



DPS Chaparral



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February 2006

DPS trooper killed during traffic stop

Highway Patrol trooper Billy J. Zachary, 32, was killed Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006 when he was struck by a pickup truck while conducting an afternoon traffic stop on IH-20 near Monahans.

He is the 79th DPS officer killed in the line of duty.

Trooper Zachary had two vehicles stopped on the shoulder of west-bound IH-20. He was issuing a citation to a driver when he was struck by a pickup truck driven by Mario Andres Valdez, 33, of Odessa. Trooper Zachary was thrown into the bar ditch separating the interstate from the frontage road.

“Trooper Zachary was trying to ensure the safety of the drivers on the roadway he was patrolling. Unfortunately, the move-over law could not protect him from an unattentive driver,” said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Trooper Zachary is survived by his wife, Tara Johnson Zachary, and their three-month-old daughter Zoe.

Trooper Zachary had been with the DPS since February 2004 and had been stationed with the Highway Patrol in Monahans since graduating from the DPS Academy in August 2004.

He graduated from Madisonville High School and Sam Houston State University. Before coming to DPS, he owned a business in Huntsville that performed lawn care and light maintenance for corporate and private properties.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Tara and Zoe,” Col. Davis said. “I know that our DPS family will pull together and focus on caring for his family.”



Dear Fellow Employee,

DPS has signed a contract with The Gables Group Inc. of Miami, Florida, to evaluate the active countermeasures training we provide to our trooper-trainees. We decided to examine the training after DPS recruit Jimmy Ray Carty Jr. died from injuries he sustained during active countermeasures training in May 2005.

Dr. Richard J. Miller and Dr. Fabrice Czarnecki began their work last month. They are scheduled to deliver their final evaluation and recommendations to DPS in early March, when a new class of recruits will be joining us.

I look forward to hearing their recommendations so that we can continue to provide the best, safest training possible to our recruits.

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Just a reminder: Severe Weather Awareness Week is February 26 though March 4. That would be a good time for you to take a few moments to make sure your family is prepared for severe weather and other emergencies. Tornado and hurricane season will be upon us soon.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Awards

While a HP trooper in Kaufman County, **William Kasper** rescued a mother and her two children after their car crashed into a creek. Kasper was investigating another wreck near Terrell in rainy weather when a separate vehicle ran off the road, overturning upside down in the creek waters. The mother and her children, ages 9 and 10, were struggling to free themselves from the pickup as water rushed in the cab. Kasper rushed into the water and used his asp baton to break out the side window and pull the trio from the vehicle, allowing them to swim to safety. Kasper was awarded a Director's Citation for his live-saving actions. He has since promoted to Criminal Intelligence sergeant and is stationed in Garland.

Tr. **Eric Pechacek**, HP Baird, received a Director's Citation for rescuing a woman from certain death after a fiery fatal crash in Callahan County. He responded to the scene where two vehicles were on fire. One woman was trapped inside her car with multiple injuries, including broken legs and punctured lungs and was not able to help her rescuers. After a fire extinguisher failed to stop the flames, Pechacek and another bystander broke the window out and forced the door open, and the trooper was able to pull the woman clear of the car.

Darrell McClenton received a Director's Award for saving two people from chilly waters after a

wreck caused by a drunk driver. The fatality wreck took place in Gregg County where one vehicle rolled down an embankment and was submerged in a body of water. McClenton witnessed the wreck and immediately entered the cold water. He found a 5-year-old boy completely submerged when he noticed water bubbles and pulled the boy out of the water to safety. He then went back in the water and helped a teenage girl to safety. McClenton was nominated by Tr. **Jonathan Anderson**, HP Longview.

Four people were awarded Director's Awards for saving a 2-year-old after a car hydroplaned and ended up on its hood in a pond in Smith County. The mother was able to free herself, but her child remained trapped in his car seat in the vehicle. Passing motorists Barry Griffing, Paige White and Richard Wood entered the water in an attempt to rescue the toddler. Harold Brooks then arrived and attached a tow strap and was able to pull the vehicle far enough out of the water so that the child could be removed

from the car. The child had been submerged in the water between seven and 10 minutes. The four rescuers took turns providing CPR until he began to breathe again. Amazingly, the child recovered and showed no signs of any permanent damage from the ordeal. The four were nominated by Sgt. **Richard Brown**, HP Anderson.

Short Shots

DPS plays Santa

Once again, DPS gave bikes for Christmas to children across the state. The bicycles were donated to DPS by the Houston PD. Troopers from the eight Regions chose families that were in need; some of the bikes went to students at Reilly Elementary across the street from Headquarters; others went to a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina. In all, 45 kids received new bikes for Christmas. The Training Academy spearheaded the program, which has been going on about five years, and Criminal Intelligence personnel played a key role in the Reilly giveaway.



Tr. **Jim Cook**, HP Cross Plains (far left) and Tr. **Travis Hounsell**, HP Cross Plains (white t-shirt with his elbow next to Tr. Cook), help fight the wildfire that almost destroyed the town. Making things more difficult for the men: the fire hose did not have a nozzle, making it extremely difficult to handle.

Critical Incident Response Team Deployed to New Orleans

Several members of the DPS Critical Incident Response Team traveled to Baton Rouge in early September to provide support to police, fire and other emergency workers after Hurricane Katrina. The team worked in Baton Rouge and informally in New Orleans.

Team members deployed were: **Sgt. Terry Field**, MVT Bryan; **Sgt. Stephen Reynolds**, Narcotics Hurst; **Cpl. Randy Conarroe**, THP Mt. Pleasant; **Tr. Richard Alexander**, CVE Mt. Pleasant; **Tr. Brady Lunceford**, THP Canton; **Cpl. Bob Lindley**, THP Longview; **Sumer Wassef**, Victim Services Garland; Chaplain **Stan Brasuell**, Frisco; Chaplain **Donna Kleman**, Abilene; and Chaplain **Steve Best**, Georgetown.

The chaos that accompanies any disaster forced the team members to be flexible in their efforts to provide support. Many of the officers and firefighters had sent their families out of New Orleans before Katrina arrived while they stayed behind and remained faithful to their oath to serve their community in time of need. "It did not take us long to discern the primary issues and emotions of these faithful public servants: grief and anger," said Chaplain Steve Best.

Sgt. Field said that police officers in New Orleans were working under rough conditions. "Many of the NOPD officers had never left the city. They were operating their police districts out of hotel lobbies, without running water and limited emergency power... We felt like we

made a difference for the few hundred officers we contacted."

DPS was asked to send additional teams. But all personnel had to stay in Texas to help respond to Hurricane Rita, so no further teams could be spared.

Chaplain Donna Kleman did re-deploy to New Orleans later with a group of chaplains. "People were still talking about what a good job the DPS team did; we paved the way for other support teams who followed."

Mile Markers

Promotions

HP

Rita Loran Mooney, Supv., Comm. Svc. Lampasas to Regional Supv., Comm. Svc. Austin.

CLE

Kevin David Wright, Tr. II, HP Webster to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Beaumont.

Retirements

George M. Wesley, Tr., HP Austin-Capitol, 18 yrs., 1 mo.; **Carol Eleanor Dunavant**, Tech, HP Amarillo, 15 yrs., 5 mos.; **Beverly Ann Spradling**, Tech, DL Sherman, 10 yrs., 5 mos.;

Kim Overby Drummond, Sen. Cpl., CVE Canton, 28 yrs., 5 mos., 22 days; **Christopher Kevin Boggs**, Sen. Tr., CVE Sulphur Springs, 24 yrs., 5 mos., 20 days; **Johnnie Lee Robertson**, Oper. III, IMS Austin-HQ, 2 yrs., 9 mos., 20 days;

Charlene Biemer, Tech, Crime Records Svc. Austin-HQ, 4 mos., 25 days.

Deaths

Billy J. Zachary, Tr., HP Monahans (Feb. 2004 – Jan 2006) died January 1, 2006; **Richard Eugene Raines**, ret. Tr. II, DL Sherman (May 1946 – Aug. 1977) died December 29, 2005; **Lenora Routon**, ret. Tech, DL Austin-HQ (Jan. 1953 – Nov. 1982) died December 24, 2005; **SoueJane Chen**, Accountant I, Director's Staff Austin-HQ (Oct. 2003 – Dec. 2005) died December 9, 2005; **Jack Sutherland**, ret. Major, TLE Austin-HQ (Aug. 1937 – Feb. 1977) died January 2, 2006.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. Michael Windham Jr., HP Gainesville, injured during pursuit;

Tr. Christopher VanDyk, HP Denton, injured in a traffic crash;

Tr. Raymond Sanders, HP New Caney, injured in a traffic crash;

Tr. George Correa, HP Pearsall, shot by suspect;

Tr. Arminda Meadows, HP Victoria, injured during struggle with suspect;

Tr. Patrick Brookshier, HP Austin, injured during struggle with suspect.

Good news! The following employees have returned to work full-duty: **Sgt. Sal Abreo**, Texas Ranger Austin; **Tr. Thomas Matthew McGinnis**, HP Corsicana; **Tr. Janet Martin**, HP Brownfield; **Tr. Darrell J. Koleck**, HP LaGrange; **Tr. Donald Ray Mills**, HP Hillsboro; and **Tr. Patrick McElroy**, HP Lampasas.

The **competitive examinations** for the following positions will be conducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety **Regional Headquarters Offices (Region 7** examinations will be conducted in the Robert E. Johnson Building located at 1501 North Congress Street, Austin. **Region 8** examinations will be conducted at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, 715 East El Cibolo Road, Edinburg) as follows:

Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 8:00 A.M.

Captain, Highway Patrol Service
Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service
Sergeant, Highway Patrol Service
Sergeant, Texas Ranger Division

Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 8:00 A. M.

Captain, Driver License Division
Lieutenant, Driver License Division
Sergeant, Driver License Division
Sergeant, Criminal Intelligence Service

Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 1:30 P.M.

Captain, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Sergeant, Narcotics Service

The **Oral Examining Board** will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Promotional System Conference Room beginning at 8:00 A.M. as follows:

Captain, Driver License Division	Monday, April 17, 2006
Sergeant, Highway Patrol Service	Tuesday, April 18, 2006
Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	Monday, April 24, 2006
Lieutenant, Driver License Division	Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Lieutenant, Highway Patrol	Friday, April 28, 2006
Sergeant, Driver License	Wednesday, May 3, 2006
Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	Monday, May 8, 2006
Sergeant, Narcotics Service	Monday, May 15, 2006
Sergeant, Criminal Intelligence Service	Monday, May 22, 2006
Sergeant, Texas Ranger Division	Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Highway Patrol Division Conference Room beginning at 1:00 P.M. as follows: **The interview board starting times for these two boards may be adjusted due to schedule conflicts. Candidates will be notified of any changes.**

Captain, Highway Patrol Division

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Highway Patrol Division Conference Room beginning at 8:00 A.M. as follows: **The interview board starting times for these two boards may be adjusted due to schedule conflicts. Candidates will be notified of any changes.**

Captain, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Thursday, April 27, 2006

The application form HR-106 should be submitted **directly to the Human Resources Bureau**. Applicants must also submit a copy of form HR-106 to their Service Commander through proper channels. **Only those candidates who are qualified will be able to compete in the written examinations.** Applications should be addressed to the Human Resources Bureau, MSC 0251, Texas Department of Public Safety, Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773, faxed to 512-424-5627, or emailed through DPS email system to "Terry Preston" and **should be received no later than 5 P. M. on Friday, March 24, 2006.**

Announcements are forthcoming and will be placed in Outlook at Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions. Application form HR-106 can be found in Outlook.