

# DPS Chaparral



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April 2007

## Trooper killed in two-vehicle crash

Trooper **Todd Dylan Holmes**, HP Gilmer, died at 9:54 p.m. March 14, just north of Marshall when his patrol unit was struck broadside by an 18-wheeler as he attempted to cross the highway to pursue a vehicle.

Trooper Holmes, 29, was parked on the northbound shoulder of U.S. 59, about a mile north of FM 1793, when he activated his emergency lights and began to turn toward the crossover to go south on U.S. 59 to pursue another vehicle. As he turned, he went into the path of an 18-wheeler that was also traveling northbound. The driver of the 18-wheeler tried to take evasive action, but struck the patrol vehicle on the driver's side. Both vehicles came to rest in the center median.



"Trooper Holmes comes from a law enforcement family, and his dedication to law enforcement and his pride in his career were evident," said  
*continued on next page*

## New commissioner appointed

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has appointed attorney **Allan B. Polunsky** of San Antonio to the Public Safety Commission, the three-member commission that oversees the Texas Department of Public Safety.

He fills the last vacancy on the commission and his term will expire Dec. 31, 2009. (His appointment was pending Senate confirmation at the time this publication went to print.)

Polunsky is a managing partner and founder of Polunsky and Beitel, LLP, a law firm that specializes in real estate and mortgage lending with offices in San Antonio and Dallas. Commissioner Polunsky has served on the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, including time as chair. He was serving on the Finance Commission of Texas at the time of his appointment to the Public Safety Commission.

Dear fellow employee,

I hope you signed up for the six-week Texas Round-Up state-wide fitness program. We are set to defend our title as Fittest State Agency for the third year in a row. With your participation, we can keep the Governor's Cup for another year. The best part of participation? Your good health!

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Please help me welcome a new member to the Public Safety Commission: **Allan Polunsky**. I am sure his experience as an attorney and a member of several state boards will be beneficial to our agency. I look forward to working closely with him.

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Please remember National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 27-28. This year's theme is "Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time." For more information on events in your area, contact your Regional Victim Services Counselor and check the DPS Intranet.

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The legislative session continues. Thank you for your hard work.

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

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## Short Shots

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### NRA honors trooper

The National Rifle Association has selected Tr. **Rick Smith**, HP Waxahachie, as their 2006 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Smith was one of several troopers who risked their lives to get three wounded Midlothian police officers to safety August 20, 2006. Smith was also shot and wounded by the gunman, who eventually killed himself. Tr. Smith has since returned to duty. DPS had previously awarded Smith a Purple Heart and the prestigious Medal of Valor for his heroic actions that day.

### DPS trooper honored

The Henderson County Peace Officers Association has named **Jason Rolison**, HP Athens, as its "Officer of the Year" for 2006.

### Quarter Century Club

The Quarter Century Club Ban-

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### *Trooper Holmes, continued from page 1*

Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.**, director of the DPS. "Please be sure to keep Trooper Holmes and his family in your prayers."

Trooper Holmes had been with the DPS since January 2005 and was stationed in Gilmer. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie, and their children, Tyler, age 3; James, age 2; and Jason, age 1. Mrs. Holmes is expecting another child in June.

Trooper Holmes was the 82<sup>nd</sup> DPS trooper to die in the line of duty.

quet and Ladies Luncheon will be held on April 20 in Knox Hall at the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco. For more information, call Chief **Judy Brown** at (512) 424-5232 or **Jennifer Hall** at (512) 424-7297.

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### HP

**Robert Ray Cox**, Sen. Tr., CVE Corpus Christi to Sgt., CVE Laredo World Trade POE.

#### DL

**Alvaro Ivan Adame**, Sgt., DL Dallas to Lt., DL Wichita Falls.

### Retirements

**Stephen Francis Allen**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Victoria, 32 yrs., 3 mos., 13 days; **David Glenn Eldridge**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc., McKinney, 32 yrs., 16 days; **Kevin Alan King**, Sen. Tr., CVE Shamrock, 29 yrs., 2 mos., 21 days; **Frank Joe Vrana**, Telecommunications Spec. II, Building Programs Austin HQ, 20 yrs., 11 mos., 27 days; **Carol Ann Tipp**, Admin. Asst. III, DL Garland, 20 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day;

**Rose Marie Watson**, Admin Asst. III, Garland, 16 yrs., 9 mos., 14 days; **Richard Milner Ragland**, Mgr. I, DL Austin HQ, 15 yrs., 9 mos., 13 days; **Deborah Gail Wilkinson**, Data Entry Oper. III, MCR Austin HQ, 15 yrs., 1 mo., 15 days; **Victoria Ann Lively**, Admin. Asst., II, DL Dallas, 14 yrs., 27 days; **Claudia Ann Crislip**, Supervisor I, CRB Austin HQ, 30 yrs., 7

days; **Rodolfo R. Rosas**, Sgt., HP Corpus Christi, 19 yrs., 11 mos., 27 days; **Cynthia Jolly**, Accountant III, Accounting & Budget Control Austin HQ, 1 yr, 4 mos., 19 days; **Larry Herman Dittfurth**, Sen. Tr., DL Bryan, 29 yrs., 8 mos., 20 days; **Randall David Rister**, Lt., DL Wichita Falls, 29 yrs., 7 mos., 23 days.

### Deaths

**Weldon Oran Day**, ret. Communications Officer IV, HP Lampasas (Nov. 1974 – Sep. 1997) died February 13, 2007; **Ray Carroll Finstad**, ret. Tr. IV, HP Amarillo (Nov. 1963 – Sep. 1993) died March 2, 2007; **Todd Dylan Holmes**, Tr. 1, HP Gilmer (Jan. 2005-March 2007) died March 14, 2007; **Berlie Alan Dunn**, ret. Regional Adjutant, Midland (Sep. 1949 – Aug. 1980) died March 15, 2007.



### *On the mend...*

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

Tr. **Steve Stone**, HP Tyler, shot by suspects;

Sgt. **Shannon Henderson**, Narcotics Alpine, injured in a vehicle crash;

Tr. **Brian Kemp**, HP Beaumont, injured arresting suspect;

Tr. **Juan Sandoval**, CVE Laredo, injured during a traffic stop.

Good news! Tr. **Ralphell Watkins**, HP Plano, has returned to work.