



DPS Chaparral



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DPS trooper killed in crash

Highway Patrol trooper **Matthew Dewayne Myrick**, 36, died Friday, January 20 after losing control of his patrol unit while responding to a wreck south of Hereford.

As Myrick responded to the crash, he headed westbound on FM 1259 inside the Hereford city limits. He passed through the intersection of FM 1259 and Main Street and lost control of his vehicle. The patrol car went off the roadway, struck a concrete culvert, caught on fire and burned. Myrick died at the scene.

Trooper Myrick is the 80th DPS officer killed in the line of duty and the second to die this year.

Myrick was born in Clovis, New Mexico and graduated high school in Paris, Texas. He served a brief stint in the Navy and earned agriculture-related masters and bachelors degrees from Texas Tech University. He worked in agriculture industry over the years, but always wanted to be a state trooper.

He started with DPS in October 2003, graduated from the DPS Academy April 2004 and was assigned to Highway Patrol in Hereford.

“Trooper Myrick was known as a man devoted to his wife, four children and his church, said DPS Director Col. **Thomas Davis Jr.** “We were honored to have him as part of our family. And he will always be remembered as a man who gave his life serving the people of Texas. Make sure that his family is in your thoughts and prayers.”

Myrick is survived by his wife, Christy, and four children: 7-year-old Matilyn, 5-year-old Tate, 2-year-old Luke and 3-month old Embry.



Dear Fellow Employee,

As many of you are probably aware, the Texas Legislature last session mandated that all Schedule C commissioned officers must meet minimum fitness standards by Sept. 1, 2006 in order to receive promotions or pay increases. DPS has hired Fitness Intervention Technologies to develop minimum physical fitness standards for commissioned officers. We expect that the company will present its report by May 31.

Once those standards are adopted, those affected will have until Sept. 1, 2006, to attain those minimum physical fitness standards. ***If you have not already done so, I would urge you to begin a physical fitness program now.*** Don't wait until the final standards are set.

You can track your exercise through the Texas Round-Up (<http://www.texasroundup.org/>). Last year, DPS won the Governor's Cup for fittest state agency. Getting fit is good for the agency, but it's even better for you.

Dear DPS Family,

I am humbled by the outpouring of your kindness towards the children and me, as well as my extended family. You have exhibited a standard of excellence that far surpasses any organization that I am aware of. Thank you for going the extra mile to honor Matt's life. Matt was very proud to be associated with such a dedicated and disciplined group of individuals. I appreciate you standing by us as we begin to walk this long, hard road. May God bless and protect each and everyone of you.

Sincerely,

Christy Myrick and the children

Awards

Capt. **Ron Joy**, HP Midland, has been honored as a "Super Mediation Volunteer" for providing outstanding mediation service to DPS. The award is sponsored by the Texas Association of Mediators. Capt. **Dino Henderson**, Sgt. **Kenny Ray**, Lt. **Rhonda Lawson** and **Wil Young** are the other mediators who work with **Kevin Casey**, Employee Relations Officer Austin, on dispute resolution between employees in DPS.

Robbie Barerra, HP Austin, received the "First Year Technician of the Year" Award by Safe Kids Austin for her contributions to the community as a child safety seat technician.

Region I Communications Supervisor **Phillip Herbst** received unusual recognition for his volunteer work, when it was declared "Phillip Herbst Day" in Rockwall Jan. 3!

Short Shots

FBI Graduate

Lt. **Jairo Saenz**, Criminal Intelligence San Antonio, graduated from the 223rd Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Attention retirees!!

Retired? Want your permanent record? Anyone who retired from DPS in 1999 and would like to have their original personnel file should please call the following numbers: 512-424-2000, ext. 3327 or 3351.

Deadline to hold files is May 1, 2006.

Quarter Century Club

The Quarter Century Club banquet will be held on April 7 in Waco at the Knox Hall located right behind the Texas Ranger Museum. For more info, call **Jennifer Hall** at 512-424-7297.

Mile Markers

Retirements

Enriqueta G. Sanchez, Operator III, HP McAllen, 27 yrs., 7 mos.; **Carol J. Jackson**, Clerk IV, HR Austin-HQ, 13 yrs., 7 mos.; **Mary G. Espinoza**, Clerk IV, HR Austin-HQ; **Phillip Boyce Mathews**, Tr., HP Post, 18 yrs., 10 mos., 28 days.

Deaths

Matthew D. Myrick, Tr. HP Hereford (Oct. 2003 – Jan. 2006) died January 20, 2006; **Claradene Ulbrich**, ret. Food Svc. Worker II, Academy Austin-HQ (June 1978 – Sep. 1993) died February 10, 2006; **Alfred Y. Allee, Jr.**, ret. Ranger, Midland (Oct. 1952 – Oct. 1976) died January 12, 2006; **Gary Davenport**, ret. Examiner, DL Borger (April 1967 – Dec. 1993) died January 27, 2006; .

William F. Tucker, ret. Tr., DL Amarillo (Feb. 1970 – June 2005) died February 3, 2006; **Mary Susan Sylvester**, Accountant, EMD Dickinson (July 2005 – February 2006) died February 8, 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. **Patrick Brookshier**, HP Austin, injured during struggle with suspect.

Good news! The following troopers have returned to duty: Tr. **Christopher VanDyk**, HP Denton; Tr. **Raymond Sanders**, HP New Caney; Tr. **George Correa**, HP Pearsall; and Tr. **Arminda Meadows**, HP Victoria.