



Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

May 2005

## Fallen officers remembered

Texas law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2004 and 2005 will be honored and remembered at the annual DPS Peace Officer Memorial Service 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 17 in front of the DPS Training Academy in Austin.

This year, the wreath will be placed at the DPS Memorial Monument by Jennifer Knapp, wife of DPS Tr. **Kurt Knapp**, HP Fredericksburg, who died in a line-of-duty car crash last May in Kendall County. Tr. Knapp will be one of those honored in the roll call of fallen Texas peace officers.

Families of DPS officers who have died in the line of duty and DPS officers injured while on duty are invited to attend.

“This is our chance to pay tribute to the men and women of the state of Texas who made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of the citizens of this state,” said DPS Director Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.** “It is also a time to pay our respects to families of DPS officers who died while on the job and DPS officers injured on duty, both past and present. We want to remind them we appreciate their sacrifice, and that they will always be part of the DPS family.”

### Texas peace officers killed feloniously in 2004:

- Officer John Logan, Huntington PD, killed during a traffic stop March 14
- Sergeant Gregory Hunter, Grand Prairie PD, killed while investigating a suspicious vehicle June 18
- Officer Angel Barcena, El Paso PD, killed while responding to a disturbance call Sept. 25

### Texas peace officers killed on duty in 2004:

- Sergeant John Maki, Celeste PD, killed in traffic crash Feb. 10
- Deputy Constable Frank Clayborne, Harris Co. Constable’s Office, Pct. 4, killed in traffic crash Feb. 19

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Dear Fellow Employee,

As I was preparing my remarks for the recent recruit school graduation, I thought a lot about what to say to these men and women who worked very hard to become commissioned Texas peace officers.

During my speech to the brand new troopers, I told them that five words were important in their new career: voluntary compliance, common sense and integrity.

Voluntary compliance is a big part of what troopers do every day. Our presence on the road (hopefully) compels drivers to obey the law.

Common sense also is a big part of all our jobs. None of us should leave home without our common sense.

But I would tell you that our integrity is our most important possession, both personally and professionally. If we have no integrity, then we cannot do our jobs effectively. It doesn’t matter whether we are commissioned officers or office workers, the people of the State of Texas expect much of us and we must deliver.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Davis Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

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## *Awards*

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Tr. **Lucian Ebrom**, HP Jourdanton, received a Director's Citation for helping save the life of a man injured in a fiery crash in Atascosa County. A pickup had crashed head-on into a tree and burst into flames. The driver, who had fallen asleep, was killed in the crash. Tr. Ebrom responded quickly, using his fire extinguisher to control the blaze. Ebrom and two other citizens got the passenger, who was still on fire, out of the vehicle. Despite serious injuries, the passenger survived.

Tr. **Christopher Frost**, HP Waxahachie, was off-duty when a frantic father knocked on his door with a baby in his arms. The 9-month-old boy was not breathing and was turning blue. While giving the baby emergency care, Tr. Frost discovered a plastic hair clip lodged in the child's throat. He removed the object and the baby began to cry and breathe normally. Tr. Frost was rewarded with a Director's Citation and was credited with saving the infant from possible death or brain damage.

Tr. **Gary M. Rozzell**, HP Mineral Wells, also received a Director's Citation for saving a baby's life. Tr. Rozzell was in church when a woman requested help. Her 10-month-old daughter had stopped breathing and the infant's lips and face were blue. Tr. Rozzell quickly performed CPR. The baby was revived after five minutes of CPR and began crying. The

child was transported to the hospital and later released. The little girl had a history of seizures and apparently suffered a seizure in the church.

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## *Short Shots*

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### **Dive Team tryouts**

The DPS Dive Recovery Team is seeking applicants for try-outs. Any commissioned THP trooper who is stationed within 100 miles of Austin is eligible to apply. Dive certification is not a prerequisite, as successful candidates will receive the appropriate training and certification.

Those wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memo through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to Maj. **David G. Baker** in the THP Chief's office. They must also notify Maj. Baker of their intent to apply either in person or by calling 512-424-2115.

### **Governor Protective Detail**

The THP Division is now accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned Department personnel not currently on disciplinary probation and with at least **24 calendar months** service as a commissioned Texas peace officer are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Capt. **Dale L. Avant** at 512-936-2299 for instructions on the application process.

### **Former DPSer honored**

**J.D. Chastain**, who retired from DPS in 1980, was honored on Feb. 21 with the prestigious Borkenstein Award by the National

Safety Council's Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs. The award is named for the inventor of the Breathalyzer, Dr. Robert Borkenstein. It is considered the top U.S. award for individuals involved in drug and alcohol testing. Chastain, who retired as chief of the Identification and Criminal Records Division, was recognized for his pioneering contributions and outstanding achievements in the fields of breath and blood alcohol testing.

### **Born to be safe**

May has been proclaimed Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month by Gov. Rick Perry, and DPS urges all motorcycle riders to wear helmets.

The DPS Motorcycle Safety Unit offers safety programs at 64 permanent locations and nine sites that utilize two self-contained mobile training units. There is a basic course for

new, inexperienced or unlicensed motorcyclists and an advanced course for more experienced bikers.

In 2004, 26,260 enrolled in either the advanced or basic course—an 18 percent increase over 2003 and another all-time high. In certain cases, the basic course can be used to waive the road test for motorcycle license applicants. For more information, call 1-800-292-5787.

The Motorcycle Unit also won two national awards. **Gary Schoenfeldt**, Motorcycle Safety Austin, was honored posthumously with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation "Award of Excellence" in 2004. (Schoenfeldt died November 16, 2004.) The DPS Motorcycle Safety Unit won the "Outstanding State Program" award for their category.

### **Bicycle Safety Month**

May is also Bicycle Safety Month. While bicycles are considered to be vehicles on the roadway, they lack the protection that an automobile provides.

Urban and rural crashes between motor vehicles and bicycles result in the death of one Texan each week.

Texas ranks third in the U.S. in bicyclist fatalities.

Some of the ways people can protect themselves include wearing proper fitting helmets, and receiving the proper information on bicycle safety through pamphlets, posters, and videos that are available through the Department's Super Cyclist Bicycle Safety Program.

Remember, everyone should wear helmets when biking, if not for yourself—then for your loved ones.

If you have any additional questions about the Super Cyclist Bicycle Safety Program or about bicycle traffic laws, please contact **Bea Taylor** at 512-424-2219 or Sgt. **Harry Hoelscher** at 512-424-7236.

### **SECC news**

DPS received two awards at the SECC (State Employee Charitable Campaign) Rio Grande Valley area awards ceremony April 5. **Herman Gray**, Region 8 Adjutant, served as the DPS local coordinator for the campaign. DPS was recognized for achieving the "Highest Percent of Increase in Participation" for that area—a whopping 344 percent increase! Herman also received the Outstanding Coordinator award for the Rio Grande Valley campaign. Gray, in turn, recognized fellow McAllen DPS employees **Norma Cantu** and **Mary Ann Powers** for their hard work.

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### ***Fallen officers continued***

- Officer Frank Cantu, Houston PD, killed in a traffic crash March 25, 2004
- Trooper **Kurt David Knapp**, DPS-Fredericksburg, killed in traffic crash May 8, 2004
- Officer Darren Allen Medlin, Grapevine PD, struck by a vehicle June 12, 2004
- Officer Nathan Laurie, River Oaks PD, killed in traffic crash June 29, 2004
- Sergeant James Michael Lane, Beaumont PD, killed in helicopter crash Sept. 15, 2004
- Officer Christopher Jerome Sobieski, Prairie View PD, killed in traffic crash Sept. 26, 2004
- Deputy Sheriff Dirk Knearum, Chambers Co SO, killed in traffic crash Oct. 17, 2004
- Lieutenant Robert (Bob) Haley, Comanche Co SO, killed in traffic crash Oct. 28, 2004
- Officer Amy Donovan, Austin PD, killed in traffic crash Oct. 31, 2004

This year, the state Candlelight Vigil will be held at the site of the Texas Peace Officers Memorial Monument on the State Capitol grounds at 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 1.

The Vigil will include a roll call of officers by department. Afterward, there will be a short program honoring those officers who have paid the supreme sacrifice while in the performance of their duties.

The 2005 Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Service will be held Monday, May 2 at the south doors to the State Capitol. The service will start at 12 noon. Pre-memorial service activities will begin at 10:30 a.m.

National Police Week is May 15-21.

## K-9s graduate

On April 1, the following K-9 teams completed the Drug Detector Canine Training School: **Kyle Taylor** and K-9 Zima; **Chris Koonce** and K-9 Hop; **Tim Kelm** and K-9 Doris; **Wade Ivey** and K-9 Galvin; and **Joshua Ray** and K-9 Cezar.

With the five teams that graduated, the Department now has 25 K-9 teams stationed throughout the state.

## Name change

The functions of the Headquarters' General Stores and Office Supply units have been merged into one operation called "General Stores." General stores is now located in the new warehouse building at 108 Denson, Austin, TX 78752.

General Stores phone numbers:

(512) 424-5424

(512) 424-5426

(512) 424-5427

General Stores fax number:

(512) 424-5429

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## Mile Markers

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## Promotions

### Director's Staff

**Douglas Scott Farber**, Lt., HP Lubbock to Inspector II, OAI Austin.

## CLE

**George Earl Rhyne, Jr.**, Lt., Spec. Crimes Svc. Garland to Capt., Spec. Crimes Svc. Garland; **Carmen Medrano**, Tr. II, HP Brownfield to Sgt., MVT El Paso; **Raul Vargas**, Lt., HP Beaumont to

Capt., HP Austin-Capitol; **Paul David Schulze**, Sgt., HP Brownwood to Lt., HP Webster.

## DL

**Kathleen Ann Conley**, Sgt., DL Lewisville to Lt., DL McAllen; **Derek J. Rodriguez**, Sgt., DL Houston to Lt., DL Waco.

## Retirements

**Vada Marie Rigolo**, Clerk, DL Austin, 22 yrs., 1 mo., 4 days; **Bobby Joe Gibbons**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Longview, 31 yrs., 5 mos., 2 days; **Donald Eugene Thain**, Criminalist V, Crime Lab Corpus Christi, 29 yrs., 6 mos., 27 days; **Raymond Barber Munsell**, Sen. Tr., CVE Rio Grande City, 24 yrs., 8 mos., 17 days;

**Juan Garcia Rodriguez**, Sen. Cpl., HP Texas City, 20 yrs., 1 mo., 19 days; **Jose Adan Mora**, Asst. Cmdr., Narcotics Svc. Houston, 26 yrs., 10 mos., 7 days; **Randy Lynn Wesley**, Sen. Tr., HP Amarillo, 26 yrs., 2 mos., 21 days; **Deidre N. Jordan**, Program Admin. III, Motor Carrier Austin, 18 yrs. 0 mos., 26 days;

**Rosemary Allen Webb**, Program Admin. II, Crime Records Austin, 17 yrs., 6 mos., 17 days; **Ronald Lyndell Davidson**, Inspector II, HP Garland, 5 yrs., 0 mos., 0 days; **Francisco Gomez Perez, Jr.**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. San Antonio, 28 yrs., 6 mos., 16 days.

## Deaths

**Betty Wollett**, ret. Sec., Accounting, Austin (June 1970 – Sep. 1993) died March 7, 2005; **Donald Linwood Sybert**, ret. Investigator,

CLE Austin (Jan. 1957 – April 1980) died March 10, 2005; **Frances Klipple Raven**, ret. Clerk II, DL Austin (April 1953 – Dec. 1977) died March 14, 2005;

**Scott Edward Jonas**, Admin. Asst. II, DL Plano (Sep. 2000 – Mar. 2005) died March 20, 2005; **Sharon Faye Matoska**, Tech., DL Austin (May 1996 – April 2005) died April 1, 2005; **Jeff Heard**, ret. Specialist I, Training Academy Austin (April 1948 – April 1987) died April 6, 2005; **Dorothy Franzen**, ret. Key punch Operator, DL Austin (Feb. 1960 – March 1980) died April 7, 2005;

**Charles Russell**, ret. Sgt., Executive Security Austin Capitol (Dec. 1966 – May 1997) died April 6, 2005; **Billie Faye Seets**, ret. Technician, DL Ft. Worth (Dec. 1967 – Sept. 1993) died April 10, 2005.



## On the mend...

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

Tr. **Robert Mendez**, shot in arm during traffic stop;

Tr. **Darrell C. Matthews**, CVE Hereford, injured in traffic crash;

Tr. **Kirk W. Washington**, HP Killeen, injured pursuing suspect;

Tr. **Wilton White**, HP Hempstead, struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic;

Tr. **Billy Horton**, HP Lubbock, injured during foot pursuit, is back on light duty;

Good news! Tr. **David O'Neal**, HP Marshall, and Tr. **James R. DeFrance**, HP Conroe, have both returned to full duty.