

Department of Public Safety

Remembering Those Killed in the Line of Duty



It was the motoring public that advocated the creation of the Georgia Department of Public Safety. In the early 1930's, there was much concern for the rising death rate on Georgia highways. This concern, increased crime and an insufficient number of law enforcement officers at the local and county levels further revealed the need for a new law enforcement agency.

House Bill 18, the 220th Act of the General Assembly, was signed into law March 19, 1937. The Act created and established the Department of Public Safety, to be part of the executive branch of Georgia government. One division of the Department of Public Safety, the Georgia State Patrol, was created as part of the original legislation. Today, the creation of the GSP is reflected in O.C.G.A. § 35-2-30, which states:

There is created and established a division of the Department of Public Safety to be known as the Uniform Division, the members of which shall be known and designated as the "Georgia State Patrol."

The Georgia State Patrol is the only remaining division of the Department of Public Safety created by the original act. The other two, the Criminal Investigation Division (GBI) and the Driver's License Division (DDS) have been made into independent agencies.

O.C.G.A. § 35-2-32 defines the duties of the Georgia State Patrol *"...to patrol the public roads and highways of this state, including interstate and state maintained highways, and to safeguard the lives and property of the public; and such duty shall also include accident investigation and traffic enforcement. The Uniform Division shall prevent, detect, and investigate violations of the criminal laws of this state, any other state, or the United States which are committed upon these public roads and highways or upon property appertaining thereto and shall apprehend and arrest those persons who violate such criminal laws."*

***“Greater love hath no man than
this, that a man lay down his life for
his friends.”***

John 15:13 (KJV)

Sergeant William Fredrick Black Jr.

Badge Number 8

Date of Birth : *April 1, 1911*

Hometown : *Macon, GA*

Trooper School : *Original Trooper*

Assignment : *District 2, Cartersville*

Date of Death : *December 20, 1940*

Interment : *Riverside Cemetery*
Macon, GA



On December 20, 1940, Corporal Black was shot and killed during a traffic stop on State Route 41 near Ringgold. He was the first and only Georgia State Trooper who has lost his life during a vehicle stop. After his death, Corporal Black was promoted to the rank of sergeant by then Commissioner Lon Sullivan; “in testimony of his tireless efforts in behalf of safety of human beings on streets and highways and his valiant courage in fulfilling his oath to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Georgia.

Special Agent Garland E. Fields

Date of Birth : October 23, 1908

Hometown : Swainsboro, GA

Trooper School : Not yet attended

Assignment : Swainsboro, GA

Date of Death : March 3, 1948

*Interment : Swainsboro City
Cemetery*



Agent Fields, with less than a month on the job, was involved in a gun battle while investigating suspicious individuals at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Swainsboro on State Route 4 south. He was the first Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent killed in the line of duty.

Trooper John Frank Bass

Badge Number 188

Date of Birth : ***January 14, 1919***

Hometown : ***Hogansville, GA***

Trooper School : ***12th***

Assignment : ***Cordele***

Date of Death : ***February 15, 1950***

Interment : ***Myrtle Hill
Cemetery
Hogansville, GA***



On February 15, 1950 at 1900 hours, Trooper Bass was struck and killed by a hit and run driver in Cordele. The incident occurred on 24th Avenue, 25 feet west of 5th Street, in front of Trooper Bass' home.

Trooper Clyde Arthur Wehunt

Badge Number 217

Date of Birth : ***October 29, 1915***

Hometown : ***Canton, GA***

Trooper School : ***12th***

Assignment : ***Post 27, Blue Ridge***

Date of Death : ***April 20, 1951***

Interment : ***Chastain Memorial
Park
Fannin County***



***Trooper Wehunt died from injuries sustained in a patrol car
crash on April 20, 1951 on GA 5 in Fannin County.***

Sergeant Major George W. Harrelson

Badge Number 26

Date of Birth : *December 2, 1914*

Hometown : *Helena, GA*

Trooper School : *6th*

Assignment : *Security Aide*
Governor
Herman Talmadge

Date of Death : *August 15, 1952*

Interment : *Harrelson Cemetery*
Wheeler County



*Sergeant Major Harrelson was killed in a car crash
in the City of Atlanta on August 15, 1952, at Howell and
Houston Streets.*

Sergeant Charles Eugene Gray

Badge Number 184

Date of Birth : December 30, 1916

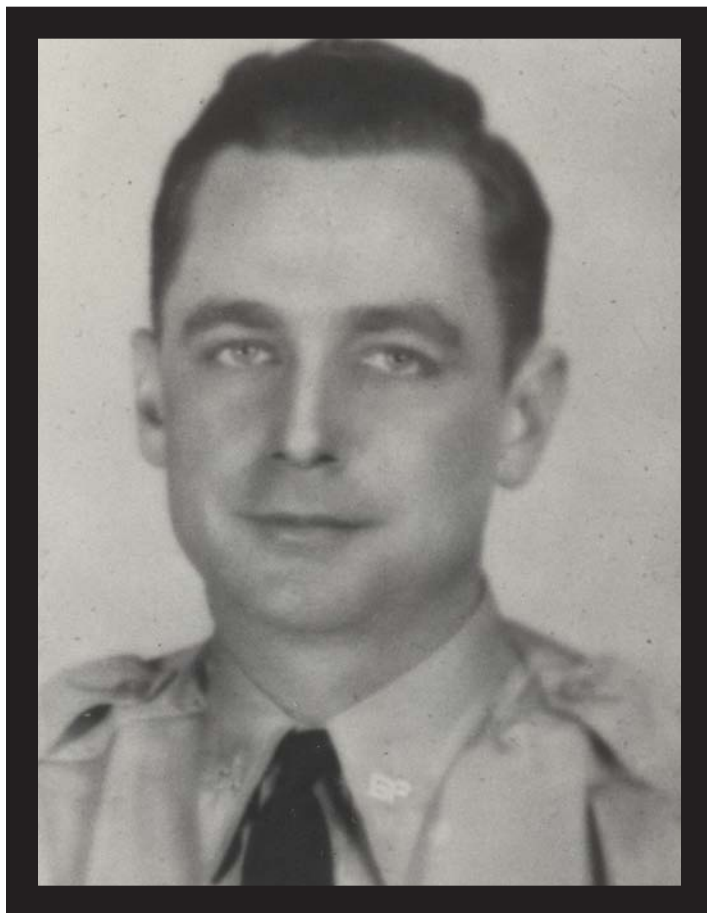
Hometown : Donalsonville, GA

Trooper School : 6th

Assignment : Post 14, Donalsonville

Date of Death : August 16, 1961

*Interment : Hopeful Cemetery
Hopeful, GA*



On August 16, 1961 at 1845 hours, Sergeant Gray, Trooper Massey and Trooper Nicholson were involved in a crash in Calhoun County at the intersection of GA 45 and GA 234. Sergeant Gray and Trooper Massey died at the crash. Trooper Nicholson died on August 18, 1961, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany. They were en route from training in Americus to Donalsonville.

Trooper Roy Cecil Massey

Badge Number 115

Date of Birth : May 9, 1918

Hometown : Thomasville, GA

Trooper School : 11th

Assignment : Post 14, Donalsonville

Date of Death : August 16, 1961

Interment : Laurel Hill Cemetery
Thomasville, GA



On August 16, 1961 at 1845 hours, Sergeant Gray, Trooper Massey and Trooper Nicholson were involved in a crash in Calhoun County at the intersection of GA 45 and GA 234. Sergeant Gray and Trooper Massey died at the crash. Trooper Nicholson died on August 18, 1961, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany. They were en route from training in Americus to Donalsonville.

Trooper Harvey Lewis Nicholson

Badge Number 254

***Date of Birth** : July 9, 1908*

***Hometown** : Decatur, GA*

***Trooper School** : 12th*

***Assignment** : Post 14, Donalsonville*

***Date of Death** : August 18, 1961*

***Interment** : Eustis, FL*



On August 16, 1961 at 1845 hours, Sergeant Gray, Trooper Massey and Trooper Nicholson were involved in a crash in Calhoun County at the intersection of GA 45 and GA 234. Sergeant Gray and Trooper Massey died at the crash. Trooper Nicholson died on August 18, 1961, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany. They were en route from training in Americus to Donalsonville.

Trooper Frederick Herman Looney

Badge Number 488

Date of Birth : ***March 18, 1931***

Hometown : ***Cartersville, GA***

Trooper School : ***22nd***

Assignment : ***Canton***

Date of Death : ***May 25, 1962***

Interment : ***Oak Hill Cemetery***
Cartersville, GA



On May 25, 1962 at 1245 hours, Trooper Looney was killed in a patrol car crash on State Route 306, .4 of a mile west of Cumming, GA.

Special Agent Welton Harrell

Date of Birth : *December 12, 1914*

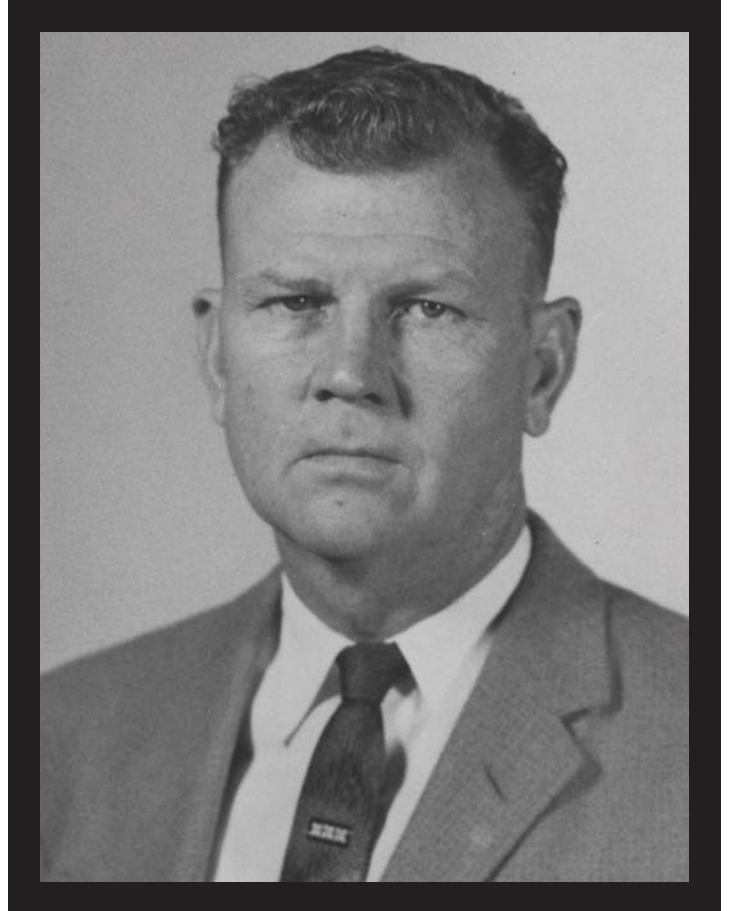
Hometown : *Camilla, GA*

Trooper School : *14th*

Assignment : *Americus*

Date of Death : *December 23, 1964*

Interment : *Andersonville
Cemetery
Andersonville, GA*



Special Agent Harrell died from injuries sustained in a car crash on December 23, 1964, eight miles west of Americus on US 280 in Terrell County. He passed away late that morning at the St. Francis Hospital in Muscogee County. He was en route to a reported shooting when he lost control and crashed.

Trooper Victor Harvey Turpen

Badge Number 175

Date of Birth : ***September 28, 1923***

Hometown : ***Talulah Falls, GA***

Trooper School : ***17th***

Assignment : ***Motor Vehicle
Inspection Unit***

Date of Death : ***February 23, 1965***

Interment : ***Tallulah Falls
Cemetery***



Trooper Turpen died on February 23, 1965 from injuries sustained in a traffic crash on September 30, 1964. He was a passenger in a patrol car involved in a crash on Mitchell Street in Atlanta.

Special Agent Lt. Benjamin Louis Sentell

Badge Number 24

Date of Birth : ***September 5, 1912***

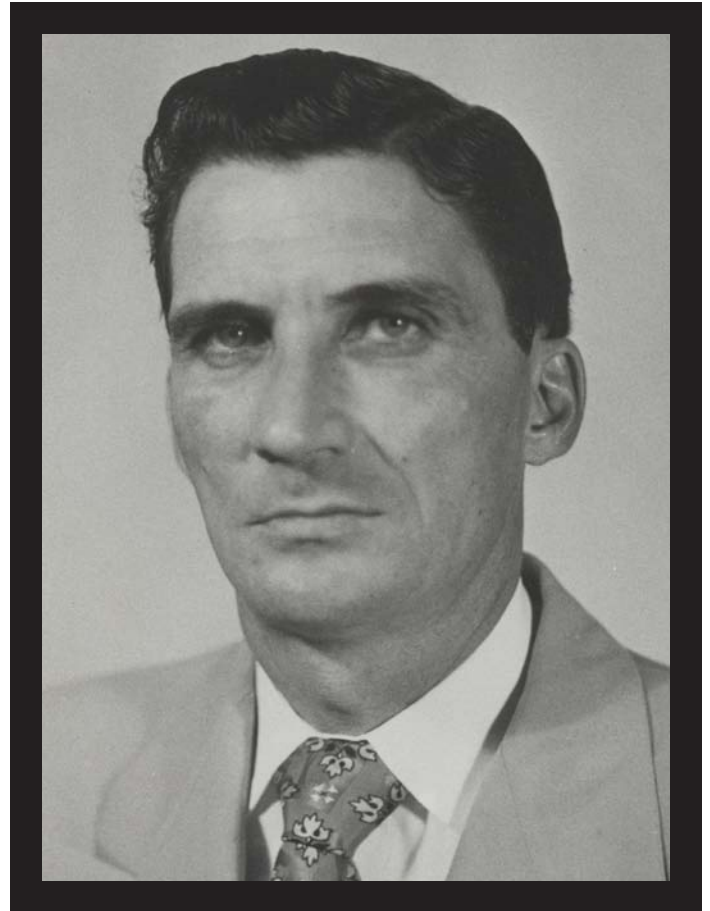
Hometown : ***Waynesboro, GA***

Trooper School : ***3rd***

Assignment : ***Waynesboro***

Date of Death : ***March 3, 1966***

Interment : ***Burke Memorial
Cemetery
Waynesboro, GA***



***On March 3, 1966 at 1130 hours, Agent Sentell was killed when he
lost control of his vehicle on State Route 24, .7 of a mile
west of Louisville.***

Trooper Mark Allen Page

Badge Number 483

Date of Birth : ***December 31, 1939***

Hometown : ***Ellijay, GA***

Trooper School : ***26th***

Assignment : ***Post 27, Blue Ridge***

Date of Death : ***June 22, 1968***

Interment : ***Mount Zion Cemetery***
Ellijay, GA



On June 22, 1968, Trooper Page was killed when he lost control of his vehicle during patrol. The incident occurred at mp 12.1 on State Route 2 in Union County.

Trooper Billy Arthur Tanner

Badge Number 268

Date of Birth : ***October 2, 1944***

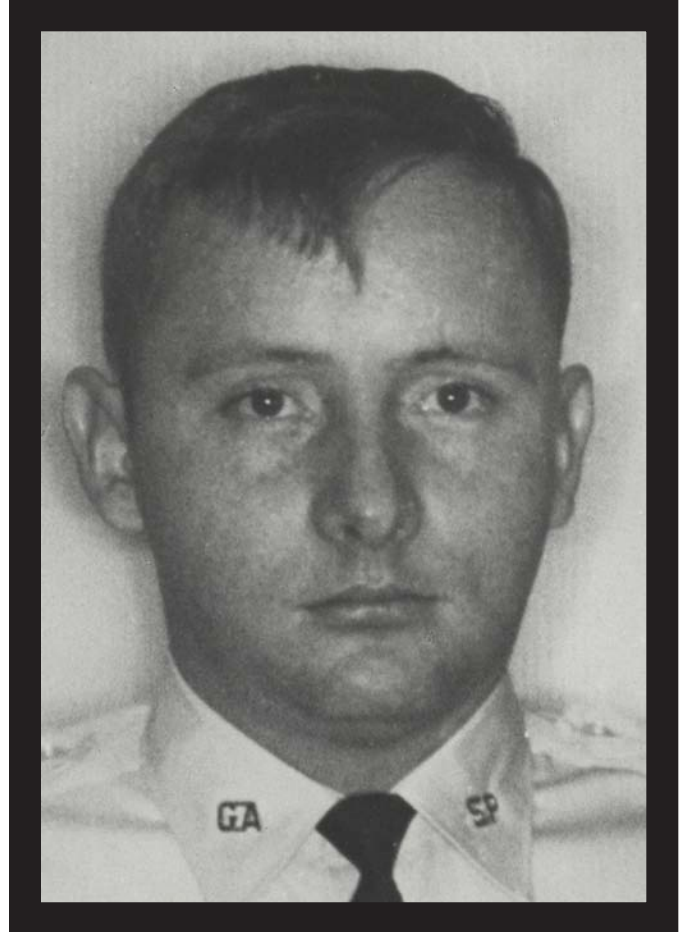
Hometown : ***Cedartown, GA***

Trooper School : ***35th***

Assignment : ***Post 43, Calhoun***

Date of Death : ***April 11, 1970***

Interment : ***Polk Memorial
Gardens
Cedartown, GA***



On April 11, 1970 at 1715 hours, Trooper Tanner was killed when he and Trooper Jeff Schultz were responding to a call for assistance by another trooper. The single car crash occurred in Gordon County on State Route 225, 2.6 miles north of Calhoun.

Trooper Edward Clifton Taylor

Badge Number 696

Date of Birth : ***February 15, 1946***

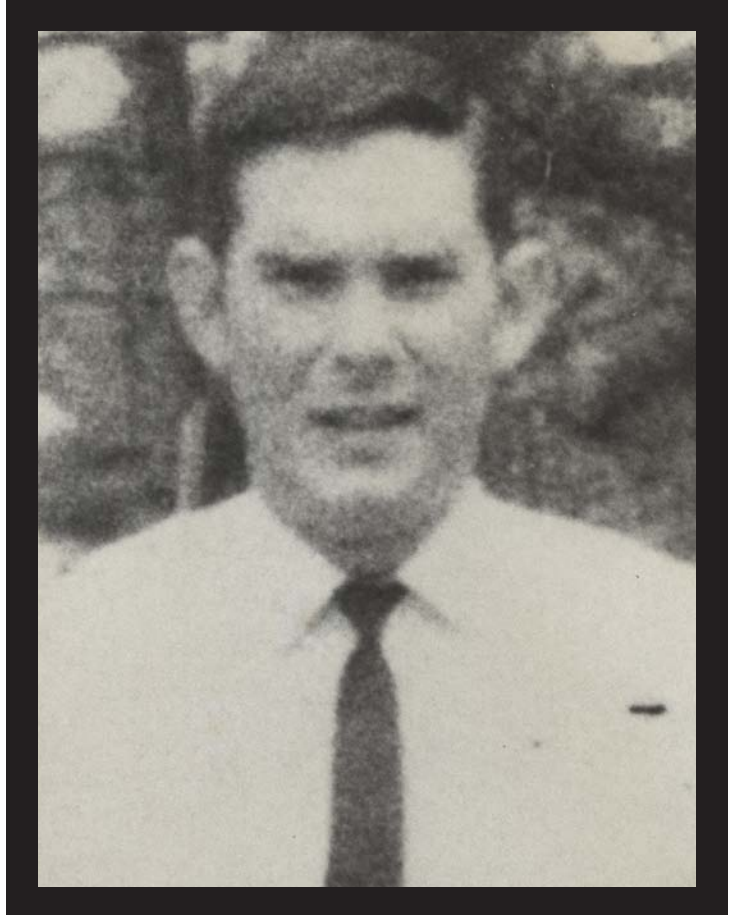
Hometown : ***Toccoa, GA***

Trooper School : ***37th***

Assignment : ***Post 33, Milledgeville***

Date of Death : ***June 26, 1971***

Interment : ***Toccoa***



On June 26, 1971, Trooper Taylor was a passenger in a patrol car driven by Trooper Eric Davis that left the roadway and struck a tree. The crash occurred on State Route 44 in Jones County.

Special Agent Larry Paul Collins

Trooper Badge Number 252

Date of Birth : January 1, 1946

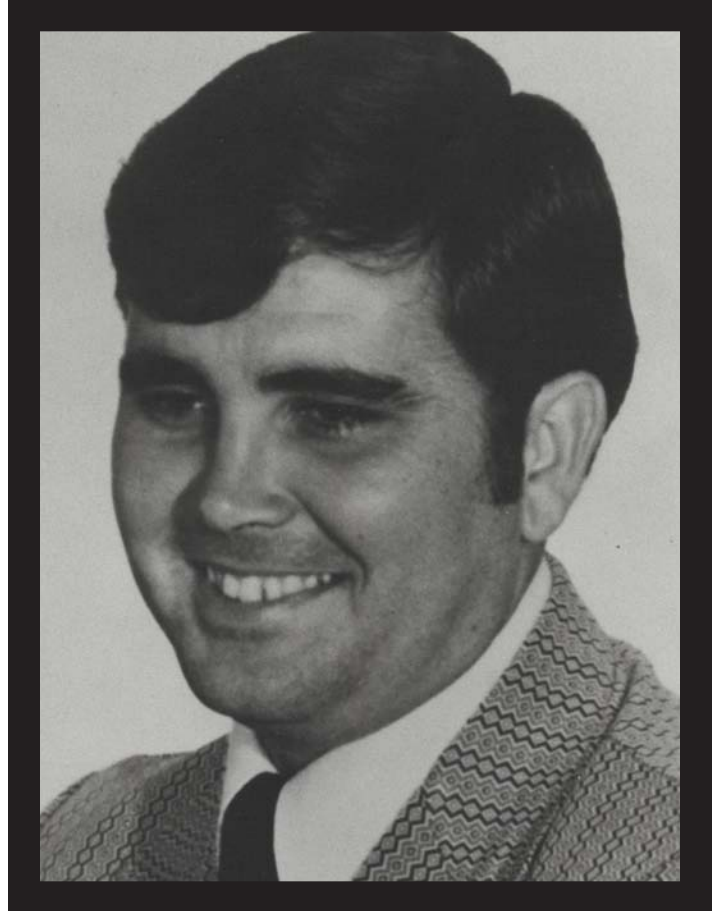
Hometown : Hawkinsville, GA

Trooper School : 34th

Assignment : Americus

Date of Death : November 5, 1973

*Interment : Mount Pleasant
Cemetery
Hawkinsville, GA*



While returning from duty in the Athens area, Agent Collins was killed in a single car crash in Taylor County. The incident occurred on November 5, 1973 on State Route 128, ½ mile north of Reynolds.

Trooper James David Young

Badge Number 481

Date of Birth : ***June 10, 1940***

Hometown : ***Fitzgerald, GA***

Trooper School : ***41st***

Assignment : ***Post 30, Cordele***

Date of Death : ***May 4, 1975***

Interment : ***Evergreen Cemetery***
Fitzgerald, GA



***Trooper Young and Cordele Police Sergeant Willis Haralson were
shot and killed by a prisoner on May 4, 1975 in the
Cordele Police Department.***

Corporal Tyrone Collier Dillard

Badge Number 612

Date of Birth : ***October 29, 1944***

Hometown : ***Athens, GA***

Trooper School : ***32nd***

Assignment : ***Post 6, Gainesville***

Date of Death : ***February 3, 1977***

Interment : ***Evergreen Cemetery***
Athens, GA



On February 3, 1977, Corporal Dillard was struck and killed by a vehicle while directing traffic on GA 129, 2.8 miles south of Gainesville.

Trooper First Class William Gaines Andrews Jr.

Badge Number 738

Date of Birth : ***April 14, 1945***

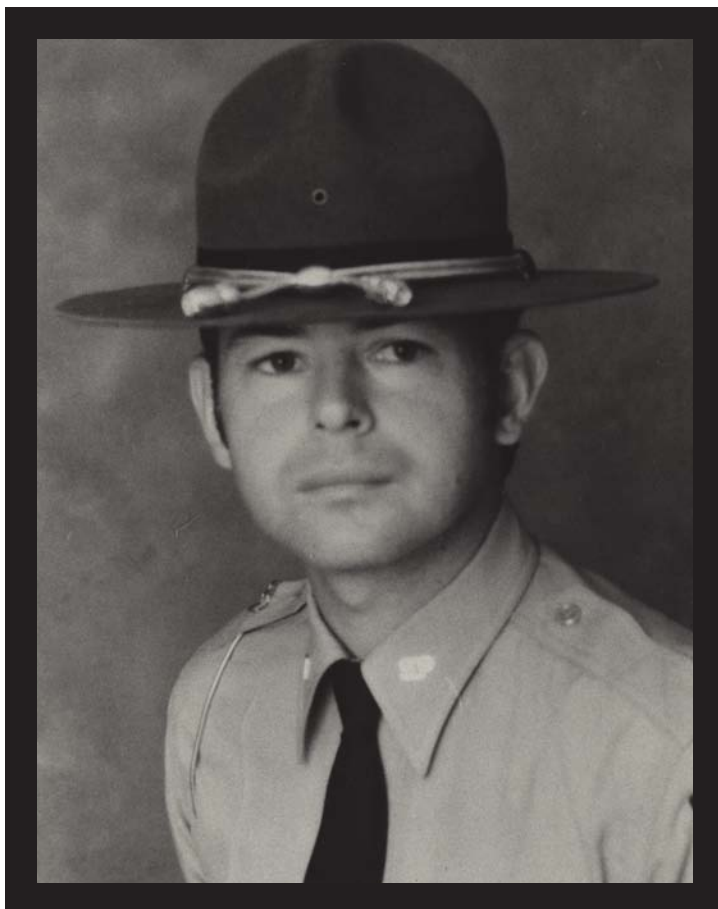
Hometown : ***Thomaston***

Trooper School : ***45th***

Assignment : ***Post 34, Manchester***

Date of Death : ***May 8, 1977***

Interment : ***Upton Memorial
Garden
Thomaston, GA***



On May 7, 1977 at 2314 hours, Trooper Andrews was in pursuit of a speeding vehicle on State Route 41, 1.5 miles north of Talbotton. During the chase, he lost control of his patrol car and struck a tree. Trooper Andrews died on May 8 from injuries sustained in the crash.

Trooper First Class Keith Harlan Sewell

Badge Number 401

Date of Birth : ***October 10, 1953***

Hometown : ***Atlanta, GA***

Trooper School : ***49th***

Assignment : ***Post 8, Madison***

Date of Death : ***January 17, 1979***

Interment : ***Mount Pisgah
Cumming, GA***



On January 17, 1979 at 2327 hours, Trooper Sewell was killed in a single car crash on State Route 24 in Oconee County approximately 1000 feet north of the Morgan County Line.

Trooper John Dixon Morris

Badge Number 170

Date of Birth : ***July 20, 1953***

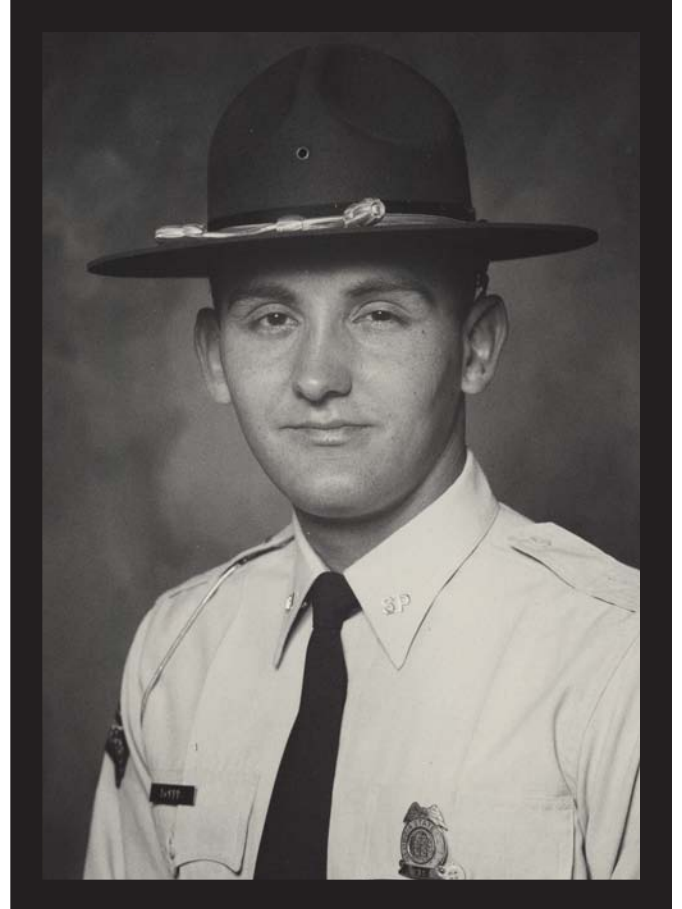
Hometown : ***Dublin, GA***

Trooper School : ***54th***

Assignment : ***Post 8, Madison***

Date of Death : ***May 18, 1982***

Interment : ***Dublin Memorial
Gardens***



On May 18, 1982, Trooper Morris was killed in a single car crash while responding to a report of a school bus crash. The incident occurred on the Atlanta Highway at Monroe.

Trooper First Class Donward Francis Langston

Badge Number 162

Date of Birth : ***October 22, 1941***

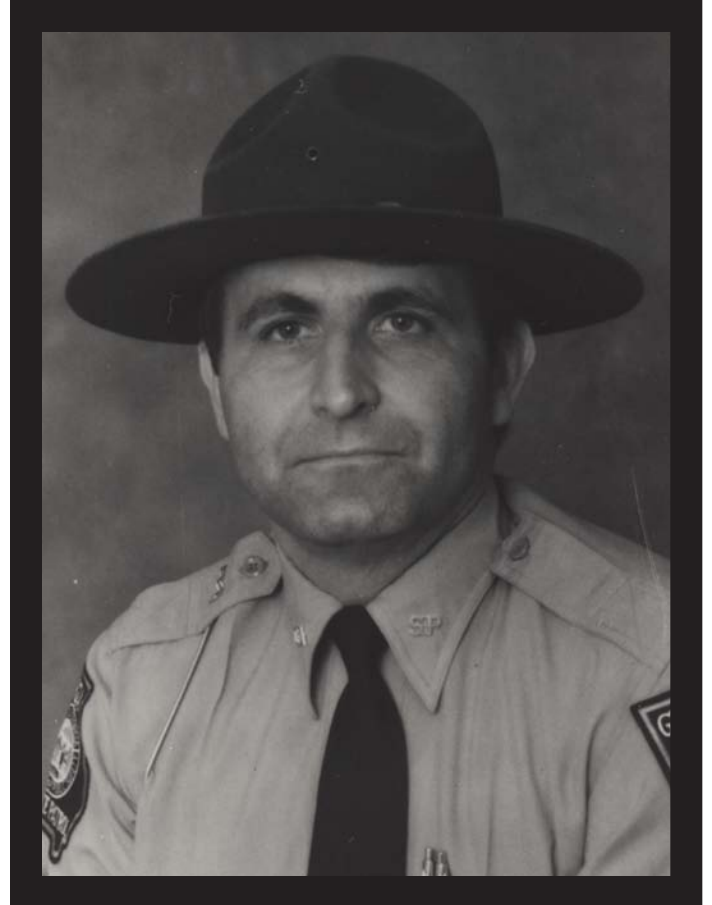
Hometown : ***Summerville, GA***

Trooper School : ***45th***

Assignment : ***Post 29, Cedartown***

Date of Death : ***July 26, 1983***

Interment : ***Summerville Cemetery***



On July 26, 1983 at 2320 hours, TFC Langston was killed in a single car crash while in pursuit of a vehicle on GA 1 in Polk County. During the chase he lost control and struck a bridge.

Trooper First Class Ronald Everett O'Neal

Badge Number 709

Date of Birth : February 17, 1944

Hometown : Hinesville, GA

Trooper School : 38th

Assignment : Post 11, Hinesville

Date of Death : January 10, 1984

***Interment : Hinesville City
Cemetery***



On January 10, 1984 at 0119 hours, TFC O'Neal was killed in a crash during a pursuit on Interstate 95 in Liberty County. During the chase, the suspect intentionally struck TFC O'Neal's vehicle causing him to lose control at mp 70.1. The patrol car left the roadway and struck a group of trees.

Trooper First Class James Keith Stewart Jr.

Badge Number 829

Date of Birth : ***February 1, 1959***

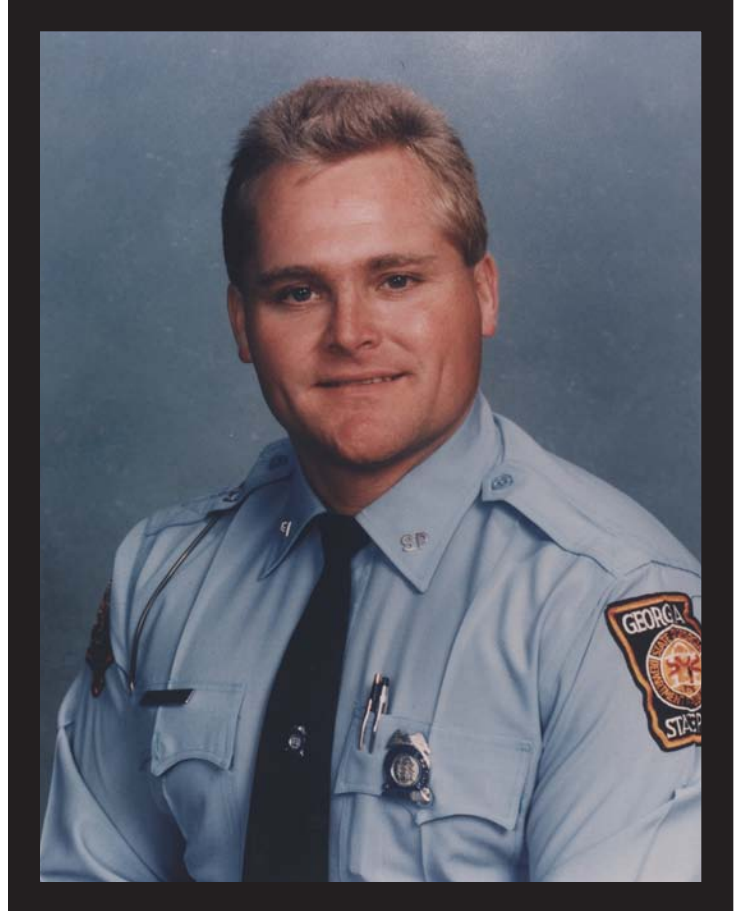
Hometown : ***Vienna, GA***

Trooper School : ***57th***

Assignment : ***Post 30, Cordele***

Date of Death : ***April 27, 1991***

Interment : ***Vienna City
Cemetery***



On April 27, 1991, TFC Stewart was killed in a single car crash while he was responding to a call for assistance by the Rochelle Police Department. Approximately 4 miles north of Pitts on State Route 215, he lost control while attempting to maneuver around a horse in the roadway.

Trooper Tony Michael Lumley

Badge Number 799

Date of Birth : ***October 26, 1967***

Hometown : ***The Rock, GA***

Trooper School : ***79th***

Assignment : ***Post 1, Griffin***

Date of Death : ***December 2, 2003***

Interment : ***Moody Memorial
Gardens
Zebulon, GA***



On December 1, 2003, Trooper Lumley was pursuing a vehicle on GA 16 west of Griffin in Spalding County. His vehicle was intentionally struck by the suspect's vehicle causing him to lose control and crash. He died from injuries sustained in the assault on December 2.

Corporal Michael Douglas Young

Badge Number 674

Date of Birth : ***July 20, 1959***

Hometown : ***Brunswick &
Tattnall County***

Trooper School : ***61st***

Assignment : ***Post 23, Brunswick***

Date of Death : ***August 29, 2006***

Interment : ***Chapel Park
Cemetery
Brunswick, GA***



On August 19, 2006 at 1138 hours, Corporal Young was responding to a call for assistance from another trooper involved in a pursuit. As he was traveling south on Interstate 95, he lost control on the rain slick pavement, crossed the median, and struck two vehicles traveling north. This occurred approximately 1 mile north of GA 25. Corporal Young died from injuries sustained in the incident on August 29, 2006.