

Colonel Neil Kirkman Retires



Colonel Kirkman, Director of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles retired on February 19, 1970, on his 78th birthday. The operations which Colonel Kirkman instituted served as an example for other highway patrols across the nation.

The Colonel began his career of public service in 1936 as head of the State Road Department Patrol. He was asked to organize and train the FHP in 1939 after its creation by the Legislature.

In 1945, after his release from military service, he rejoined the Patrol as Director of the Department of Public Safety and at the time of his retirement was Senior Director in the United States.

Colonel Kirkman was a charter member of the American Legion of Florida and was State Commander in 1923-24. He was a member of the Florida Peace Officers Association; a member and past chairman of the State and Provincial Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; past President of Region II, American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators, and National President of the American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators; member of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances, the Vehicle Equipment Safety Committee of the American Legion, Elks and a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner.

Upon retirement, Colonel Kirkman was presented a scroll with a message of sincere appreciation and well wishes for the future, signed by 1,760 loyal employees of the Department.

Colonel Kirkman died in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, November 15, 1973.

