



NORTH CAROLINA TROOPER

January 2020

Celebrating 90 Years

of Excellence in Law Enforcement Service
to North Carolina

1929-2019



STATE TROOPER



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North Carolina Trooper Magazine

The Official Publication of the
North Carolina State Highway Patrol

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Department of Public Safety

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The North Carolina Trooper magazine is published annually by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol's Public Information Office. The mailing address is 4701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4701. The magazine is intended to share matters of concern and topics of interest to all active and retired personnel.

The Patrol has a rich history and is an organization second to none of which we are all very proud. This publication will provide a historical record for future generations.

Suggestions to the editor are welcome and every effort will be made to assist anyone with material for publication. Contact the editor by email at michael.d.baker@ncdps.gov or telephone at 919-733-5027.



SHP CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

The year 2019 marked an important milestone as we collectively celebrated the 90-year history of the State Highway Patrol. The year was spent not only celebrating the accomplishments of a very rich and storied agency, but remembering the 66 Patrol members lost in service to our state. Various opportunities to commemorate our 90th anniversary were afforded in 2019, including the sale of a coin, pistol and yearbook. A commemorative 90th anniversary license plate and poster were created and presented to current members to help them remember this important milestone in their careers.

Capping off this past year's celebration of the SHP's 90th anniversary was a ceremony held at the State Capitol on June 28. This daylong event was kicked off with a formal ceremony attended by distinguished guests, including Gov. Roy Cooper, Public Safety Secretary Erik A. Hooks, Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr. and Chief Justice Cheri Beasley of the N.C. Supreme Court. The ceremony included a moment of silence to honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This was accompanied by a symbolic candle-lighting performed by Trooper E. J. Phillips

who donned a historic Patrol uniform. Joe Brady of Wake and District Pipe Band concluded the candle-lighting with a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Secretary Hooks officially kicked off the anniversary celebration by reading the governor's proclamation. State Rep. Stephen Ross read the 90th Anniversary Resolution, and N.C. Board of Transportation Chairman Michael S. Fox delivered the keynote address. Chief Justice Beasley closed the ceremony by reciting the charge that was delivered by Superior Court Judge Henry Grady to the original 37 members of the Patrol on July 1, 1929. Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Jr. and the Rev. Phillip Bland provided the invocation and benediction, respectively.

The celebration continued outside on the Capitol grounds with displays that showcased the evolution of vehicles, equipment, uniforms and technology that have molded the North Carolina State Highway Patrol into what it is today. The event, which was open to the public, saw current and retired members reminiscing of years past and looking forward to what the next 90 years has in store. █



SHP CELEBRATES 132 PROMOTIONS IN 2019

Sworn and civilian members of the State Highway Patrol were recognized this past year during promotional ceremonies held in February and November. Colonial Baptist Church in Cary again played host to the collective Patrol family as we joined these newly promoted sworn and civilian members and their families in celebration of their accomplishments.

The February promotional ceremony honored 55 sworn and 11 civilian members. Keynote speaker Gov. Roy Cooper commended the group for their hard work and leadership.



Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr. provided expectations for the group as they embarked on their new roles. "Your new position requires the acceptance and affirmation of an oath, a commitment to God, country, state, to North Carolina's citizens and to your colleagues," said Col. McNeill. "Your sworn commitment is that you will, to the best of your ability, perform the duties of your office."

During the November ceremony, seven civilian and 59 sworn members earned promotions. The event began with an invocation provided by Pastor Steve Stadtmiller, followed by the national anthem performed by Symone Spencer. Gov. Roy Cooper, Public Safety Secretary Erik A. Hooks and Col. McNeill offered remarks to those receiving promotions, as well as their families and friends.

In October 2019, the promotions of Deputy Cmdr. Jeff Gordon and Lt. Col. Donna Carter brought changes to the Commander's Office due to the scheduled retirements of Deputy Cmdr. Ward and Lt. Col. Melvin. Lt. Col. Carter became the first female to ascend to her respective rank in the history of the SHP.

Congratulations to all members promoted during 2019. 



ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR THE SHP BASIC SCHOOL STAFF



The SHP Training Academy, specifically the Basic School Staff, "welcomed" hundreds of aspiring troopers during the year 2019. The graduation of the 147th, 148th and 149th Basic Patrol Schools produced 99 new troopers, who joined the field in support of our lifesaving mission. These newest troopers were put through the toughest of training and emerged as part of the finest law enforcement agency in the country.

The 147th Basic Patrol School graduated on May 3, with 34 new troopers taking their oath at Colonial Baptist Church in Cary. As is expected with this crowning achievement, an outpouring of support by family, friends and members of the SHP filled the church. The oath of office was administered by Associate Justice Mark Davis of the North Carolina Supreme Court and words of encouragement for a long rewarding career were delivered by Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr.

The 148th Basic Patrol School had an unconventional swearing in as the approach of Hurricane Dorian prompted an informal ceremony on Sept. 4, with a formal ceremony later held for the new troopers, their families and friends. The 42 new troopers took it all in stride as they quickly learned that a life in public service requires flexibility. This "long school" completed 27 weeks of training in preparation for their new career in law enforcement.

The 149th Basic Patrol School capped off 2019 with 23 new troopers completing 12 weeks of training on Oct. 24. "Law enforcement is constantly evolving, and we must be engaged in an unwavering search for solutions to make people's lives safer," Col. McNeill said during the ceremony. "We must continue to learn so that we can provide the very best to the people we serve, while maintaining the highest of standards." 

SHP HOLDS 2019 AWARDS CEREMONY



The exceptional work displayed by sworn and civilian members of the State Highway Patrol, along with members of the community, were recognized at the annual awards ceremony held in November at the National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh. SHP Chaplain Phillip Bland opened the ceremony in prayer and recognized the lifesaving work by several of the recipients. DPS Secretary Erik A. Hooks provided remarks commending the award recipients on their exemplary service to North Carolina. Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., addressed the award recipients, praising their heroic efforts while ensuring public safety.

"We are here today to recognize and honor those who have far exceeded their call of duty while demonstrating true devotion to service," stated Col. McNeill. "The troopers

and civilian support staff recognized today answered a call for assistance and when danger met them head-on, they faced it without ceasing."

The following awards were presented at the ceremony; the Meritorious Service, Samaritan Service, Valor, Colonel's Appreciation, Purple Heart, and those who represented the families of fallen troopers at the National Law Enforcement Memorial were recognized with a special keepsake. Each recipient found their own path to help others in need and take great pride in their accomplishments and service to others. 

" WE ARE HERE TODAY TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAR EXCEEDED THEIR CALL OF DUTY WHILE DEMONSTRATING TRUE DEVOTION TO SERVICE."

Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL ATTENDEE

Trooper Richard A. Capps Jr. - Columbus County
Trooper James R. Hall - Surry County
Trooper John T. Mastromonica - Stokes County
Trooper Curtis L. Tripp - Duplin County
Trooper Michael D. Weaver - Madison County

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Sgt. Derek W. Heintz - Mecklenburg County
Capt. Michael W. Warren - Pitt County
Mr. Robert N. Huey - Wake County
Mr. Michael T. Hodgson - Wake County
Mr. David E. Hoggard - Chowan County
Mr. Andy G. Helsabeck - Pitt County
Mr. James D. Wicker - Wake County
Mr. Jesse V. Benton - Wake County
Mr. Derek B. McIntyre - Wake County
Mr. William H. Sugg - Wake County
Mr. Jonathan D. Holloway - Wake County
Mr. Ricky A. Arnold - Wake County
Mr. Robert P. Elliot - Wake County
Mr. William C. Vaughan - Wake County
Sgt. Emory T. Brown - Harnett County
Trooper Donald C. Pate - Wake County
Trooper Jonathan Hammonds - Robeson County

SAMARITAN SERVICE AWARD

Sgt. Robert B. Maynard - Johnston County
Sgt. Angelis S. Genao - North Hampton County
Trooper Erica N. Bass - Haywood County

Trooper Matthew B. Brown - Duplin County
Trooper James C. Bunce - Sampson County
Trooper Mitchel P. Geracz - Cabarrus County
Trooper Richard B. Kirk - Jones County
Trooper Henry P. Locklear - Robeson County
Mr. Nicholas J. Schwertfager - Rowan County
Trooper Jackie R. Benton - Duplin County
Trooper Christian C. Gall - Pender County
Trooper Jonathan J. Sherrill - Mecklenburg County
Trooper Christopher L. Wooten - Mecklenburg County

VALOR AWARD

Trooper Cory D. Lowry - Robeson County
Trooper Richard A. Woods - Craven County
Trooper Jonathon T. Gibbs - Swain County
Trooper Harold B. Hoxit - Graham County

COLONEL'S APPRECIATION AWARD

NCDOT Division 4
Capt. John Welty - Charlotte FD
Engineer Kenny Schott - Charlotte FD
Firefighter Mario Arango - Charlotte FD
Firefighter Tawni Chambers - Charlotte FD
Paramedic Jake Atkinson - EMS Mecklenburg County
EMT Amy Hein - EMS Mecklenburg County
Mr. Zach Bland - Wilson County
Ms. Sherice Richardson - Wilson County

VALOR AND PURPLE HEART AWARD

Trooper Daniel Harrell - Pitt County



INJURED SHP MEMBERS CONTINUE THEIR RECOVERY

The dangers we face as law enforcement officers are something we are well aware of when preparing for daily duty. We train, prepare and most of all pray that when danger finds us we will find a way to overcome and return safety to our families. This year, several members of the SHP family faced those dangers during on-duty events and have returned to duty or are still recovering from injuries sustained. These all too common occurrences remind us of the sacrifices made by many of our brothers and sisters and display the heavy burden of what it means to be a law enforcement officer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of these members, their families and all that answer the calling to represent the thin blue line. 🚔

Ethical and Organizational Values **Integrity**

A sincere commitment to justice and diversity while maintaining the ethics of the Patrol through honor, respect, and moral courage.

Loyalty

Faithfully serve the public consistent with the policies of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

Professionalism

Demonstrate a clear sense of commitment, personal direction, and best practices to provide excellent service. Empower employees to be creative, decisive, and accountable.



Trooper D. C. Harrell:

On Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at approximately 5:15 p.m., Trooper D.C. Harrell, a five-year veteran who was assigned to Troop C, was shot while conducting a traffic stop on Hanes Road in Wilson County. Trooper Harrell has since returned to duty and has been recognized with the following awards for his heroic actions that day: Governor's Award for Excellence, finalist for 2019 IACP Police Officer of the Year, SHP Valor and Purple Heart. 🚔



Trooper J. G. Barnes:

On Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019 at approximately 10:12 p.m., Trooper J. G. Barnes, a five-year veteran assigned to Troop F was struck head-on while patrolling N.C. 115 in Wilkes County. Barnes continues rehabilitation from the serious injuries he has received during the collision. 

Trooper C. L. Wooten:

On Monday, July 22, 2019 Trooper C. L. Wooten, a 14-year veteran assigned to the Patrol's Motorcycle Unit, was struck while attempting to stop a violator in Mecklenburg County. Wooten sustained serious injuries and has continued his recovery at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Wooten received the SHP Samaritan Award in November for his lifesaving efforts from an event that occurred July 3 on I-85. 



Trooper C. I. Hundley:

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019 at approximately 7:59 p.m., Trooper C.I. Hundley, a 12-year veteran assigned to Troop C, was struck while conducting a traffic stop on U.S. 1 in Vance County. Hundley is continuing the recovery process and receives support from his friends and counterparts in Troop C, District 4. 

MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE BANNER YEAR

The SHP's Motor Carrier Enforcement section reached new highs in enforcement and education as they worked toward reducing motor vehicle collisions. The Patrol was proud of its members' efforts as it equated to lives being saved. There was an approximately 30% decrease of commercial motor vehicle fatalities experienced statewide. This decrease can be directly tied to the hard work by the SHP District 9 members, who for the first time eclipsed 100,000 inspections –101,809 to be exact. Of these thousands of inspections, the Out of Service Rate, which reflects violations deemed critical to safety, was at a rate of 18.7%.

Equally important is the work conducted with companies and drivers before they hit the roadways. Roughly 1,600 audits of new and existing companies have been completed by the SHP and approximately 300 safety programs have been delivered on CMV related topics.



Our agency continues to be recognized as a national leader in CMV safety through involvement in national organizations:

- The SHP hosted the 2019 Safe DRIVE Conference and welcomed safety professionals from North Carolina and many from the southeastern states.
- Trooper C. V. Barrett represented the SHP at the 2019 North American Inspectors Championship held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance recognizes the best inspectors throughout North America and invites them to compete against top inspectors from other jurisdictions. 🏆



PATROL RECEIVES 911 GRANT



Members of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol respond to calls for assistance from the motoring public each day, attempting to ensure public safety for all. As the number of these calls continues to increase across the state, the SHP is taking a proactive step toward obtaining advanced technology to keep up with the demand.

On Sept. 19, 2019, officials from the N. C. Department of Information Technology met with SHP Command Staff to showcase an awarded grant that will upgrade the Patrol's 911 capabilities. During the event, Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., and Secretary of DIT Eric Boyette signed the awarded grant that will soon afford SHP a greater technological edge in ensuring public safety.

ESInet gives North Carolina the ability to connect all 911 centers (117 total) through internet-based routing services, allowing the call centers to seamlessly communicate with one another. The new high-speed connections will enable each center to serve as a backup for any other center in the state in the event of a natural disaster or an overload of emergency calls. Call centers will also be able to manage and route advanced communications like text messaging to 911.

Both the 911 Board and DIT are valued Patrol partners, and we thank them for their collaborative efforts in making sure the citizens of North Carolina receive the best public safety response possible! 

HB283 “CONNER’S LAW”

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, will be a date forever etched in the hearts of the State Highway Patrol family, as news of our fallen brother Trooper Kevin Conner became a reality. Through many agonizing days and nights, members of the Patrol came together to ensure no one encountered the grieving process alone.

As Patrol members, family and friends all struggled with the tragic circumstances that surrounded Conner’s death, a ray of hope began to burn with the inception of HB 283, entitled “Conner’s Law.” Through a joint effort among North Carolina lawmakers, the Commander’s Office and Patrol family and friends, the bill began to make its way through the N.C. General Assembly, gaining support as it crossed each desk within the House and Senate.

Offering a hedge of protection for current and future public officials, Conner’s Law would increase the punishment for assault with a firearm on law enforcement and probation/parole officers. Also showcased within the bill, an increase death benefit would raise the current benefit from \$100,000 to \$200,000 if a designated public safety employee was killed in the line of duty.

Unanimously passed by both chambers, the law was placed before Gov. Roy Cooper nearly one year after Conner’s passing. Gov. Cooper signed the bill into law on Oct. 9, 2019.

The legacy of Conner and his contribution to each of our lives will never be forgotten as Conner’s Law will forever aid in continued protection for those who serve North Carolina. 



NEW HELICOPTERS JOIN SHP FLEET



The State Highway Patrol unveiled two new Bell 407 helicopters that will assist in the Patrol's lifesaving mission. Although these new helicopters are a part of the SHP, the majority of the missions conducted are for agencies other than the Patrol. Year after year, 80-85% of the missions are for local agencies that need assistance locating missing persons—this includes the search for missing children.

The aircrafts feature state-of-the-art equipment, allowing pilots on board to conduct mission-critical tasks while performing their duties. In coordination with DPS Secretary Erik A. Hooks, Col. Glenn M. McNeill, Jr. was

able to secure funding for both helicopters, which will be a tremendous asset to the aviation program. The new aircraft are a vital part of the Patrol's overall goal of offering the very best in public safety to our state.

During an unveiling event held at the Patrol's aviation hanger in April, members within the Budget and Grants Section of the SHP were commended by Col. McNeill for their exceptional and timely performance in securing the purchase of the new helicopters. Retired members of the Patrol's aviation unit joined current members at the event as stories and history of the Patrol's aviation program were shared with attendees. 

TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS OF 2019

As members of the State Highway Patrol continue to receive national attention for their efforts, the Patrol's social media accounts provide a great avenue for the public to see what we are up to. With an ever-growing number of 180,981 followers on Facebook, SHP continues to showcase the heroic acts and sometimes lighthearted moments that make the people of the SHP great. The following posts had the highest reach to the public for year 2019. 



1

1) More than 9,876,496 people reached: @NCSHP Trooper Marshall (Forsyth County) was challenged by a local group of gymnasts to a pull-up challenge in good fun. Despite his hard work (and the fact his duty belt weighed more than his competitor), Marshall ultimately lost out to a tough young lady.



2

2) More than 315,262 people reached: Troop B's newest troopers were welcomed to their duty stations recently to begin their field training process. Troop B Command Staff, district supervisors and field training officers shared a meal and words of wisdom with these new troopers. Afterwards, the group prayed together for wisdom and safety as they begin their careers serving the state of North Carolina.

2019



3

3) More than 260,578 people reached: The North Carolina State Highway Patrol would like to thank all law enforcement personnel across the country for their tireless and unwavering efforts to serve their communities. Happy National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to the men and women who leave their families each day to protect others. Please join us in thanking members of the law enforcement community today who selflessly protect and serve.



4

4) More than 213,334 people reached: @NCSHP Troop D Body Shop's Jay Patterson shows how our unique black and silver patrol vehicle comes to life! Thanks for the great work Jay.



5

5) More than 96,218 people reached: Col. Glenn McNeill Jr. would like to invite all State Highway Patrol family and friends to join him in wishing Braxson Conner a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! Braxson is the son of fallen hero, Trp. Kevin Conner and Mrs. Miranda Conner. Throughout the day, we would ask anyone who would like to send Braxson a special birthday wish to leave a comment below. We would love to have hundreds of wishes by the end of the day to showcase how important the Conner family remains to us. So, join us by saying.... HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRAXSON!! We hope your day is just as special as you and your family are to the family and friends of the SHP!

**MISSION STATEMENT: SAFEGUARD AND PRESERVE THE LIVES AND
PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**VISION STATEMENT:
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA**



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