Georgia State Patrol
Fallen Trooper Road Memorials

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

JOHN 15:13

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
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 Cooper 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 2.4 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 31 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!
Trooper John Frank 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.

Trooper Clyde Arthur 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 was killed in a car crash in Atlanta on August 15, 1952, at Howell and Houston streets.

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

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On May 25, 1962, 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 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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

**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, ½ mile north of Reynolds.

**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.

**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.
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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.
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.