



WSPAA QUARTERLY

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MEMORIAL TO OUR FALLEN OFFICERS By Lyle Bliss

We want to take this time to honor and remember fallen law enforcement officers everywhere, especially those from the Wisconsin State Patrol. The attached information was written by WSPAA Treasurer Lyle Bliss. This story summarizes the first WI State Patrol Trooper killed in the line of duty.

"I was watching some film teasers the other day. It brought back some memories that I never will forget, and I will never forget the person who was involved. His name was Donald "Pete" Pederson, Trooper Wisconsin State Patrol.

I believe that it was in August 1972. During that time period, Wisconsin had what was called a voluntary vehicle inspection program that was headed by Carl Zutz, AA4. I was one of the team captains, team of three, working out of State Patrol District #3 in Fond Du Lac, WI. Our area was quite large, reaching west from Fond du Lac to the Wisconsin River in Adams County.

During that week in August my team drove out to Green Lake and Adams County and met up with the trooper assigned to Green Lake County, Don Pederson. Don was a happy go lucky guy. He loved to laugh and always with a joke. Don had a wife and two little boys at home. We did not know at that time, it was going to be our last time seeing Don alive. We did not know that in the next few days Trooper Don Pederson would be ambushed and murdered. The first, but not the last, Wisconsin State Trooper to lose his/her life in the performance of their duties.

It was one late afternoon, Don stopped a speeding car, driven by a sixteen year old and with a teenage passenger. It was learned later that after receiving the citation from Don, the driver told his passenger, "I am going to get him". He then dropped off his passenger at his home and then drove to his home and picked up his deer rifle. He began to search for Don.

The teen found Don backed into a school yard, where he was writing his incident report of the speeding teen. The teen then drove past the school yard drive at a high rate of speed. Now what would you expect a trooper to do in a case like that? Don began the pursuit. It was a gravel road and he was at a distance as he followed the cloud of dust. Don knew the road and knew that they were approaching a T intersection.

When Don arrived at the intersection he saw the car off the road at an angle in a farm drive. Don assuming that the car was now involved in a crash, turned the corner, leaving his emergency lights on and getting out of his cruiser with his six volt lantern and his first aid kit. He walked to the car in the drive. The teen was hiding behind his car, with his rifle ready for the ambush. Don had approached within about ten feet of the car, when the teen stood up and shot Don, knocking him to the ground. Then he made sure he was dead.

The authorities tried the young teen as a juvenile, and he was found to be delinquent and sent to the juvenile detention for boys and held until he was 25 years old. Because he was convicted as a juvenile he was convicted of no crime. If he had been found delinquent for stealing a pack of chewing gum he could have received the same penalty. He was released and the last I knew, was living free in southern Wisconsin with no record of having committed any crime. Yes, he could possess and own a gun, as he is not felon.



FALLEN OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

I am thankful that they have now changed the laws on how juveniles can be charged. Had it been today, he may have still been in prison, where he belongs. I promised myself that I would not and cannot forget the memory of Donald C. Pederson, my friend and fellow Trooper.

My purpose of telling this story was to remind people, please do not forget the week of May 12-18, Law Enforcement Memorial Week. At least remember these fallen heroes and those men and women still serving. They are as important as our fallen heroes of the military. For those of us that have made it through to retirement, we can only be thankful to God for getting us to this point safely.

Remember, the U.S. Military protects us from foreign threats, but it is our local, county and state law enforcement officers that protect us from those that have criminal intents against us, and that enforce laws that make our communities safe for us to live in. Remember, to keep our law enforcement people in your prayers. May God have mercy upon our nation and may God Bless the U.S.A! "

Lyle Bliss, WSP Ret., 102nd FBINA

Wisconsin has suffered the loss of five Troopers in the line of duty:

Tpr. Don Pederson, 1972 – Gunshot wounds

Tpr. Gary Powless, 1980 – car/semi crash

Tpr. Debra McMenammin –1989 - struck by passing car on traffic stop

Tpr. William Schoenberger – 1993 – car/semi crash

Tpr. Jorge Dimas – 2009 – traffic crash

Please take a moment to go to the WI state Patrol website to remember these fallen Troopers. The address is:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/statepatrol/about/memoriam.htm>

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial will be holding their annual ceremony at the Memorial on The Capitol Square on May 10, 2013. This is always a moving experience and is well done. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Additional information about the WI Law Enforcement Memorial can be found at:

<http://wlem.com/>

Let us never forget those who have fallen, those who have served and those who continue to serve in the capacity of Law Enforcement.

STATE PATROL 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Wisconsin State Patrol was established in 1934. This makes 2014 the 75th Anniversary of the organization. The Division is planning to celebrate this landmark. The planning has begun. A committee has been formed to research and propose how to best celebrate this anniversary. Capt. Jeff Frenette has been selected to chair this group.

The planning is just beginning and sub-committees are being established to guide the events and activities. More information about their work and decisions will be published at a later date.

We can tell you the WSPAA has been asked to work with these committees as a resource. The Wisconsin Troopers Association has been included in a similar manner with representation on the committee.

The WSPAA is being represented by Scott Lindemann (Retired Sgt.) from Sparta, WI. Since this will be a major undertaking, do not be surprised if the WSPAA is asked for additional volunteers or ideas in the next few months for the planning of the celebration.

Stay tuned to the WSPAA News Briefs and other mailings regarding the 75th Anniversary.



Scott Lindemann, WSPAA
75th Anniversary Committee

Scott is originally from Milwaukee. He graduated in the 23rd Recruit Class in 1972. His first assignment was at the Racine Scale. Later he transferred to District 5 as a Trooper. Scott was promoted to Sergeant in La Crosse County in 1995 where he served until his retirement in 2003 after 31 years.

He was an active member of the former State Patrol Pistol Team. He was very active as a firearms instructor at the Academy. He also served on the committee to evaluate weapons when the State Patrol changed from revolvers to semi auto weapons. He was also a CPR instructor.

Scott also served for many years on the Sparta Fire Department, where he was the Chief for many years. Contact Scott at: sgklindemann@charter.net

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR APPOINTED

WSPAA President Bill Harvey has appointed Mary Albedyll as the WSPAA Membership Coordinator. Her duties will include the development and maintenance of a membership register and the coordination of recruitment and maintaining membership.

Mary will notify each State Patrol employee when they announce their upcoming retirement plans to inform them of the WSPAA. Mary plans to reach out to previous State Patrol retirees for a personal touch to recruit more WSPAA members. Mary also desires to work with the Regional Reps to recruit and maintain the membership in their area with continued camaraderie.

For those who may not know Mary, here is a short biography.

Mary G. (Brabender) Albedyll, one of eight children grew up in Madison. She graduated from Edgewood H.S., Madison Area Technical College in Supervisory Management, and the UW Certified Public Manager program at the State Patrol Academy.

She joined the State Patrol District 1 in 1975 handling the citations and warrants. In 1976, she promoted to the Payroll & Benefits position. In 1989, Mary joined the Dept. of Administration, State Prosecutor's Office as the Payroll & Benefits Coordinator on the transition team when the 400 District Attorneys became state employees. In 1998, Mary returned to State Patrol and became the P.A. Supervisor at District 1.

In 2004, DOT had a reorganization and eliminated all of the State Patrol P. A. Supervisors. Mary was hired at DOC Human Resources helping hire Probation & Parole Agents. She retired in 2011 after 36+ years of state service. In 2012, Mary returned part-time to DOC in Risk Management, running DL checks for the 10,000 DOC employees.

Mary raised two daughters who are both state employees; Tara is an Investigator and Tanya is a Grants Specialist. Mary enjoys traveling, golfing and spending time with her grandson. Contact Mary at: mgalbedyll@yahoo.com

Mary Albedyll, WSPAA
Membership Coordinator



IN THE WORKS FOR 2013 SUMMER FUN

The WSPAA Steering Committee is planning a number of enjoyable statewide activities for WSPAA members and friends this summer. Stay tuned for more information about these upcoming activities:

May - Shoot at Gander Mountain in De Forest with live ammo or simulated situations. Hosted by Phil Wenzel and Mike Jennings, Southcentral Regional Representatives

June - Summer picnic and social. Hosted by Bruce and Pat Bishop, WSPAA Vice President

July - Open house at one of WSP's most modern truck weigh stations followed by lunch at an area restaurant. Hosted by WSP

August - Visit to the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc . Hosted by Bill and Lucy Harvey, WSPAA President

Watch, too for Regional get-togethers over breakfast, lunch, dinner, or coffee

Plan to attend. Meet some old friends and make new ones. Enjoy

NEWS STORIES WANTED

We are always looking for your news stories. The WSPAA Quarterly aims to be a document of more feature stories than late breaking news. If you have an idea for a feature article, and even better if you are willing to draft the story, we would love to hear from you. Pictures are wonderful (tif or jpg format work the best). This is your Association and document.

You do not need to be an award winning writer to draft a story. We have excellent proof readers that make us look good.

Send ideas and stories to bjyoung@charter.net. We will take these anytime. Some of the articles here were started before the Dec 2012 publication was distributed.

THANK YOU TO THE PCO'S

Throughout the State Patrol there are many position descriptions, job duties and responsibilities. One group of people who rarely get recognized, is the Police Communications Operators (PCO's). In many cases they have been known to be referred to as "The Heart of the District".

Who takes to call from the local law enforcement agency, the stranded motorist, the person who just crashed or from the Trooper or Inspector who is need of assistance or information? **The PCO!**

As a Trooper or Inspector who do you call for back-up, a wrecker, fire truck or ambulance? **A PCO!**

Who takes calls from the media about that long traffic backup? **The PCO!**

Even as the technology allows Troopers and Inspectors to do more with in car computers, more information and coordination is needed and handled by the PCO.

NOTHING can beat or surpass a PCO that has a desire to do a better job, finding ways to do it quicker and more efficiently and coordinating with their co-workers to just keep making things better.

As we know, not everything is life threatening and an emergency. Over the years a number of unusual situations have presented themselves. The PCO's have dealt with these as well. Some examples of these shared with us are:

- One of our normally, very calm and collected troopers started yelling on the radio one morning that there were a herd of deer jumping off the bridge right at him on the I-90 bridge at highway N near Stoughton. It took a bit of clarification and number of radio calls to get all the info and what was going on. Apparently, it was the time of year when the deer were in their rut and they all came running out of the field and right over the side of the bridge and at him. We were really surprised and excited too as nothing ever seemed to bother him, not drug calls, gun calls, etc.
- The same Trooper, on the last day he worked, made a stop near the Badger Interchange and as he opened his door to get out of his cruiser, a semi took the door off. All he was left with was his hand in mid-air where the door had been. No injuries but a sign from above that it definitely is time to retire.
- A usual call in the crop growing season is a phone call to complain about the crop sprinklers along I-90 in Rock County sending "water" onto the highway..... It's just plain water!!!!
- We received a call of fireworks going off on the interstate one day; it turned out to be a lady and her children that were in a motorist assist vehicle. The kids became bored so she was lighting off "snake" type fireworks to entertain them.
- There was a call of a UFO over DeForest which turned out to be a Black Hawk helicopter hovering in the area.
- The huge snow storm a few years ago with miles and miles of traffic stuck and backed up resulted in a lot of radio and telephone traffic. Some of the names given to it were Snow Gate, Fog Gate, Water Gate. Some of the callers insisted that we have Troopers bring out shovels and/or porta-potties. Unfortunately it did result in two fatal crashes and from the looks of it, numerous cameras all over the interstate system so that most of it can be checked out on separate monitors.
- On the same subject you wouldn't believe the amount of travelers that call dispatch and "insist" the we get salt trucks out for them!!

The PCO's are faced with a variety of situations every shift. The uncertainty of the situations facing them is unlimited. Many times it is 1 or 2 PCO's with an entire Post of Troopers and Inspectors working. PCO's cannot call back-up.

Let's take a moment to say "Thank You" for the dedicated service of the PCO's.

“THANK YOU”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

by Bruce Bishop

Mike Moore was born in Texas in 1944 while his dad was serving in the Army during World War 2. He returned to Wisconsin as an infant and grew up in Lone Rock, WI. Mike left his early job as a Borden milk distributor in 1967 and joined the Wisconsin State Patrol. He graduated with Academy Recruit Class 16. Thirty years of service followed, wearing every WSP rank from trooper to major, finishing his career as Director of the Academy and overseeing the classes of 41 through 44. He attended NUTI and the Southern Police Institute Administrative Officer Courses.

Having been raised in a Wisconsin River village, Mike had a love of the water and boats. It seemed natural to include that in his later year activities. He and Ruth bought their first houseboat in 1989. After retirement Mike worked a part time job training rental clients to operate houseboats on the Mississippi River for Huck's Houseboat Rentals. In 1996 they purchased their present houseboat, a 14x44 ft Gibson, which is named "The Moore The Merrier".

It is powered with twin 350 engines and a 6.5 kw generator which results in about 1/2 mile to the gallon of gasoline. The craft sleeps six and has all the conveniences of a small cottage. It has carried it's crew many miles up and down the Mississippi River. So, with that in mind, picture summers in retirement drifting down the Mississippi, docking in quaint river towns, picnicking on sandbars enjoying a variety of beaches, and catching dinner from your back porch. Mike and Ruth enjoyed it so much that in 2003 they sold their home in New Lisbon and made the boat their home.

"The Moore The Merrier's" home port is in LaCrosse. As winter threatens, the boat is dry-docked in winter storage and the Moores are off to the Harris chain of lakes in Tavares, FL. The Moores have many hobbies to keep them busy in retirement. In addition to cruising on the houseboat, they have traveled extensively in the US, having been to all fifty states. They have also traveled in Europe and cruised in the Caribbean. They are active in many church activities including a mission trip to Jamaica. They do considerable work for friends and neighbors in interior design and construction projects. Add to this three children and eight grandchildren. Their two girls and families live in WI, while their son Jeffrey lives in Colorado with his family. Jeff is retired as an Air Force Lt. Colonel and a grandson, Ben in the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

So, if you are near LaCrosse in the summer or Tavares, FL in the winter, check in on this couple who have found the magic of a Mark Twain retirement and enjoy it to the fullest. I'm sure they will have stories you would enjoy. You will find them at the LaCrosse Boat harbor from April to October, or at 31709 Blanton Lane, Tavares, FL 32778 from November through March. Their e-mail address is mrmoores302@aol.com, or phone 352-552-0897.

SMOOTH SAILING MOORES!



Ruth and Mike Moore



The Moore The Merrier

EVENTS

Regularly Scheduled Gatherings:

First Thursday of the Month - Anyone retired from the State Patrol is invited. This is an informal gathering, no reservations needed, just show up at 9:00 am at the Green Lantern, McFarland, WI.

Last Thursday of Even Numbered Months - WISDOT/DNR Retiree Breakfast at 9:30 am at "The Prime" in Trego, WI. Contact Tim Heffernan (tpretim@charter.net).

Monthly— ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) - contact Larry Doxrude for date, time and location. Everyone welcome. Larry Doxrude: ldoxrude@charter.net

Second Tuesday of each month—Retiree Breakfast at 7:30 am at the Hwy 51 Truck Stop ((I39 & CTH Q) south of Merrill. Contact Bill Harvey at lois3545@aol.com If you are attending.

If you know of additional events or gatherings of State Patrol alumni, please let us know so we can post it for all to see or attend. Send these items to bjyoung@charter.net. Send items in as soon as you hear of them. Thank you.

WSPAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ New Member OR

Street address: _____ Renewal

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Current DSP Assignment: _____ Retired/Separated: _____

Highest Rank: _____

Dues Paid : _____ Full Member OR Associate Member:
\$15/year - (Check one)

Return to: Lyle Bliss, 1749 Mango St. NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905-3336

Membership Contacts: Mary Albedyll at mgalbedyll@yahoo.com OR

Lyle Bliss at LRBliss57@gmail.com

Email: WSPAlumni.Association@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.wspalumni.org

