

DPS Chaparral



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June 2006

Trooper killed in one-vehicle crash

The DPS family lost our third trooper this year when Trooper **Eduardo Chavez** died in a patrol car accident May 2 near the Hidalgo/Starr county line.

Trooper Chavez, 30, stationed in Palmview, was responding to a call to assist his brother, Trooper **Enrique Chavez**, with a narcotics arrest. A tire blowout caused Chavez to lose control and his vehicle rolled several times.

He is the 81st DPS officer killed in the line of duty and the third to die in 2006.

"Trooper Chavez was dedicated to protecting the people of the state of Texas, and he gave his life in service to our state," said Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.** "He was known as a hard-working trooper who wanted to do a professional job. His DPS family will certainly miss him."

Trooper Chavez was born in Reynosa, Mexico, and grew up in Bakersfield, Calif. He graduated from high school in Edinburg.

He attended South Texas Community College and the University of Texas-Pan American.

Before joining DPS in 2003, Chavez had worked as a police communications operator and a deputy sheriff with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office.

He had been with the DPS since 2003. After graduating with the A-03 Recruit School, Trooper Chavez had been stationed in Zapata, Roma, Rio Grande City and Palmview.

He is survived by his wife, Iliana, and their unborn son, who will be named Eduardo Chavez Jr.

A memorial fund for Trooper Chavez's family has been established at First National Bank, 7201 N. 10th St., McAllen, TX 78504. The account number is 141035757. For any questions about the memorial fund, please contact Lt. **Mario Lopez** at 956-984-5626.



Dear fellow employee,

Once again, we are celebrating a successful Texas Round-Up competition. As you will see on page 2, our agency was named the fittest large state agency. Keep up the good work, for yourself and your loved ones. We will soon be announcing the minimum fitness standards that all Schedule C commissioned officers must meet by Sept. 1, 2006, in order to receive promotions or pay increases. ***If you have not already done so, I would urge you to begin a physical fitness program now.*** Don't wait.

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June 1 marks the start of another hurricane season. Experts are predicting another active year in the Atlantic and Caribbean, and some of those storms could make it to Texas, as Hurricane Rita did last year. If you live along the coast, please be sure that your home and your families are prepared for any storms that might come your way. You can find more information about hurricane preparedness on the DPS website.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

It's not bragging if it's true: we're the fittest in state!

For the third year in a row, DPS is the physical fitness king! DPS captured the Texas Round-Up Governor's Cup for the largest state agencies, beating out TDCJ and TxDOT. Nearly 1,900 DPS employees completed the six-week physical fitness activity program.



For the first time, the Director's Staff out-exercised the Administration Division and DL Division to win internal bragging rights for the highest percentage of employees who completed the six-week program.

On to next year!

Awards

Tr. **Chris Barclay**, HP San Marcos, received the "Top Gun" award at a FBI sniper course held in Conroe in April. Tr. Barclay graduated at the top of the class, getting the highest scores for his marksmanship. He is the second DPS SWAT sniper to garner the prestigious "Top Gun" award in recent years.

Tr. **Martin Molotsky**, HP Brownwood, received the local Crime Stoppers "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" award. While off-duty, Molotsky noticed a stranded, suspicious vehicle. Further investigation led to the arrest of a suspect wanted for kidnapping a 6-month-old child in Canada. The infant was returned to his mother.

Short Shots

DPS troopers ride for fallen

Several DPS troopers took part in the four-day, 350-mile Police Unity Tour bicycle ride that started in New Jersey and ended at the

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. May 12.

Tr. **Bo Speed**, HP Odessa, Tr. **Eric Gray**, HP Conroe, Tr. **Phillip Breeding**, HP Midland, Tr. **John Barton**, HP Midland, Tr. **James Colunga**, DL Waxahachie, and Tr. **Carlos Salgado**, HP Midland, were among the 550 bicyclists who raised money and honored fallen law enforcement officers.

The ride raised an estimated \$1 million for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which uses some of the proceeds to research law enforcement deaths for possible prevention information.

Ranger graduates

Sgt. **Matthew Lindemann**, Rangers Georgetown, graduated from the University of Tennessee National Forensics Academy on March 17. Fewer than 200 crime scene investigators have attended the elite academy.

Mile Markers

Retirements

Frank Anguiano, III, Tr., HP Del Rio, 19 yrs., 10 mos., 1 day; **David Ellis Rose**, Comm. Supv., HP Beaumont, 33 yrs., 4 mos., 11 days; **Eddy Eugene Keesee**, Tr., HP Garland, 21 yrs., 2 mos., 22 days;

Raymond Rigolo, Accountant, Director's Staff Austin- HQ, 20 yrs., 10 mos., 29 days; **James E. Scroggins**, Examiner, DL Baytown, 16 yrs., 1 mo.

Deaths

Jesse Newman, ret. Tr., HP Livingston (April 1959 – Aug. 1988) died April 15, 2006; **Enrique R. Luevano**, ret. Tr., L&W Uvalde (Oct. 1975 – Nov. 2000) died April 17, 2006; **James Walter Giles**, Tr., HP Hillsboro (Sep. 2001 – April 2006) died April 16, 2006;

Theresa Ann Halbrooks, Tech., DL Plano (May 1998 – April 2006) died April 27, 2006; Tr. **Eduardo Chavez**, HP Palmview (March 2003 – May 2006) died May 2. **Vaughn Nelson**, ret. PCO III, HP Tyler (Nov. 1974 – August 1995) died May 13, 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. **Steve Stone**, HP Tyler, shot by suspects March 22.