthopaedic Center.



L-R, James Pearson, F. Jane Tooley, Cliff Karthaus, Andy Anderson, Judy Janssen, Doug Wyatt.
Not pictured: Steve Shaw

NSP Helps Make Wish Come True

Nebraska State Patrol Troopers were on hand when a 14-year old Ohio girl's wish came true in November in Beatrice.

Magdalena Waddell, whose father, Ted, works for the Ohio State Highway Patrol, has Myasthenia Gravis, an auto-immune disease. She wanted just one thing - a Rottweiler puppy, and worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to make her dream come true.

She did the work herself, finding her new puppy, Blitz, online at GiantRott.com. She e-mailed the breeders at Von Hause Huenink Kennels near Beatrice, and continued checking in with Make-A-Wish.

Magdalena and her family were escorted out of Ohio by Ohio State Patrol cruisers. After arriving in Nebraska, a limousine took the family from Omaha to the Beatrice Police Department, where they were greeted by Nebraska State Patrol Troopers, breeders from GiantRott.com, and of course, Blitz! Magdalena walked in with a smile on her face and said "there's my puppy!"

Ted Waddell said Blitz was all Magdalena talked about since knowing she would be able to get him, and that seeing her smile and finally having her new puppy is what it's all about.



Magdalena Waddell with her new puppy, Blitz.



NSP Sgt. Mike Tobey with Magdalena's father, Ted Waddell.

Meadow Grove Man Receives Seatbelt Survivor Award

What began as a routine drive home from work for a Meadow Grove man, became anything but routine when his car was hit by a drunk driver.

On a late summer night in 2015, Gregory Greve was headed home from his job in Norfolk, when another driver failed to stop at a stop sign, slamming into Greve's car. Greve, who was wearing a seat belt, suffered only minor injuries.

For his understanding of the importance of buckling up, Greve received the Nebraska State Patrol Seat Belt Survivor Award from Trooper Jason Petty at Troop B Headquarters in Norfolk.



Mark A. Williams, Badge #406
May 17, 1963 - November 5, 2015

The Nebraska State Patrol is honoring the memory of Captain Mark Williams, who passed away Thursday, November 5, after a lengthy illness.

Williams, 52, was Director of Training at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island.

“We have lost a deeply devoted member of our State Patrol family,” said Colonel Bradley Rice “Mark’s vocation was to find and train the best of the best to be state troopers. Our hearts are heavy as we mourn his passing. He was known and loved by many and he will be greatly missed.”

Captain Williams, a 27-year veteran of the agency, served as a trooper in the Field Services Division before joining the Training Academy staff in 1999. He rose through the ranks and served as Assistant Director of Training, prior to his appointment as Director on January 1, 2014. He was a graduate of the 226th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Colonel Rice said, “ Mark’s life path included a long, hard struggle. However, through all the hardship and pain he suffered, he demonstrated an immense amount of courage and fortitude. While his death is terribly tragic, Captain Williams has left us with a great lesson and an example to follow. His ‘never give up’ attitude will always be an example, for me personally, to follow. No one fought harder for life than he did.”



Mark Williams continued.....



“Anyone who came under Captain Williams’ influence, knew he was extremely dedicated and loyal to the Nebraska State Patrol. His legacy will continually challenge every one of us to wear the uniform with the respect and dignity he set as an example, in his own words, “to be good soldiers.”

“It was such a pleasure and honor to serve alongside Captain Williams and other professionals of the Nebraska State Patrol from 1991-98.....one of the highlights of my career and something I will never forget.”

“Mark was salt of the earth, a man of few words, and his actions spoke volumes. He will be missed.”

“He was a great person who I got to know through our kids involvement in sports. He so loved his kids!! It was an honor to know Mark.”



“As an NLETC graduate, I can say he touched more than just the NSP troopers. He was a role model, and gave every student in that building advice and guidance. Every current and future law enforcement officer he spoke with was blessed with his wisdom. The state of Nebraska lost a treasure.”

SHQ News



State Headquarters personnel enjoyed a holiday soup luncheon in December



Col. Brad Rice with second graders from College View Academy in Lincoln. They came to SHQ to reverse trick-or-treat, showing off their Halloween costumes and sharing candy.



In September, HR Personnel Officer Trina Doggett, and Community Service Officer Charlie Cook attended a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Career Fair at the Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln.



Several CID/NIAC employees were recognized for their years of service in October. Above, from L-R, Captain Kevin Knorr recognizes Nicole Wambold for 10 years, Valerie Trobee for 20 years, and Sheri King for 35 years of service.

HQ Troop

In October, HQ Troop Community Service Officer (CSO) Charlie Cook gave a Drug & Alcohol presentation at Gage County Government Day. More than 50 high school juniors attended the event at the Gage County Courthouse in Beatrice.



Troop A



In October, Trooper Kevin Chase helped Blair High School Future Business Leaders of America students paint a Buckle Up stencil at Blair High School.



In December, State Troopers visited Children's Hospital in Omaha to spread holiday cheer by giving away teddy bears. Above, Trp. Dustin Black gives a bear to a young patient.

Troop B



Members of the Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Game and Parks, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, and the South Dakota State Patrol, along with family members, held the 3rd annual Nebraska/South Dakota Law Enforcement supper in October at the Gavins Point Dam Visitor Center near Yankton, South Dakota.

Troop B - Norfolk was "Hoopin' It Up" to promote seat belt safety as the Twin River Titans took on the Boone Central Cardinals in Genoa. NSP mascot Trooper Buck L. Up was a fan favorite.



Troops & Hoops was a big hit at a Norfolk High School basketball game. Troopers from Trp B were joined by NSP mascot Trp. Buck L. Up to spread the seat belt safety message.



Troop C

Congratulations to Trooper Jared Jacobsen and his wife Rachel on the birth of a girl, Ava Rae, on November 9th.



Troop D

Congratulations to Trp. Mike Carlson and his wife Amy, proud parents of Teddy Maddox Carlson, born October 7.



In October, Colonel Brad Rice presented Years of Service Awards to Troop D recipients.

Pictured Top Row-Left to Right: Trp. John Wagner, 15 years; Trp. Will Cleveland, 10 years; Sgt. Cory Halverson, 15 years; Sgt. Joel Smith, 25 years; Lt. Danny Reins, 25 years; Bottom Row – Left to Right: Colonel Brad Rice; Trp. Carolyn O'Brien, 25 years; Communications Supervisor Linda Hormandl, 25 years; Trp. Justin Buhlke, 10 years; and Troop Commander, Captain Lynn Williams.

Trunk or Treat was held in Holdrege in October. A street was closed, vehicles were lined up, and kids trick-or-treated from the trunks. Troopers Troy Goodschmidt and Kayla Farrell passed out candy and Junior Trooper stickers.



In December, Mid-Plains Community College of McCook hosted Northeastern Junior College of Sterling, Colorado for a basketball game on Ugly Christmas Sweater Night. Troopers Bryan Walter and Cassie Wegelin used a T-shirt shooter to help promote traffic safety at the game.



In December, North Platte merchants held a Soups & Sweets Cook Off, with money raised going to the Bridge of Hope Child Advocacy Center. Capt. Lynn Williams, Troop D Commander and President of the Center Board, and Lt. Tim Arnold, joined Bridges staff and supporters for the event.

Troop E

We always appreciate hearing from the citizens we serve. This letter was sent to Troop E-Scottsbluff. Thanks to the sender for taking the time to let us know of a positive experience.



On Nov. 20, Inv. Dave Kleensang retired from the State Patrol after serving for 14 ½ years. Here he's recognized by Sgt. Monty Lovelace and Lt. Monica Bartling.

November 19, 2015

Captain Gaudreault,

I write you today to tell you about an interaction I had with one of your troopers last weekend. I was heading north to Chadron with my teenage daughter and I was not paying attention. I was enjoying the clear day and the ride in open country. However, I was speeding and Trooper Kuebler picked me up on radar and pulled me over. That wasn't the embarrassing part. It was having my teenage daughter tell me how great this was and then she started sending a text to everyone she knew that I was getting a speeding ticket.

I want you to know Trooper Kuebler was a professional. He treated me with respect, asked for my documents, and provided clear instructions before he went back to the patrol car and ran the information.

I am of the understanding that a traffic stop is one of the most dangerous activities an officer can engage. This traffic stop, which I was given a citation, was done in a pleasant manner. At the end he asked if the plates were mine and then thanked me for my service to our country and shook my hand.

As I drove off, I wondered who ever thanks those who are here domestically that are charged with keeping us safe. I am writing to thank Trooper Kuebler, the men and women of your command, and all individuals in this country who put a uniform on, place their lives on the line, and take care of all of us. Thank you.

Trooper Kuebler's actions reflect upon you, their Commander, as I am sure without your direction and expectations an interaction such as I had would not be possible.

Thank you.



Trooper Nick Goodwin came to work one day complaining that his patrol car wasn't running well. He opened his hood and found a rabbit had hitched a ride! The hungry bunny escaped without injury!

Carrier Enforcement



First graders at Thayer Central Primary School in Hebron have officially graduated to Junior Troopers! In November, Trp. David Flohr told them about his job with the Carrier Enforcement Division. Students then shared safety tips with Flohr, and he awarded them with Junior Trooper badges.



In October, Carrier Enforcement Commander Gerry Krolikowski recognized Trp. Jay Petersen for 25 years of service.

Nebraska State Patrol Personnel Actions
September-October-November 2015

New Hires

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Eff. Date</i>
Benson	Aaron	Communications Specialist	Troop C - Grand Island	9/15/2015
Holmes	Ruth	Communications Specialist	Troop D - North Platte	9/21/2015
Riesenberg	Kyle	Electronics Tech/Sr	Engineering & Supply	9/21/2015
Matic	Sladan	Security Comm Spec	Capitol Security	10/5/2015
Nikolic	Marko	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	10/19/2015
Buzek	Pamela	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	10/20/2015
Kreger	Chelsie	Communications Specialist	Troop E - Scottsbluff	10/28/2015
Babcock	David	Attorney III - Legal	SHQ - Lincoln	11/16/2015
Ielacqua	Regina	Communications Specialist	Troop D - North Platte	11/16/2015
Andrews	Katie	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	11/30/2015
Oshlo	Danielle	Forensic Scientist	Crime Lab	11/30/2015

Resignations

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Druskis	Jason	Communications Specialist	Troop A - Omaha	9/3/2015
Hamer	Steven	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	9/20/2015
Blackford	Cody	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	9/25/2015
Parker	Jeremiah	IT Infra Support Analyst/Sr	Lincoln	10/9/2015
Blome-Higer	Reni	Security Comm Spec	Lincoln	10/9/2015
Voss	Shannon	CID Record Tech	Lincoln	10/16/2015
Deibler	Brent	Trooper - CE	Ainsworth	10/31/2015
Rea	Michelle	Buyer II	SHQ	11/13/2015

Retirements

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Bigsby	Christopher	Trooper - TS	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	10/9/2015
Chrans	Roger	Investigator	HDQ Troop - Wilber	11/1/2015
Kleensang	David	Investigator	Troop E - Scottsbluff	11/20/2015

Transfers

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Old Position</i>	<i>New Position</i>	<i>Eff. Date</i>
Gress	Kyle	Trooper - TS - Lincoln	Trooper - Exec Protection	9/27/2015
Kumpf	Craig	Trooper - TS - Alliance	Investigator - IS (Drug) - Alliance	10/1/2015
Leonard	Dennis	Lieutenant - IS - Grand Island	Lieutenant - IA - Grand Island	10/5/2015
Ahrendt	Travis	Trooper - TS - Sidney	Trooper - CE - Sidney	10/11/2015
Schoen	Aaron	Trooper - CE - NE City	Trooper - TS - Beatrice	10/18/2015
Bauer	Jason	Investigator - Crim- Grand Island	Investigator - Drug - Grand Island	10/25/2015
Kroeger	Jonathan	Trooper - TS - St. Paul	Trooper - TS - Grand Island	10/28/2015
Kermoad	Derek	Trooper - CE - Grand Island	Investigator - Drug - Grand Island	11/1/2015
Heaston	Genevieve	Comm Spec - Troop D	Comm Spec. - HDQ Troop	11/2/2015
Stahl	Jason	Trooper - Exec. Protection	Trooper - TS - HDQ Troop	11/8/2015

Promotions

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Old Position</i>	<i>New Position</i>	<i>Eff. Date</i>
Dodds	Abbegayle	Forensic Scientist	Forensic Lab Supervisor	9/7/2015
Pedersen, Jr.	James	Investigator - IS - Grand Island	Sergeant - TS - Grand Island	9/27/2015
Jones	Trinity	Trooper - TS - Omaha	Sergeant - TS - Columbus	10/27/2015
DeFreece	James	Sergeant - TS - Lincoln	Lieutenant - Emergency Coord.	11/1/2015