

Executive Director Dave Kerner

Welcomes You

TO THE



**FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL
8TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**



**HILTON PALM BEACH PBI
SATURDAY JULY 20, 2024**



SPONSORED BY THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL ADVISORY COUNCIL AND AUXILIARY



The Florida Highway Patrol Executive Staff welcomes all nominees, members, distinguished guests, and their families to the FHP 8th Annual Awards Banquet. We are proud of your hard work, achievements, and dedication to the Florida Highway Patrol's mission of keeping Florida's roadways safe and always upholding our motto – Courtesy * Service * Protection. Congratulations to each of our award winners.



Awards Program Agenda

**Welcome by Lt. Colonel Cory Harrison
Invocation by FHP Auxiliary Major Dwight Clodfelter
Presentation of Colors by the FHP Honor Guard
Pledge of Allegiance by Lt. Colonel Cory Harrison
National Anthem by Alessandra Feola**

**Opening Remarks by:
Colonel Gary L. Howze, II
Executive Director Dave Kerner
Auxiliary Lt. Colonel Danny Barber
Advisory Council President Steve Barnett
FHP Lt. Colonel Robert "Bob" Chandler**

Dinner

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Terry Lyles
Announcer: Luli Ortiz**

Awards Categories

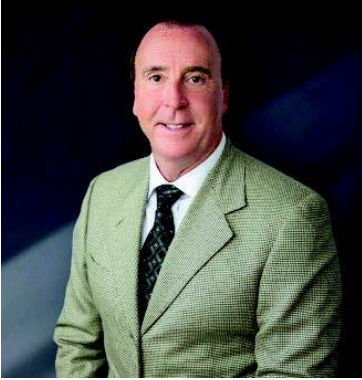
Criminal Investigator of the Year	James Fulford Award
Traffic Homicide Investigator of the Year	Life-Saving Award
Instructor of the Year	Silver Star Award
Criminal Interdiction Unit of the Year	Purple Heart Award
Public Service Award	Medal of Valor
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Excellence Award	Civilian Employee of the Year
DUI Achievement Award	State Law Enforcement Dispatcher of the Year
Hurd-Smith Award	FHP Auxiliary Trooper of the Year
	Trooper of the Year

Closing Remarks by Colonel Gary L. Howze, II

Benediction by FHP Auxiliary Major Dwight Clodfelter

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Terry Lyles



Dr. Terry Lyles holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is recognized as a national/international educator, author and speaker to universities, schools, Fortune 500 Companies, world-class athletes, and public audiences. He teaches groups of all ages how to Navigate Life Storms through life balance training.

Dr. Lyles has trained hundreds of individuals including Fire Rescue workers in and around Ground Zero, International Forensic Medical teams in the Asian torn Tsunami area and the United States Air Force Space Command, sharing his time-tested, scientifically measured approach to stress utilization.

Major corporations have also benefited from this training technology such as Daimler Chrysler, Banana Republic, Macy's West, Pfizer, Universal Studios and Tommy Hilfiger, to name just a few. Dr. Lyles has appeared on NBC, ABC, USA Today, CNN, Headlines News, The Big Idea with Donny Deutsch and FOX NEWS, and in U.S. News & World Report as a Corporate Performance Enhancement and Life-Balance Specialist, and hosted a premiere talk show sponsored by Success Magazine, and was heard as the "Stress Doctor" in South Florida.

Announcer
Luli Ortiz



Luli joined the CBS12 News team in September 2016 as a General Assignment Reporter and anchors CBS12 News at 3 p.m. Luli came to CBS 12 after transferring from another Sinclair Broadcast Group station located in Steubenville, OH, where she was a full-time reporter and weekend anchor for two years.

Luli has reported on some of the most pressing news events while at CBS 12, including the mass school shooting in Parkland and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Luli has also spent the last eight years covering hurricanes, political campaigns, public safety, and schools, and, perhaps most importantly, has exposed the heinous acts of sex trafficking and exploitation of children in her reporting.

During her 10-year journalism career, Luli has garnered awards and recognition from the Florida Association of Broadcast Journalists and regional Emmys. She is a University of Miami graduate with Communications and Psychology degrees.

Luli is bilingual and a Miami native with Cuban and Puerto Rican roots. She is passionate about covering stories of inspiration, service to veterans, and domestic violence awareness/prevention.

When she is not in the studio or out in the field storytelling, Luli enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with her family and friends.

Award Nominees

Criminal Investigator of the Year

Trooper Robert W. Ivey, Troop Q, BCII



In 2023, Trooper Robert W. Ivey led a six-month criminal investigation, "Operation Trading Spaces," involving fraud with Florida vehicle handicap placards. The investigation revealed that the primary suspect was forging a doctor's signature on application forms to obtain over 700 Florida Disabled Person Parking Permits fraudulently. Ivey completed 7 subpoenas and 8 search warrants on social media platforms, such as Facebook, email, and cloud accounts, as well as a residence. The criminal investigation was presented to and adopted by the Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution and resulted in 11 arrest warrants. Ivey's criminal charges in this case were Organized Scheme to Defraud, Uttering a Forged Instrument, Fraudulent Use of Personal Identification Information, and Money Laundering, which resulted in over 80 felony charges. The main suspect in this investigation was adjudicated guilty.

Traffic Homicide Investigator of the Year

Corporal Shaun R. Lattinville, Troop G, BCII, SIRT



On October 26, 2023, Corporal Shaun R. Lattinville was assigned a traffic homicide investigation involving a hit-and-run fatality with six vehicles on I-75. The driver who caused the crash fled the scene in a commercial motor vehicle. Lattinville coordinated with other FHP THI Investigators in numerous counties across the state to locate the at-fault driver and vehicle. The involved semi-trailer was located in Fort Myers. The truck tractor and driver were located on I-10 at the rest area in Santa Rosa County, where the hit-and-run driver was trying to leave Florida. Evidence, including videos and cellular telephone data, collected through the investigation placed the driver and his vehicle at the scene of the fatality crash. Lattinville's investigation resulted in the driver of the hit-and-run commercial motor vehicle being charged with three counts of leaving the scene of a crash with death, five counts of leaving the scene of a crash with injuries, and six counts of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage. The suspect was arrested on November 28, 2023. The case is currently awaiting trial.

Instructor of the Year

Sergeant Melissa Oman, Academy



Sergeant Melissa Oman joined the FHP Academy Staff in 2004, where she has effectively developed numerous classes of Academy recruits, molding trainees into professionals and preparing them for the rigors of a law enforcement career. Sergeant Oman is greatly respected by her recruits and peers, who recognize her enthusiasm and passion for training others, especially in Firearms and Active Threat Training. Sergeant Oman constantly receives high evaluation ratings from her trainers as she has a calm and professional method of conveying her knowledge and

experience to those attending her training.

Due to her exceptional knowledge and professionalism, Sergeant Oman is assigned as the Florida Highway Patrol representative to the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Council Firearms Training Committee, where she partners with other law enforcement leaders to develop training and standards for all recruits and criminal justice professionals throughout the state.

Auxiliary Instructor of the Year

Auxiliary Major John Froscher, Training Academy



Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary Major John Froscher joined the training staff at the Academy at the end of 2022 to assist in administering, updating, and overseeing the FHP Auxiliary Basic Recruit Program. The Auxiliary Basic Recruit Academy was administered virtually in the evening from the Academy to Auxiliary recruits throughout the state. The training began in mid-August, with the recruits meeting three nights weekly from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Upon completing the 13-week classroom portion, recruits met each weekend from December to March.

Froscher often volunteers more working hours to assist the FHP than the average paid employee. In 2023, Froscher dedicated over 2,400 hours, which dealt with onboarding, scheduling, and training two Auxiliary Basic Recruit Classes. In addition to updating and facilitating each portion of the recruit training, Froscher managed to standardize and train incumbent members in post-basic and advanced training to include active threats, utilizing AEDs, trauma response, and response to resistance de-escalation techniques. Froscher's dedication and effort to training at the Academy has enhanced FHP Auxiliary professionalism and excellence and has breathed new life into the program.

Contraband Interdiction Unit Team of the Year



Trooper Wesley R. Kelly
Trooper Christopher R. Nottingham, Troop C, CIU

In 2023, Trooper Wesley R. Kelly and Trooper Christopher R. Nottingham conducted numerous traffic stops, which resulted in interdiction cases and fraud investigations. One case involved two Romanian Nationals who were determined to be in the United States illegally, one of whom also had an active Interpol warrant out of Sweden. Kelly and Nottingham's investigation ultimately led to the discovery of 4,927 credit card numbers with associated Person Identification Numbers on the Romanian National's computers.

Additionally, during 2023, Kelly and Nottingham were responsible for the seizure of over 107 pounds of Marijuana, 32 pounds of Methamphetamine, 35 pounds of Cocaine, 21 Guns, 33 Vehicles, approximately \$118,000.00 in U.S. Currency, and 4 Human Smuggling Cases with 10 Undocumented Aliens. Their effort resulted in 10,344 Felony Charges being filed.

Public Service Award



Lieutenant Gregory S. Bueno, Troop F

Since 2011, Lieutenant Gregory S. Bueno has been the Public Affairs Officer in Troop F, which spans 10 counties in southwest Florida. Bueno's regular duties not only include being available 24/7 to his command and the media, but they also involve responding to questions from the public and the media, issuing press releases, coordinating social media and traffic advisories, coordinating outreach safety efforts to the public, and ultimately representing the Patrol with excellence as the voice of traffic safety in his community.

Bueno regularly volunteers in his community and is active with MADD of SW Florida, Safe Kids of SW Florida, and Thursday Night Mowing Club. Bueno routinely participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, raising money for the Special Olympics. He is also heavily involved in the Annual Florida Tour De Force bike ride, which honors and supports fallen law enforcement family members.

Bueno actively gives back to his community. In October 2023, Bueno celebrated the 3rd birthday of a young boy battling cancer by making him an official "Junior Trooper." The "Junior Trooper" was dressed in a Class A uniform and patrolled the hallway of the Troop F station in a brand new, custom-made 2023 FHP SUV. During Christmas 2023, Bueno coordinated a sneaker drive for needy families.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Excellence Award



Trooper William Brian Lundy, Troop I

During 2023, Trooper William Brian Lundy conducted 584 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which 96 were Level I inspections. Lundy had 601 Out-of-Service violations and documented 3,519 violations, well above the national average. Lundy issued 257 commercial citations, 50 of which were issued for vehicles determined to exceed legal weight. While performing his regular job responsibilities, Lundy has become a subject matter expert in discovering fraudulent VINs and locating stolen commercial semi-trucks and vehicle trailers. Lundy identified and recovered 21 stolen trailers with fraudulent VINs and one stolen truck tractor in 2023, exceeding \$1 million in asset recoveries. Two of these cases have resulted in leads for active investigations. Recognizing Lundy's expertise, other law enforcement agencies have requested him to assist in their investigative efforts against cargo theft and stolen vehicles.

DUI Achievement Award (DUI 100)

Trooper Jordan A. Capela, Troop G	175
Trooper Taylor M. Ledford, Troop F	122
Trooper Zachary Cupples, Troop A	109
Trooper Kenneth R. Montgomery, Troop G	103
Trooper Joseph E. Farley, Troop G	101



Trooper Taylor Ledford
Troop F



Trooper Zachary Cupples
Troop A



Trooper Kenneth R. Montgomery
Troop G



Trooper Joseph E. Farley
Troop G

Hurd-Smith Award



Trooper Jordan A. Capela, Troop G – 175 Arrests

The Hurd-Smith Award is given to the trooper with the most Driving Under the Influence arrests in a year. This award was named in honor of two troopers who were killed in the line of duty by drunk drivers. The Hurd-Smith Award is presented annually in memory of Trooper Kimberly A. Hurd, who was killed by a drunk driver on July 16, 1992, and Trooper Robert G. Smith, who was killed by a drunk driver on July 26, 1997.

James Fulford Award

Presented by FHPA



Trooper Kevin S. Brown, Troop D

Trooper Kevin S. Brown is a multi-talented and accomplished trooper who completes his responsibilities professionally, diligently, and enthusiastically. Brown's primary assignment is to Troop D's motorcycle squad, where he is responsible for traffic enforcement and special details. In his spare time, Brown facilitates training and mentorship in Troop D, where he serves as a primary instructor for Motorcycle Operations, Dignitary Details, Taser, Active Threat, Firearms, First Aid, Below 100, and other general law enforcement training. Brown additionally serves as the Troop's Assistant Troop Training Coordinator and Assistant Team Leader to the Special Response Team. Brown also serves as the FHP Troop D - District Auxiliary Coordinator, coordinating training and providing leadership. Brown is always available to provide guidance, direction, and support to the Auxiliary.

Life-Saving Award

Trooper Donald E. Dean, Trooper Brandon S. Sheffield, Troop H



On January 24, 2023, while patrolling Interstate 10, Trooper Brandon S. Sheffield observed a vehicle on the interstate shoulder. While stopping to check on the occupants, Sheffield found the female driver in a state of distress and her husband unresponsive, not breathing, and with no pulse. Sheffield requested EMS, pulled the male out of the vehicle, laid him on the ground, and began CPR. Trooper Donald E. Dean soon arrived and took over CPR while Sheffield applied an automated external defibrillator (AED), delivering a shock to the male, followed by continuing CPR. Troopers continued to rotate between AED applications and CPR until Leon County EMS arrived and assumed primary care. Both Troopers assisted in loading the male onto the gurney. Dean escorted the man's wife to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and assisted her inside to await updates on her husband's condition.



SLED Supervisor Serine J. Singson, FMRCC



On February 4, 2023, Dispatcher Supervisor Serine J. Singson was providing guidance to a dispatcher while simultaneously training a new hire when she overheard another dispatcher's unusual coughing. When asked if she was okay, the dispatcher could not audibly answer. Singson approached the other dispatcher and saw that she was distressed and choking. Singson performed an abdominal thrust and dislodged the food, allowing the dispatcher to regain her breath.

Life-Saving Award

Trooper Grant D. Galloway, Trooper Danielle M. Poulin, Troop C



On February 4, 2023, Trooper Grant D. Galloway and Trooper Danielle M. Poulin responded to back up Trooper Steven Turner in a pursuit involving a fleeing felon. After a Precision Immobilization Technique maneuver was successfully deployed, the suspects fled the vehicle on foot, with Galloway and Turner giving chase. Galloway apprehended the driver of the fleeing vehicle while Turner chased the passenger. Turner was attacked by and engaged

in a gunfight with the passenger, who was subdued; however, Turner was shot in the abdomen. Poulin and Galloway ran to Turner and began to treat Turner's injury by packing the gunshot wound with hemostatic gauze and maintaining pressure to stop the bleeding until EMS transported Turner to the hospital. The surgeon at St. Joe's Hospital noted that the hemostatic packing of the gunshot wound was the best that he had ever seen, and the immediate care for the gunshot wound prevented further bleeding and injury to Turner.



Trooper Jose E. Malave-Alcantara, Troop D



On March 9, 2023, Trooper Jose E. Malave-Alcantara was working off-duty employment when he was notified that a construction truck struck a pedestrian construction worker. Malave-Alcantara observed the male subject face down in the middle of the ramp with what appeared to be a severe head injury and a large amount of blood around his facial area. The subject's pulse went from being very weak to no pulse. Malave-Alcantara started life-saving measures, including chest

Life-Saving Award

compressions and applying the automated external defibrillator (AED) to resuscitate the subject until Orange County Fire Rescue arrived and assumed primary care.

Trooper Billy Ortiz-Otero, Troop C



On March 26, 2023, Trooper Billy Ortiz-Otero arrived at his residence and observed a truck traveling at a high rate of speed and honking its horn to gain Ortiz-Otero's attention. The truck stopped, and the driver frantically advised that his infant son was not breathing. Ortiz-Otero immediately began First Aid, performing life-saving measures while notifying Tampa Bay Regional Communications Center and requesting EMS. Ortiz-Otero rendered First Aid for approximately ten minutes and, realizing EMS had not arrived, decided to transport the infant and the infant's aunt, who was identified as a retired nurse, to the Oak Hill Regional Hospital to save the infant's life. Upon arrival, hospital staff determined that a small piece of ingested plastic wrapper obstructed the infant's airway. The infant remained hospitalized for monitoring and was later released.

Trooper James R. Allen, Jr., Troop I



On March 27, 2023, Trooper James R. Allen responded to a hit-and-run crash. Upon his arrival on the scene, he observed a vehicle with an injured woman lying on her back. The woman, a pedestrian, had sustained severe injuries to her legs and arms after being struck by a truck tractor semi-trailer combination. Observing the devastating injuries to the victim's lower extremities and the large amount of blood loss, Allen immediately applied a tourniquet to stop blood loss and requested EMS. Allen kept the woman calm as Gadsden

Life-Saving Award

County EMS arrived and continued to assist the victim onto a backboard and stretcher. Gadsden County EMS transported the victim to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, where the Emergency Room Physician advised the woman's family that the tourniquet Allen applied saved the woman's life.

Trooper Willie P. Rittenhouse, Troop I



On March 28, 2023, Trooper Willie P. Rittenhouse overheard a BOLO from a motor carrier who had been unable to reach one of their truck drivers and was concerned for his welfare. Rittenhouse immediately responded to the last known area where the truck had been located and found the truck. Rittenhouse made entry into the truck through an unlocked door, where he found the driver unresponsive in the sleeper berth. Rittenhouse called

for EMS and began administering first aid to the driver, who drifted in and out of consciousness. Upon EMS arrival, the driver was transported to the local hospital and treated for a life-threatening low blood sugar level.

Trooper Kevin M. Davis, Troop B



On April 2, 2023, Trooper Kevin M. Davis responded to a traffic crash involving a motorcycle striking a deer in the roadway, with the motorcycle operator suffering life-threatening injuries. Davis assisted EMS in providing medical aid to the motorcyclist by applying a tourniquet to his severed leg as he began to lose consciousness due to blood loss. Davis coordinated Life Flight to the crash scene and created a safe landing zone for the helicopter. Davis's quick response in aiding the motorcyclist and coordinating Life Flight helped save the

motorcyclist's life.

Life-Saving Award



Corporal Blake E. Minton, Troop F

(See Trooper of the Year)



Trooper Hector E. Cortes, Troop K

On July 1, 2023, Trooper Hector E. Cortes responded to a vehicle crash where he observed that one of the occupants was ejected and the other two were entrapped inside the vehicle. Cortes recognized that the ejected person's left leg was severely bleeding, so he immediately applied a tourniquet and notified the Lake Worth Regional Communications Center to request EMS. Cortes continued to aid the occupants until Miami Dade County Fire Rescue arrived and assumed primary care.

Life-Saving Award



Trooper Joseph N. Santos, Troop D

On July 9, 2023, Trooper Joseph N. Santos responded to a traffic crash involving a pedestrian struck by a vehicle. Upon arrival, Santos observed the pedestrian bleeding heavily from his left leg. Santos applied a tourniquet to his leg, preventing further bleeding. Santos monitored the victim until EMS arrived and assumed primary care. Without using the tourniquet, the pedestrian may have succumbed to their injuries due to blood loss.

Life-Saving Award



Sergeant Joshua J. Malloy, Trooper Eric J. Schaub (K9 Titan), Trooper Jeremy M. Fields, Trooper Wesley R. Kelly, Corporal Ramin Sulaiman, Troop C, CIU.

On July 19, 2023, while Troop C CIU units were engaged in a high-speed pursuit with a suspect transporting several kilos of Cocaine, two FHP K9 units were involved in a rollover. Trooper Eric J. Schaub and Trooper Jeremy M. Fields responded to the trooper trapped inside his overturned unit, cutting him out of the car and stabilizing him until EMS arrived. They also secured and cared for his K9 partner. Sergeant Joshua J. Malloy, Trooper Wesley R. Kelly, and Corporal Ramin Sulaiman responded to the second FHP K9 unit. Sulaiman was able to extinguish a fire that started under the vehicle. At the same time, Malloy and Kelly pried the driver's door open and pulled the Trooper to safety through the window as the fire reignited. The second K9 was secured from the damaged FHP unit and comforted.

Life-Saving Award



Trooper Eric J. Schaub (K9 Titan) and Trooper Jeremy M. Fields, Troop C, CIU

On August 9, 2023, Trooper Eric J. Schaub and Trooper Jeremy M. Fields were conducting a traffic stop when an elderly female stopped behind them in an SUV. Schaub approached the barely conscious driver, talking to herself and unresponsive to Schaub's questions. Schaub observed that the vehicle's air vents were blowing extremely hot air and that the interior of the vehicle was sweltering. The driver's skin was hot to the touch, but she was not sweating and was unable to answer questions, all consistent with symptoms of incipient heat stroke. Fields assisted Schaub in requesting EMS and applying a cool, wet towel around the driver's neck to lower her core temperature. Upon arrival of EMS, the driver was determined to have a body temperature of 103.5 degrees. EMS Supervisor Hoogewind stated that Schaub's and Fields' quick actions made a significant difference between the driver suffering a major heat stroke with life-altering injuries versus a treatable condition. Fields subsequently contacted the driver's son in Las Vegas and notified the son of his mother's condition.

Life-Saving Award

Trooper Karson J. Jacobson, Troop A



On August 12, 2023, Trooper Karson J. Jacobson noticed a vehicle facing the wrong way on the shoulder with its headlights activated. Jacobson investigated and observed two people from the vehicle on the phone with 911 reporting an unknown male subject with injuries lying in the grass. Jacobson assessed the scene and observed a male subject lying on his back with traumatic injuries from a crash. Jacobson began life-saving measures while he contacted the Tallahassee Regional Communications Center to request EMS. After observing that the male had agonal breathing and no pulse, Jacobson activated his AED and performed CPR for approximately 4 minutes until EMS arrived and assumed primary care. The victim regained a pulse and was transported to Fort Walton Beach Hospital to recover.

Trooper Phanudej Saengchote, Troop D



On September 26, 2023, Trooper Phanudej Saengchote encountered a single-vehicle traffic crash (van vs utility pole). The vehicle's front end had severe damage and was covered by smoke from the engine. Sparks were flying from the electric wires attached to the broken utility pole. Saengchote notified the Sanford Regional Communications Center and located an unconscious male slumped over the van's driver seat. Saengchote determined that the driver was not breathing and did not have a pulse. With the assistance of two bystanders, Saengchote moved the driver to a safe area and conducted CPR until Orange County EMS arrived and assumed primary care. The driver was transported to the Orlando Regional Medical Center for medical treatment.

Life-Saving Award

Trooper Joshua J. Davenport, Troop C



On September 26, 2023, Trooper Joshua J. Davenport conducted a welfare check on a vehicle he observed on the shoulder of US Highway 19, where he found a female holding an infant who was turning blue and appeared to be suffering a medical emergency. Davenport took possession of the infant for assessment and notified the Tampa Bay Regional Communications Center to request EMS. Recognizing the infant appeared to have a blocked airway, Davenport delivered several "back blows," which cleared the infant's airway and allowed normal breathing. Davenport monitored the infant, observing that normal skin tone returned until Citrus County EMS arrived and assumed primary care. The infant and mother were transported to a local hospital, where the infant made a full recovery.

Trooper Kathleen A. Grossett-Tate, Troop E



On October 22, 2023, Trooper Kathleen A. Grossett-Tate encountered a suspicious vehicle on the overpass of I-75. Grossett-Tate ran the vehicle's tag number, which revealed that the driver was a missing female. Grossett-Tate immediately engaged the driver in conversation. However, the female attempted to flee by driving away, only to jump out of the moving vehicle moments later. The female positioned herself on a concrete barrier wall of the overpass approximately 45 feet above I-75, threatening to take her own life. Grossett-Tate engaged in dialogue with the distressed female to diffuse the situation, but the female jumped from the overpass. Grossett-Tate grabbed the female's arm, temporarily preventing her from falling onto I-75 below. The female struggled and struck Grossett-Tate's hand, causing injury and release of her

Life-Saving Award

grip. The female fell onto the I-75 Northbound lanes below, where troopers stopped traffic and rendered aid. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue responded and transported the female to Jackson Trauma Center.

Sergeant Ramin Sulaiman, Troop C



On October 29, 2023, while off-duty, Sergeant Ramin Sulaiman was present when an altercation broke out, and shots were fired into a crowded area. Upon hearing the gunshots, Sulaiman approached several victims and began tending to their injuries. Sulaiman identified a victim with a gunshot wound to their lower leg and utilized towels to apply pressure to the wound to help control the bleeding for 15 minutes until EMS arrived to assume primary care. In total, two victims died, and 16 people sustained injuries

during this incident.

Life-Saving Award



Trooper Jeffery S. Ryan, Troop I
Trooper Joshua B. Allen, Troop B

On November 1, 2023, while deployed to Eagle Pass, Texas for Operation Lone Star, Trooper Jeffrey S. Ryan observed a mother and two female children, ages 7 and 12, cross the river into the US from Mexico in 37-degree weather. The mother was carrying the 7 y/o, who was unresponsive and in apparent medical distress. Ryan, FHP Trooper Joshua B. Allen, Texas DPS Trooper David Muskiet, and the Texas National Guard began depressing the Concertina Wire to assist the family. As troopers finally reached the family, they had to untangle the 7 y/o from the wire. Ryan passed the limp child to Allen and Muskiet for medical assistance. They wrapped the child in a thermal blanket, placed her in a patrol vehicle, and turned the heat on high to warm the child. Unable to find EMS immediately, Allen and Muskiet transported the child to a medical center. During the trip, the child began to lose consciousness and had to be repeatedly awakened to remain alert. Upon arrival, the child's core temperature was 84 degrees. The 7 y/o would have indeed succumbed to hypothermia and dehydration but for the actions of all three troopers involved. Ryan ensured that the mother and 12 y/o were later taken to the hospital, where the 12 y/o was also admitted for exposure and dehydration.

Life-Saving Award

Trooper Robert W. Ivey, Troop Q, BCII



On December 6, 2023, while off-duty with his family, Trooper Robert W. Ivey's wife approached him and advised that there was a male subject unconscious on the floor in the back of the store. Ivey determined that the subject was not breathing and had no pulse. Ivey rendered CPR until the Tallahassee Police Department and Tallahassee Fire Department arrived and assumed primary care. Ivey assisted with the removal of the subject's shirt and placing the AED leads on the subject's chest. Leon County EMS transported the subject to the hospital for further treatment.

Sergeant Charles L. Alexander and Trooper Carl T. Manning, Troop A



On December 16, 2023, Sergeant Charles L. Alexander observed a truck parked on the shoulder of a bridge with a male inside. Alexander contacted FHP dispatch to report the situation. Trooper Carl T. Manning heard the call and responded to the scene. The male had walked toward the concrete barrier overlooking the edge of the bridge and expressed a desire to harm himself. Alexander conversed calmly with the subject and assured him that help was available. Manning joined Alexander, cautiously approaching the male as he grasped the wall and expressed his desire to jump. Alexander and Manning restrained the individual to prevent him from reaching the edge of the bridge. The subject was handcuffed and moved to a safer location before being Baker Acted and was able to receive mental health care treatment.



Life-Saving Award



Trooper Andrew B. Gillespie, Auxiliary Sergeant Bryant Thornton, Sergeant Stephen W. Coody, Troop K

On December 25, 2023, Trooper Andrew B. Gillespie was at the Turkey Lake Service Plaza when he was approached by an elderly female who requested medical assistance for her unconscious sister. Gillespie immediately notified the Lake Worth Regional Communications Center and requested EMS. As Gillespie determined the lady was not breathing and had no pulse, off-duty Auxiliary Sergeant Bryant Thornton arrived on the scene, and together, they removed the female from the vehicle to initiate CPR. As Gillespie and Thornton were rendering CPR, Sergeant Stephen W. Coody arrived on the scene and administered an AED. The three members continued to render CPR until Orange County Fire Rescue arrived and assumed primary care. The female was transported to Health Central for further treatment.

Silver Star



Trooper Matthew F. Hannon, Troop B, CIU

On February 7, 2023, Trooper Matthew F. Hannon conducted a traffic stop on a truck tractor-semi-trailer combination based on information that the driver possessed multiple active warrants for Kidnapping and Rape. The law enforcement agency leading the investigation electronically tracked the suspect and vehicle and relayed the location to FHP. After Hannon verified the vehicle at a fueling station, he positioned his patrol vehicle in front of the suspect vehicle to prevent any further movement from the area. As Hannon approached the truck, the driver exited the driver's seat and stopped in the open doorway. The driver was given verbal commands to proceed from the truck, which were refused immediately. The driver quickly reentered the cab portion of the truck and attempted to close the vehicle door. Hannon immediately prevented the driver from closing the door and continued to give verbal commands for the driver to exit the vehicle. During the encounter, the driver grabbed a loaded firearm from the truck and pointed it directly at Hannon. Hannon tactically exited the doorway of the truck and took cover behind a nearby pole before discharging his handgun at the suspect. After backup arrived, the suspect was located unresponsive in the truck. Hannon assisted other first responders in rendering medical aid to the suspect.

Silver Star



Trooper Joseph Adam Runner, Troop C

On February 25, 2023, Trooper Joseph Adam Runner was dispatched to the area of I-75 and I-275 in Pasco County for a vehicle reportedly traveling northbound in the southbound lanes of I-75. When Runner located the wrong-way vehicle, it was traveling head-on toward his patrol car at a high rate of speed. Runner quickly activated his emergency lights to alert the wrong-way vehicle and all other traffic. Runner maneuvered his patrol vehicle into the vehicle's path, causing the two vehicles to collide. When the driver of the wrong-way vehicle attempted to flee again, Runner positioned his patrol vehicle to prevent the wrong-way driver from traveling the wrong way again, resulting in a second collision. At this point, Runner took the driver into custody, ending the imminent threat to the motoring public. Among other charges, the driver was ultimately charged with Driving Under the Influence.

Silver Star

Trooper Luke W. Krupinski, Troop D

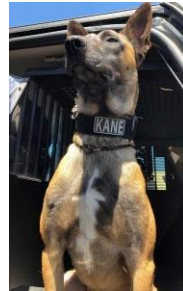


On July 24, 2023, the Sanford Regional Communications Center broadcasted a “BOLO” for a westbound vehicle in the eastbound lanes of I-4. Trooper Luke W. Krupinski was the first to arrive in the area and observed the wrong-way vehicle approaching his patrol vehicle on the outside shoulder of the entrance ramp from SR 423 to I-4. Krupinski attempted to block the vehicle from reaching the busy intersection of SR 423 by positioning his patrol vehicle in front of the wrong-way vehicle with his lights and siren engaged. As the driver of the wrong-way vehicle swerved to the right and into the active travel lanes of the entrance ramp to evade Krupinski's patrol vehicle, Krupinski turned his patrol vehicle into the path of the wrong-way vehicle to stop it from entering the busy intersection of SR 423. This act ultimately disabled the wrong-way vehicle. The driver of the wrong-way vehicle was subsequently Baker Acted due to her erratic behavior.



Trooper Jordan L. Roberts, Troop C
(See Trooper of the Year)

Silver Star



Sergeant Joshua J. Malloy, Trooper Wesley R. Kelly, Trooper Deryck P. Lewis, Trooper Eric J. Schaub (K9 Titan), Trooper Christopher R. Nottingham (K9 Flip), Trooper Jeremy M. Fields, Trooper Nathaniel L. Cabe (K9 Kane), Troop C and Troop H

On October 25, 2023, Troop C CIU units were engaged in a 13-minute high-speed pursuit with a suspect who had previously struck an FHP trooper and rammed another FHP unit. The suspect traveled head-on during the pursuit, striking Trooper Eric J. Schaub's FHP vehicle and stopping all vehicles. Trooper Wesley R. Kelly and Trooper Deryck P. Lewis boxed in the suspect vehicle to prevent escape. Schaub exited his FHP unit, but due to the ramming of his vehicle, he could not relocate to a safer position. Sergeant Joshua J. Malloy and Lewis approached the passenger side of the suspect's vehicle as Troopers Kelly, Nathaniel L. Cabe, Jeremy J. Fields, and Christopher R. Nottingham approached the driver's side to gain access to the locked suspect vehicle. During this time, the suspect placed a glass pipe in her mouth and lit it, then put her car in drive. The suspect rocked her vehicle back and forth, ramming patrol vehicles in an attempt to free her vehicle. Schaub, in fear for his life because of his proximity to the vehicles, discharged two rounds

through the windshield into the driver's compartment to stop the threat. The suspect accelerated again, causing Schaub to discharge two more rounds through the windshield. Lewis broke the front passenger window, unlocked the vehicle, and took custody of the passenger. Malloy entered the vehicle through the passenger side to unlock the driver's door. Kelly removed the suspect from the vehicle while Malloy, Lewis, and Schaub obtained their first aid bags from their FHP units. Kelly applied pressure to a gunshot wound to the suspect's neck while Malloy applied pressure to a gunshot wound to the upper chest area, and Lewis applied QuikClot® to stop the bleeding. Nottingham coordinated EMS, as Fields and Cabe assisted by providing lifesaving efforts for the suspect. Malloy, Kelly, and Lewis were all exposed to the suspect's blood on their extremities while attempting to render aid. Due to their actions, the suspect is alive today.

Purple Heart and Medal of Valor



Trooper Steven D. Turner, Troop C

(See Trooper of the Year)

Civilian Employee of the Year

Rhonda S. Hendee, Troop C



Due to multiple personnel changes, Records Specialist Rhonda Hendee was the only clerk in Troop C for an extended period. Ms. Hendee admirably handled many additional duties that immensely increased her daily workload, including handling all clerical tasks, greeting walk-in traffic, resolving local public record requests, answering all incoming calls, completing District monthly reports, and filing records, among other responsibilities requiring resolution. Ms. Hendee

has always been an employee who exceeds her daily responsibilities to help others. She always projects a positive demeanor, remains highly productive, and professionally represents the Patrol.

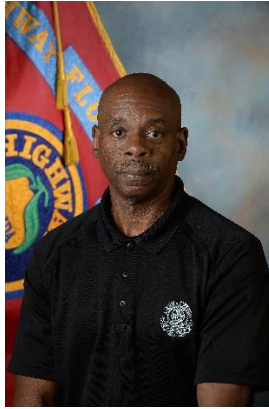
Stephanie A. Holbrook, Troop A



Victim Advocate Stephanie Holbrook responded to various incidents throughout the year, including those of the public needing advocacy and support and members of the Patrol. Most notably, Ms. Holbrook was empathic and supported one of our members when he lost his wife in a tragic vehicle crash.

While performing her regular responsibilities, Ms. Holbrook also assists the victims of cases from other law enforcement agencies when needed. Ms. Holbrook actively seeks opportunities to help others in need, especially victims and their families. In 2023, Ms. Holbrook received Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognition for her role in our local Law Enforcement Safety Team's outreach and education efforts. Ms. Holbrook was also recognized individually for her tireless efforts as a successful Victim Advocate by Attorney General Ashley Moody's office.

Civilian Employee of the Year



Archie O. McNair, Jr, Troop K

Evidence Property Custodian (EPC) Archie McNair, Jr. (retired trooper) plays a vital role in the Southern Region. In addition to his assigned tasks, McNair traveled to Orlando and Miami several times to assist and train new EPCs in those troops. McNair also spent significant time remotely researching and identifying items eligible for destruction as part of Troop D's Evidence Property Room (EPR) transition. McNair also traveled to Miami to facilitate a 100% audit of Troop E's EPR. While assuming these additional tasks, McNair maintained his active role in Troop K's FTO program by continuing to train Troopers on FHP Policies and Procedures related to the EP function.

State Law Enforcement Dispatcher of the Year

SLED Jordyn B. Fine, Tampa Bay Regional Communication Center



On August 12, 2023, Tampa Bay Regional Communications Center State Law Enforcement Dispatcher Jordyn Fine received a request from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office regarding a vehicle pursuit of a domestic violence suspect involved in a shooting. The suspect fled Pasco County deputies and entered Hillsborough County. Troopers quickly responded to assist the Pasco County Sheriff's Office and other local police with the coordination from Fine. The fleeing subject was discharging rounds at pursuing law enforcement while driving, creating a deadly situation for anyone in the area. The vehicle pursuit ended when the criminal crashed into a pond and fled on foot while continuing to shoot at law enforcement. Ultimately, the threat was neutralized by Law Enforcement. During this incident, Fine held the radio channel for emergency traffic, prioritized officer safety, relayed pertinent information, updated stakeholders, and documented the incident for follow-up investigations.

SLED Hector J. Ramirez, Tampa Bay Regional Communication Center



On October 30, 2023, Tampa Bay Regional Communications Center State Law Enforcement Dispatcher Hector Ramirez received a call from an armed individual near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge requesting mental health help. Ramirez immediately recognized the despair in the subject's voice and notified FHP units in the area to respond. As FHP Troopers were en route, Ramirez continued to ask the individual clarifying questions about himself and the situation. Ramirez spoke in a genuinely caring manner and established a rapport. Throughout the 10-minute conversation, Ramirez asked questions regarding vehicle type, personal details, and general life questions until troopers arrived. The

State Law Enforcement Dispatcher of the Year

individual did not harm himself because of Ramirez's calm and reassuring response.

SLED Tieny Ventura, Sanford Regional Communication Center



On June 4, 2023, Sanford Regional Communications Center State Law Enforcement Dispatcher Tieny Ventura received a call about a vehicle hitting a juvenile. The juvenile, whose identity was unknown, was transported to Arnold Palmer Hospital with life-threatening injuries. The hospital advised Ventura that the juvenile wore a hoodie with a team name, number, and last name. Ventura took the initiative to contact local police agencies and schools to check their records for students with the last name on the hoodie. Ventura could identify the juvenile and contact his father to advise him that the juvenile was at the hospital. Ventura even later followed up with the father to check on the well-being of the juvenile.

Auxiliary Trooper of the Year



FHPA Sergeant Philip Doyle, Troop H

Sergeant Philip Doyle is a dedicated, high-activity trooper, including patrol, recruiting, background investigation, instruction, and many special projects for Troop H while maintaining a full-time civilian professional career. Doyle is ready to take on the community service or law enforcement role, whether on duty or off.

On Mother's Day 2023, Doyle traveled off duty in his vehicle to spend a pleasant afternoon with his mother. While driving on the Suncoast Parkway in Hernando County, Doyle saw a vehicle traveling fast and driving recklessly approach from behind. The vehicle was using multiple lanes and the shoulders to pass other traffic. As the vehicle passed Doyle, it began to yaw and slide sideways off the roadway into the center median, where the vehicle flipped and rolled over twice, coming to rest upright. Doyle immediately stopped and called *FHP for assistance as he approached the vehicle to render aid. As Doyle approached, he saw smoke and steam come from the vehicle, indicating a fire risk. Doyle began assessing the driver for injuries and worked to free him as he was partially trapped in the vehicle. Through the process, Doyle learned the driver had a suspended driver's license, and the tag displayed was not assigned to the vehicle. As the driver became less disoriented,

Auxiliary Trooper of the Year

the driver attempted to leave the scene, but Doyle convinced the driver to remain until the sheriff's office arrived. Shortly after, troopers arrived at the scene and, with Doyle's assistance and documentation, cited the appropriate criminal charges on the driver.



FHPA Trooper James Martin, Troop F

Auxiliary Trooper James Martin is a 37-year veteran who is dedicated, reliable, and hard-working. He is always ready to serve and responds to nearly every request for special duty.

On the evening of Friday, September 29, 2023, a horrific seven-car crash occurred in Manatee County that claimed the lives of two people. It forced an extended road closure to US 301, a major arterial highway. Recognizing the magnitude of the closure and limited staffing resources available, the Traffic Homicide Investigations Sergeant in charge contacted the Troop F Auxiliary Troop Commander at approximately 1:30 AM to request assistance. Martin quickly arrived on the scene and led traffic control and scene security measures. Martin remained on scene until 10:30 AM, when the scene was fully processed, crashed vehicles removed, and the roadway cleared of debris. This exemplifies Martin's dedication and service to the Patrol and his community.

Auxiliary Trooper of the Year



FHPA Lieutenant Marion “Montie” Dowling, Troop F

Auxiliary Lieutenant Montie Dowling has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to service throughout his 16-year tenure. During this time, he has accumulated 14,486 patrol hours, which does not include any time dedicated to administrative and training functions. Dowling’s Limited Scope Patrol mileage was 314,443 miles, an amazing distance to travel while assisting stranded motorists. Dowling consistently goes above and beyond in supporting patrol operations, including paid and unpaid details, in his troop. He has a tireless work ethic and dedication to serve. He is Troop F’s “go-to guy” for any special patrol, escort, or mobile operation. Dowling also assists with completing administrative duties as appropriate. Montie Dowling embodies the spirit of service and selflessness at the heart of the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary.

Trooper of the Year



Trooper Steven D. Turner, Troop C

On February 4, 2023, Trooper Steven D. Turner responded to the I-75 and Overpass Road area regarding an active pursuit of burglary suspects driving a stolen vehicle. During the pursuit, one of the suspects discharged a firearm at passing motorists. Turner engaged in the pursuit and, as the suspects exited I-75, successfully initiated a PIT, rendering the suspect vehicle inoperative. Both suspects exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Turner gave chase to one of the suspects, knowing the suspect may be armed with a firearm. As Turner attempted to apprehend the suspect, the suspect displayed a firearm and discharged one round, striking Turner in the abdomen. Turner returned fire, neutralizing the threat. Turner was transported via air ambulance to a trauma center for his gunshot wound. Turner displayed the highest level of bravery, gallantry, and courage by engaging in a dangerous pursuit of armed felons, ultimately resulting in deadly gunfire. His actions exposed him to great peril and personal danger, going above and beyond the call of duty.

Trooper of the Year



Troopers Joshua A. Lugo and Jordan L. Roberts, Troop C

On August 12, 2023, Trooper Joshua A. Lugo and Trooper Jordan L. Roberts aided the Pasco County Sheriff's Office in apprehending an armed suspect who shot a female in a domestic dispute. The suspect then discharged rounds at deputies and their vehicles upon arrival on the scene. The suspect left the residence, and a pursuit ensued, traveling from Pasco County to Hillsborough County. The suspect eventually crashed into a retention pond, exited his vehicle, and attempted to run. As law enforcement approached the suspect, he began a four-minute gun battle with officers. Roberts discharged his firearm at the suspect as he was running across the road and firing toward Roberts. Lugo arrived on the scene, retrieved his shotgun, and joined Roberts on the front line. Once the suspect stopped shooting, Lugo began advancing toward the suspect, who attempted to hide behind a building. Lugo, along with a Sergeant from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, located the suspect lying on the pavement, unconscious from gunshot wounds. Roberts and other law enforcement officers arrived and began life-saving measures. The suspect was transported to Tampa General Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. It was later determined that the suspect had 54 prior felony charges, 31 convictions, and spent 4 years in a Florida prison.

Trooper of the Year



Corporal Blake E. Minton, Troop F

On April 14, 2023, Corporal Blake E. Minton was off duty with his family when he witnessed a catastrophic crash involving a dump truck and a Smart Car on County Road 884 in Lee County. The Smart Car was occupied by an 88-year-old grandmother and her 11-year-old granddaughter. Minton immediately pulled over his personal vehicle and approached the driver's side of the crushed Smart Car to render assistance while others called 911. Minton initially observed the grandmother in the driver's seat and determined she did not have a pulse. Minton then observed the 11-year-old girl in the passenger's seat and began to assist her. Minton removed her seatbelt and extricated her from the vehicle. Along with an off-duty ICU Nurse, Minton performed CPR on the girl until Lee County EMS arrived and assumed primary care.

*Thank You
for all you do!*

