

THE BADGE

Georgia Department of Public Safety Bi-Monthly Newsletter
May 2015



Georgia State Patrol Fallen Trooper Road Memorials



SPECIAL EDITION
DPS State Road and Bridge Dedications for
Georgia State Patrol Troopers
Georgia Bureau of Investigation Special Agents
killed in the line of duty

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL



The Georgia State Patrol was slightly more than three years old when the first trooper died in the line of duty. Corporal Fred Black was shot and killed in December 1940 when he and another trooper stopped a vehicle that was being driven by Charles Coates, a prison escapee from Missouri. As Cpl. Black approached the vehicle, Coates fired three shots and all three struck the trooper. Coates then fled into a nearby wooded area on foot. Following an extensive manhunt that stretched from Ringgold to the mountains of Tennessee, Charles Coates was captured and returned to Georgia to face trial. He was convicted after 29 minutes of jury deliberations and given a death sentence.

Since the agency was created in 1937, 27 troopers and agents assigned to the Georgia Department of Public Safety have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our citizens. The most recent was Trooper Chad LeCroy who was shot and killed following a pursuit in Atlanta in December 2010. His killer was sentenced last year to life without parole plus 55 years.

In 2007, the Georgia Department of Public Safety began the process to honor all 27 of our members who have died in the line of duty with a landmark

named for each in an area chosen by their family. Last October the final road memorial was completed and each now has a section of highway, an interchange or bridge bearing their name. It serves as a reminder that someone from the area served with honor and paid the ultimate price in service to Georgia.

To accomplish this goal was no easy task. Family members had to be located for some of the members and support garnered from the local legislative delegations and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Once the research was finished and the locations chosen, resolutions were then introduced in the Georgia General Assembly officially naming the landmarks in memory of the fallen trooper or agent.

Local ceremonies were planned for half of the group in 2013 and the other half in 2014. The ceremonies honored each in the area where they are buried and framed copies of the legislative resolution were presented to the families.

In this special edition of the newsletter we honor the brave men who have died in the line of duty. The Fallen Troopers Road Memorial Project encompassed many hours of hard work by retired Captain Mike Fagler, retired Captain Paul Cosper and Captain Jason Johnson, Legislative Liaison. I thank them for meeting the challenges so motorists who see the memorial signs are reminded of the sacrifices made by those who died in the line of duty. It is a fitting tribute that we mark a segment of a road or bridge because that is where our men and women work each day.

We honor the sacrifices these brave men have made and promise never to forget them. The ceremonies across our state served to advance three important characteristics of the Georgia Department of Public Safety – esprit de corps, camaraderie and heritage.

Each May 15 is National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which it falls is National Police Week. It is a time set aside to pay special recognition to those in law enforcement who have died in the line of duty. Congress established National Police Week by a joint resolution and President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day in 1962.

This year during National Police Week, the names of 126 officers will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. Preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) indicates a 24 percent increase in the number of officers killed in the line of duty last year compared with 2013. The increase reverses what had been two years of declines in line of duty deaths.

When the preliminary data is analyzed, firearms-related incidents were the number one cause of officer deaths with 50 in 2014. This was an increase of 56 percent over the 32 officers shot and killed in 2013. According to the NLEOMF, a total of 1,501 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, and, on average over the last decade, there have been 58,930 assaults against law enforcement each year. The assaults have resulted in 15,404 injuries.

Law enforcement is a dangerous profession and the number of ambush-style attacks against officers is increasing. Be vigilant as you patrol and be prepared for the dangers awaiting you.

I thank you for your service and the job you do each day!

SERGEANT WILLIAM FREDERICK BLACK, JR.



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Sgt. William Frederick Black, Jr. #8
(First trooper to be promoted posthumously.)

Date of Birth: April 1, 1911

Hometown: Macon, GA

Trooper School: Original Trooper

Assignment: District 2, Cartersville

Date of Death: December 20, 1940

Road Dedication: July 10, 2013
Interchange I-16 at GA 87 (Ocmulgee E. Blvd.)



Corporal Black was shot and killed during a traffic stop on GA 41 near Ringgold on December 20, 1940. He was the first Georgia State Trooper who lost his life in the line of duty. After his death, Corporal Black was promoted to the rank of sergeant by then Commissioner Lon Sullivan, "in testimony of his tireless efforts on 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



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

Road Dedication: October 30, 2013
GA 56 from U.S. 80 to the Burke County line.



Agent Fields, with less than a month on the job, was involved in a gun battle on March 3, 1948, while investigating suspicious individuals at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Swainsboro on GA 4 south. He was the first special agent killed in the line of duty.

TROOPER JOHN FRANK BASS



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
John Frank Bass #188

Date of Birth: January 14, 1919

Hometown: Hogansville, GA

Trooper School: 12th

Assignment: Cordele

Date of Death: February 15, 1950

Road Dedication: November 8, 2013
GA 100 and GA 54 Bridge at I-85



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

SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE W. HARRELSON



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Sgt. Major George W. Harrelson, #26

Date of Birth: December 2, 1914

Hometown: Helena, GA

Trooper School: 6th

Assignment: Security Aide for
Governor Herman Talmadge

Date of Death: August 15, 1952

Road Dedication: October 30, 2013
GA 30 from the intersection of U.S.
441 south of McRae, GA to the city
limits of Milan, GA.



Sergeant Major Harrelson was killed in a car crash in Atlanta on August 15, 1952, at Howell and Houston streets.

TROOPER CLYDE ARTHUR WEHUNT



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Clyde Arthur Wehunt, #217

Date of Birth: October 29, 1915

Hometown: Canton, GA

Trooper School: 12th

Assignment: Post 27, Blue Ridge

Date of Death: April 20, 1951

Road Dedication: October 11, 2013
GA 60 Spur from GA 60 Mineral
Bluff, GA to the North Carolina state
line.



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

SERGEANT CHARLES EUGENE GRAY



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Sgt. Charles Eugene Gray, #184

Date of Birth: December 30, 1916

Hometown: Donalsonville, GA

Trooper School: 6th

Assignment: Post 14, Donalsonville

Date of Death: August 16, 1961

Road Dedication: October 8, 2013
GA 91 south from the city limits of
Donalsonville, GA to the Florida
state line.



On August 16, 1961, at 1845 hours, Sergeant Gray, Trooper Roy Cecil Massey and Trooper Harvey Lewis 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 scene. Trooper Nicholson died on August 18, 1961, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany. They were en route to Donalsonville from training in Americus.

TROOPER ROY CECIL MASSEY



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Roy Cecil Massey #115

Date of Birth: May 9, 1918

Hometown: Thomasville, GA

Trooper School: 11th

Assignment: Post 14, Donalsonville

Date of Death: August 16, 1961

Road Dedication: October 8, 2013
GA 122 from the intersection of GA
33 south to the city limits of Patten,
GA.



On August 16, 1961, at 1845 hours, Sergeant Charles Eugene Gray, Trooper Massey and Trooper Harvey Lewis 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 scene. Trooper Nicholson died on August 18, 1961, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany. They were en route to Donalsonville from training in Americus.

TROOPER FREDERICK HERMAN LOONEY



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Frederick Herman Looney #488

Date of Birth: March 18, 1931

Hometown: Cartersville, GA

Trooper School: 22nd

Assignment: Canton

Date of Death: May 25, 1962

Road Dedication: October 15, 2013
GA 20 from the Cherokee County
line to I-75.



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

TROOPER HARVEY LEWIS NICHOLSON



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Harvey Lewis Nicholson #254

Date of Birth: July 9, 1908

Hometown: Decatur, GA

Trooper School: 12th

Assignment: Post 14, Donalsonville

Date of Death: August 18, 1961

Road Dedication: October 9, 2013
The intersection of GA 45 and GA 234



On August 16, 1961, at 1845 hours, Sergeant Charles Eugene Gray, Trooper Roy Cecil 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 scene. Trooper Nicholson died on August 18, 1961, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany. They were en route to Donalsonville from training in Americus.

SPECIAL AGENT WELTON HARRELL



Special Agent
Welton Harrell

Date of Birth: December 12, 1914

Hometown: Camilla, GA

Trooper School: 14th

Assignment: Americus

Date of Death: December 23, 1964

Road Dedication: October 9, 2013
GA 262 east from the city limits of
Vada, GA



Special Agent Harrell died from injuries sustained in a car crash December 23, 1964, eight miles west of Americus on U.S. 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



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Victor Harvey Turpen #175

Date of Birth: September 28, 1923

Hometown: Tallulah Falls, GA

Trooper School: 17th

Assignment: Motor Vehicle
Inspection Unit

Date of Death: February 23, 1965

Road Dedication: October 14, 2014
GA 15 from the northern city limits
of Tallulah Falls to the southern
city limits.



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.

TROOPER MACK ALLEN PAGE



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Mack Allen Page, #483

Date of Birth: December 31, 1939

Hometown: Ellijay, GA

Trooper School: 26th

Assignment: Post 27, Blue Ridge

Date of Death: June 22, 1968

Road Dedication: October 20, 2014
GA 52 from its intersection with Rackley
Road to the Dawson County line.



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

SPECIAL AGENT LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN LOUIS SENTELL



Special Agent
Lt. Benjamin Louis Sentell #24

Date of Birth: September 5, 1912

Hometown: Waynesboro, GA

Trooper School: 3rd

Assignment: Waynesboro

Date of Death: March 3, 1966

Road Dedication: October 3, 2014
GA 24 from the western city limits of
Waynesboro, GA to the intersection
of GA 305.



On March 3, 1966, at 1130 hours, Agent Sentell was killed when he lost control of his vehicle on GA 24, seven tenths (.7) of a mile west of Louisville.

TROOPER BILLY ARTHUR TANNER



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Billy Arthur Tanner #268

Date of Birth: October 2, 1944

Hometown: Cedartown, GA

Trooper School: 35th

Assignment: Post 43, Calhoun

Date of Death: April 11, 1970

Road Dedication: October 7, 2014
GA 6 from the U.S. 27 Bypass to the
western city limits of Rockmart.



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

TROOPER EDWARD CLIFTON TAYLOR



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Edward Clifton Taylor #696

Date of Birth: February 15, 1946

Hometown: Toccoa, GA

Trooper School: 37th

Assignment: Post 33, Milledgeville

Date of Death: June 26, 1971

Road Dedication: September 16, 2014
GA 184 from the Jeanette Jamieson
intersection with GA 365 and
the GA 17 Toccoa Bypass to the
intersection of Dicks Hill Parkway
in Stephens County.



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 GA 44 in Jones County.

TROOPER JAMES DAVID YOUNG



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
James David Young, #481

Date of Birth: June 10, 1940

Hometown: Fitzgerald, GA

Trooper School: 41st

Assignment: Post 30, Cordele

Date of Death: May 4, 1975

Road Dedication: October 22, 2014
GA 107 east of Fitzgerald



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

SPECIAL AGENT LARRY PAUL COLLINS



Special Agent
Larry Paul Collins #252

Date of Birth: January 1, 1946

Hometown: Hawkinsville, GA

Trooper School: 34th

Assignment: Americus

Date of Death: November 5, 1973

Road Dedication: October 22, 2014
GA 257 from the southern city limit
of Hawkinsville to the northern city
limits of Cordele.



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 GA 128, 1/2 mile north of Reynolds.

CORPORAL TYRONE COLLIER DILLARD



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Tyrone Collier Dillard, #612

Date of Birth: October 29, 1944

Hometown: Athens, GA

Trooper School: 32nd

Assignment: Post 6, Gainesville

Date of Death: February 3, 1977

Road Dedication: September 25, 2014
GA 11 from I-985 to the Jackson
County line.



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.

TFC WILLIAM GAINES ANDREWS, JR.



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
William Gaines Andrews, Jr. #738

Date of Birth: April 14, 1945

Hometown: Thomaston, GA

Trooper School: 45th

Assignment: Post 34, Manchester

Date of Death: May 8, 1977

Road Dedication: May 29, 2014
GA 41 from the northern city limits of
Talbotton to the southern city limits
of Woodland.



On May 7, 1977, at 2314 hours, Trooper Andrews was in pursuit of a speeding vehicle on GA 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 JOHN DIXON MORRIS



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
John Dixon Morris #170

Date of Birth: July 20, 1953

Hometown: Dublin, GA

Trooper School: 54th

Assignment: Post 8, Madison

Date of Death: May 18, 1982

Road Dedication: October 23, 2014
The portion of GA 24 from the
northern city limits of Waynesboro to
the intersection of GA 305.



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 KEITH HARLAN SEWELL



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
TFC Keith Harlan Sewell #401

Date of Birth: October 10, 1953

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Trooper School: 49th

Assignment: Post 8, Madison

Date of Death: January 17, 1979

Road Dedication: October 16, 2014
The bridge on U.S. 441 over
the railroad tracks between the
intersection of GA 12 and Lower
Appalachee Road in Morgan County.



On January 17, 1979, at 2327 hours, Trooper Sewell was killed in a single car crash on GA 24 in Oconee County approximately 1,000 feet north of the Morgan County Line.

TROOPER FIRST CLASS DONWARD FRANCIS LANGSTON



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
TFC Donward Francis Langston

Date of Birth: October 22, 1941

Hometown: Summerville, GA

Trooper School: 45th

Assignment: Post 29, Cedartown

Date of Death: July 26, 1983

Road Dedication: October 7, 2014
The bridge on GA 1 over Blacks Buff
Road in Floyd County.



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



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
TFC Ronald Everett O'Neal

Date of Birth: February 17, 1944

Hometown: Hinesville, GA

Trooper School: 38th

Assignment: Post 11, Hinesville

Date of Death: January 10, 1984

Road Dedication: November 17, 2005
An overpass (Retreat Road) on I-95
between mile posts 70 and 71 in
Liberty County.



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

TROOPER TONY MICHAEL LUMLEY



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Tony Michael Lumley

Date of Birth: October 26, 1967

Hometown: The Rock, GA

Trooper School: 79th

Assignment: Post 1, Griffin

Date of Death: December 2, 2003

Road Dedication: October 26, 2009
GA 18 at the Pike/Meriwether
County line in Pike County.



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.

TROOPER FIRST CLASS JAMES KEITH STEWART, JR.



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
TFC James Keith Stewart, Jr. #829

Date of Birth: February 1, 1959

Hometown: Vienna, GA

Trooper School: 57th

Assignment: Post 30, Cordele

Date of Death: April 27, 1991

Road Dedication: June 4, 2014
GA 215 from the southern city limits
of Vienna to the northern city limits
of Pitts.



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 four miles north of Pitts on GA 215, he lost control while attempting to maneuver around a horse in the roadway.

CORPORAL MICHAEL DOUGLAS YOUNG



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Cpl. Michael Douglas Young #674

Date of Birth: July 20, 1959

Hometown: Brunswick, GA and
Tattnall County

Trooper School: 61st

Assignment: Post 23, Brunswick

Date of Death: August 29, 2006

Road Dedication: August 29, 2008
Exit 29, I-95, U.S. 82/GA 25 in Glynn
County.



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 I-95, he lost control on the rain slick pavement, crossed the median, and struck two vehicles traveling north. This occurred approximately one mile north of GA 25. Corporal Young died from injuries sustained in the incident on August 29, 2006.

CORPORAL CHADWICK LECROY



Georgia State Patrol Trooper
Cpl. Chad LeCroy
(Second trooper to be
promoted posthumously)

Date of Birth: April 6, 1972

Hometown: Marietta, GA

Trooper School: 85th

Assignment: Post 48, Atlanta

Date of Death: Dec. 27, 2010

Road Dedication: August 8, 2012
James Jackson Parkway at S. Cobb Drive
(GA 280) at the Cobb/Fulton County line
on the Chattahoochee River Bridge.



Around 11 p.m. on December 27, 2010, TFC Chad LeCroy attempted to make a traffic stop on a 2007 Mazda that had only one headlight. Following a short pursuit, the Mazda crashed into a mailbox at the intersection of St. Paul Avenue and Hightower Road in West Atlanta. As TFC LeCroy approached the vehicle on the passenger side, the driver opened the passenger door and fired three shots, one of which struck TFC LeCroy. The violator left the scene in LeCroy's patrol car, but was located and apprehended a short time later through the cooperative efforts of the Atlanta and Cobb County police departments.

THE BADGE

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