Texas Department of Public Safety

Memorial Book

Introduction

This memorial book is a tribute to the 86 Department of Public Safety employees who have lost their lives while serving the citizens of Texas.

The circumstances of death range from the accidental—including one officer who was killed by lightning—to the criminal—including 27 officers who were shot while making arrests, conducting investigations or attempting to stop crimes in progress. Another shooting death occurred as the result of an accident during a training session.

Traffic crashes have been the leading cause of death (34), followed closely by shootings (27). Another 17 troopers were killed by vehicles while performing duties such as directing traffic or standing outside vehicles during traffic stops. Three officers were killed in car-train accidents and one officer died of a heart attack suffered on duty when he witnessed his partner being struck and killed by a vehicle.

Six of the deaths occurred prior to August 10, 1935, when the Texas Rangers and the Highway Patrol merged to form the Department of Public Safety.

Many of the deaths of DPS officers were the subject of newspaper headlines because the deaths came as the result of extraordinary efforts to protect the public. Patrolmen H. D. Murphy and Edward Bryan Wheeler, for instance, were shot to death on Easter Sunday of 1934 at the hands of the outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. More recently, Ranger Stanley Keith Guffey was shot and killed as Guffey and a partner successfully rescued a 2-year-old girl from a kidnapper who had already killed an employee of the child's family.

Murphy and Wheeler weren't the only pair of officers to die in the same incident. HP Sgt. William J. Kuhnle and Trooper Ralph G. Zerda were both killed in 1989 when a drunken driver plowed his 18-wheeler into their patrol car, crushing the troopers between their car and a vehicle they had stopped. Patrolmen Louis W. Dickson and Bill Mahoney were both killed as the result of a 1949 accident. In 1961, Texas Ranger H.A. White and Polygraph Operator Oscar Bowen Brett were killed in a car-train accident while on a murder investigation. In 1973, Patrolmen Kobler C. Winn and Larry E. Hobson were killed when their vehicle overturned.

This book is dedicated to these men and their families and to the service that these officers gave to the citizens of Texas. It is also dedicated to the officers and employees of the Department of Public Safety who work each day to make Texas a safer place to live.

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Highway Patrolman Arthur W. Fischer

Patrolman Fischer was killed instantly in a motorcycle accident on Jan. 18, 1932. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 14, 1931, and was stationed at Brenham.

Highway Patrolman Aubrey Lee Moore

Patrolman Moore died April 16, 1932, as a result of a motorcycle accident. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 14, 1931, and was stationed at Arlington.

Highway Patrolman H.D. Murphy

Patrolmen Murphy and Wheeler were shot to death near Grapevine on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1934 by the infamous criminals Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. Wheeler and Murphy stopped their motorcycles near Parker and Barrow’s car, thinking a motorist needed assistance. When they approached, they were shot. Murphy began his career with the agency on Sept. 18, 1933, and was stationed at Fort Worth. Wheeler began his career on Jan. 8, 1930, and was also stationed at Fort Worth.
Highway Patrolman Joseph N. Avary
Patrolman Avary was killed in a motorcycle accident on May 17, 1935. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 14, 1931, and was stationed at Pecos.

Highway Patrolman Guy Albert Freese
Patrolman Freese was struck and killed by a bus while escorting a motorcade on July 11, 1935. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 8, 1930, and was stationed at Fort Worth.

Highway Patrolman Mart D. Tarrant
Patrolman Tarrant died Nov. 4, 1935, after being struck by an automobile near Waco. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 14, 1931, and was stationed at Waco.

Highway Patrolman David A. McGonagill
Patrolman McGonagill was struck and killed by lightning on Sept. 4, 1940, while riding regular patrol on his motorcycle. He began his career with the agency on April 18, 1938, and was stationed at Lubbock.
Highway Patrolman Roger Q. Harriss
Patrolman Harriss died on April 5, 1942, as a result of injuries received in a motorcycle - truck collision. He began his career with the agency on Nov. 1, 1941, and was stationed at Sulphur Springs.

Highway Patrolman Floyd E. Lawson
Patrolman Lawson died on April 7, 1948, as a result of injuries received in an accident. He began his career with the agency on Nov. 1, 1941, and was stationed at Beeville.

Highway Patrolman Louis W. Dickson
Patrolmen Dickson and Mahoney were answering a call to a fatal accident on April 17, 1949, when they were involved in a car-truck accident. Dickson was killed instantly. Mahoney died the next day, April 18, as a result of injuries suffered in the crash. Dickson began his career with the agency on Dec. 1, 1947. Mahoney began his career on April 1, 1948. Both were stationed at Belton.

Highway Patrolman Bill J. Mahoney
Highway Patrolman Winfred O. Hanna
Patrolman Hanna was shot to death on Jan. 25, 1954, while arresting a subject. He began his career on Dec. 1, 1947, and was stationed at New Boston.

Highway Patrolman Felix A. Murphey
Patrolman Murphey was struck and killed by a car on March 4, 1954, while directing traffic at an accident scene. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 6, 1952, and was stationed at Lubbock.

Highway Patrolman Robert J. Crosby
Patrolman Crosby was shot to death while on routine patrol on Nov. 27, 1954. He began his career with the agency on Sept. 15, 1953, and was stationed at Houston.

Highway Patrolman Milton D. Brooks
Patrolman Brooks was killed in a car accident while in pursuit of a speeder on Jan. 2, 1955. He began his career with the agency on Dec. 1, 1948, and was stationed at Grand Prairie.
Highway Patrolman Audie A. Isbell
Patrolman Isbell was killed in a car accident while in pursuit of a speeder on April 7, 1955. He began his career with the agency on Aug. 1, 1948, and was stationed at Trinity.

Texas Ranger Clarence Nordyke
Ranger Nordyke was killed in an automobile accident on July 18, 1955. He began his career with the agency on Dec. 1, 1942, and was stationed at Ozona.

Highway Patrolman Lynn Ray Smith
Patrolman Smith was killed by a truck on Jan. 25, 1957, while he was working radar. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 4, 1956, and was stationed at Matador.

Highway Patrolman Benjamin Kyle Smith
Patrolman Smith was shot and killed on June 23, 1958, while trying to apprehend a car theft suspect. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 4, 1956, and was stationed at Conroe.
Motor Vehicle Inspection
Patrolman Herman Paul Marshall
Patrolman Marshall was killed in an automobile accident on May 17, 1960. He began his career with the agency on April 2, 1958, and was stationed at Childress.

Highway Patrolman Richard Dale Berens
Patrolman Berens was killed March 8, 1963, in a car accident while in pursuit of a speeder. He began his career with the agency on April 15, 1959, and was stationed at Rockport.

Polygraph Operator Oscar Bowen Brett
Polygraph Operator Brett and Ranger White were killed in a car-train accident while on their way to Richmond on Dec. 8, 1961, during a murder investigation. Brett began his career with the agency on April 8, 1957. White began his career with the agency on Sept. 12, 1956. Both were stationed at Houston.

Texas Ranger H.A. White
Highway Patrolman Kenneth W. Harrison
Patrolman Harrison was shot to death on June 8, 1963, while transporting prisoners to Gainesville. He began his career with the agency on March 28, 1956, and was stationed at Gainesville.

Highway Patrolman Bobby Lee Maynard
Patrolman Maynard was killed in an automobile accident on Nov. 30, 1964. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 2, 1962, and was stationed at League City.

Highway Patrolman Harry Lee Mills, Jr.
Patrolman Mills was killed April 3, 1965, in a car accident. He began his career with the agency Dec. 7, 1960, and was stationed at Sinton.

Highway Patrolman Charles Austin Pryor
Patrolman Pryor was killed April 27, 1965, in a car-truck accident. He began his career with the agency on May 23, 1962, and was stationed at Dumas.
Highway Patrolman Robert Franklin Stinnett
Patrolman Stinnett was killed July 2, 1965, in a car-truck accident. He began his career with the agency on May 9, 1942, and was stationed at Vernon.

Highway Patrolman Darvin K. Hogg
Patrolman Hogg was shot to death on April 25, 1966, by a subject who had killed three persons. He began his career with the agency on Nov. 25, 1963, and was stationed at Nixon.

Highway Patrolman Billy Ray Wynn
Patrolman Wynn was killed in a car accident on Dec. 24, 1967, while attempting to locate a reported drunk driver. He began his career with the agency on Nov. 20, 1963, and was stationed at Jasper.

Highway Patrolman Fred Carlton Burns
Patrolman Burns died on Jan. 2, 1968, as a result of injuries he received when his patrol car was struck by a truck-tractor. He began his career with the agency on Nov. 1, 1941, and was stationed at Conroe.
Safety Education Patrolman Tom P. Holland
Patrolman Holland was killed when his DPS vehicle was struck by a train on April 23, 1969. He began his career with the agency on Aug. 1, 1959, and was stationed at Beaumont.

Highway Patrolman Norman Edward Zator
Patrolman Zator was shot and killed on Oct. 6, 1969, by two traffic violators. He began his career with the agency on Feb. 16, 1966, and was stationed at La Marque.

Highway Patrolman Travis Raburn Locker
Patrolman Locker died Nov. 9, 1969, after being shot by three traffic violators. He began his career with the agency on June 20, 1960, and was stationed at Waxahachie.

Highway Patrolman Douglas Houston Thompson
Patrolman Thompson was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver on Dec. 7, 1969. He began his career with the agency on Sept. 1, 1965, and was stationed at Weatherford.
Highway Patrol Sergeant Gara Oliver Cooper
Sergeant Cooper was hit and killed by an automobile while directing traffic on Oct. 2, 1970. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 3, 1947, and was stationed at Marshall.

Highway Patrolman Billy Dan Howry
Patrolman Howry was killed on March 18, 1972, when he was hit by a car after stopping a violator. He began his career with the agency on April 15, 1959, and was stationed at Georgetown.

Highway Patrolman Gayle Lamar Holmes
Patrolman Holmes was shot and killed while answering a disturbance call on May 19, 1972. He began his career with the agency on May 7, 1969, and was stationed at Spur.

Highway Patrolman Ernest C. Dobbs
Patrolman Dobbs was killed on Feb. 15, 1974, when he was struck by an automobile. He began his career with the agency on Feb. 16, 1966, and was stationed at Centerville.
Highway Patrolman Larry Eugene Hobson
Patrolmen Hobson and Winn were killed Dec. 1, 1973, when their patrol car overturned. Hobson began his career with the agency on Dec. 18, 1968. Winn began his career with the agency on Jan. 4, 1956. Both were stationed at Athens.

Highway Patrolman Kobler C. Winn

Highway Patrol Trooper John D. Oldham
Trooper Oldham was killed July 7, 1974, when he was struck by a passing motorist while he was working traffic. Trooper Hambrick witnessed the accident and suffered a fatal heart attack. Oldham began his career with the agency on Nov. 29, 1972, and was stationed at Baird. Hambrick began his career with the agency on Feb. 14, 1967, and was also stationed at Baird.

Highway Patrol Trooper Harold D. Hambrick
Highway Patrol Trooper Hollie L. Tull
Trooper Tull was shot and killed on Sept. 14, 1974, when he stopped two subjects wanted for bank robbery and attempted murder. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 7, 1960, and was stationed at Temple.

Narcotics Agent Patrick Allen Randel
Agent Randel was shot to death on Oct. 23, 1974, by two narcotics dealers. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 2, 1962, and was stationed at Austin.

Highway Patrol Trooper Jimmie Weldon Parks
Trooper Parks was killed on Aug. 10, 1975, when he was struck by an automobile. He began his career with the agency on April 1, 1949, and was stationed at Big Spring.

Highway Patrol Trooper Mark Allen Frederick
Trooper Frederick was shot to death on April 4, 1976, after stopping a subject suspected of using a stolen credit card. He began his career on Sept. 23, 1970, and was stationed at Bellville.
Highway Patrol
Trooper Tomie Michael Tucker
Trooper Tucker was killed in an automobile accident on May 29, 1976, while in pursuit of a motorcycle. He began his career with the agency on June 27, 1967, and was stationed at Angleton.

Highway Patrol
Trooper Sammy Charles Long
Trooper Long was shot to death on Nov. 21, 1976, when he stopped a subject for a traffic violation. He began his career with the agency on Dec. 3, 1958, and was stationed at McCamey.

Texas Ranger Bobby Paul Doherty
Ranger Doherty was shot to death on Feb. 21, 1978, while making a drug arrest. He began his career with the agency on Dec. 3, 1958, and was stationed at Fort Worth.

Narcotics Sergeant James Dalrymple
Sergeant Dalrymple was killed in an automobile accident on June 5, 1978, during a narcotics investigation. He began his career with the agency on Sept. 12, 1956, and was stationed at Austin.
Highway Patrol Trooper Jerry Don Davis
Trooper Davis was shot to death on Oct. 5, 1980, after stopping a subject for a traffic violation. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 10, 1979, and was stationed at Slaton.

Highway Patrol Trooper Hollis Stephen Lacy
Trooper Lacy was killed in an automobile accident on Dec. 26, 1980, while pursuing a traffic violator. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 10, 1979, and was stationed at Denton.

License & Weight Trooper Howard W. Jordan
Trooper Jordan was killed on June 2, 1981, when he was struck by a passing vehicle while weighing a truck. He began his career with the agency on Oct. 6, 1971, and was stationed at Texarkana.

Highway Patrol Trooper David Irvine Rucker
Trooper Rucker was shot and killed on Sept. 29, 1981, after stopping a subject for a traffic violation. He began his career with the agency on July 31, 1968, and was stationed at Port Isabel.
Highway Patrol Trooper Ernesto Alanis
Trooper Alanis was killed on Feb. 27, 1983, when he was run over by a drunk driver while making a routine traffic stop. He began his career with the agency on May 24, 1978, and was stationed at McAllen.

Highway PatrolTrooper Daniel Morrison Higdon
Trooper Higdon was killed along with a motorist on March 13, 1983, when he and the motorist were standing between two trucks and one of the trucks rolled back, striking both of them. He began his career with the agency on Feb. 12, 1975, and was stationed at Tyler.

Highway Patrol Trooper Milton Alexander
Trooper Alexander died on April 14, 1983, of injuries received when a subject driving a stolen vehicle intentionally rammed his patrol car. He began his career with the agency on Feb. 14, 1967, and was stationed at Hillsboro.

License & Weight Captain Robert Ray Jones
Captain Jones was accidentally shot and killed during a firearms training demonstration on Sept. 16, 1983. He began his career with the agency on April 1, 1949, and was stationed at Garland.
Highway Patrol Trooper Russell Lynn Boyd
Trooper Boyd was shot and killed on Oct. 11, 1983, by a subject he had stopped for a traffic violation. He began his career with the agency on June 9, 1982, and was stationed at Hempstead.

Highway Patrol
Trooper William P. Kohlleppel
Trooper Kohlleppel was killed on April 19, 1985, when he was struck by a tractor-trailer truck while he had a violator stopped. He began his career with the agency on Jan 14, 1981, and was stationed at Sealy.

Texas Ranger Stanley Keith Guffey
Ranger Guffey was killed at Horseshoe Bay on Jan. 22, 1987, while helping to rescue a 2-year-old girl being held by a kidnapper who had already killed an employee of the girl’s family. Guffey began his career with the agency on Oct. 2, 1968. He was stationed at Brady.

Highway Patrol Corporal Willie Dale Taylor
Corporal Taylor was killed on May 19, 1990, when his parked patrol car was struck from behind. Taylor began his career with the agency on Oct. 2, 1962. He was stationed at Ozona.
Highway Patrol Sergeant William J. Kuhnle
Sergeant Kuhnle and Trooper Zerda were killed on May 21, 1989, when a drunken driver crashed his 18-wheeler into their parked patrol car. Kuhnle and Zerda had stopped their car after pulling over a drunken driver suspect. Kuhnle began his career with the agency on May 24, 1978, while Zerda began on June 13, 1984. Both were stationed at San Antonio.

Highway Patrol Trooper Ralph G. Zerda

Highway Patrol Trooper Mark Jeffrey Phebus
Trooper Phebus was shot on Sept. 17, 1990, while answering a call to a family disturbance. Phebus began his career with the agency on Sept. 12, 1989. He was stationed at Houston.

Highway Patrol Trooper Carlos Ray Warren
Trooper Warren was shot to death on March 5, 1991, when he interrupted a kidnapping in progress at a roadside park. Warren began his career with the agency on Jun 11, 1986, He was stationed at Austin.
Highway Patrol Trooper Bill Davidson
Trooper Davidson died on April 14, 1992, from injuries suffered when he was shot after stopping a stolen vehicle. He began his career with the agency on June 26, 1973, and was stationed at Edna.

Highway Patrol Trooper Bobby Steve Booth
Trooper Booth was shot and killed on June 16, 1993, while responding to a disturbance call at a roadside park. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 20, 1987, and was stationed at Stratford.

Highway Patrol Trooper Troy Hogue
Trooper Hogue was shot and killed on Dec. 30, 1994, while interviewing a suspect from a one vehicle accident. He began his career with the agency on Jan. 19, 1988, and was stationed at Big Spring.

Highway Patrol Trooper Timothy Wade McDermott
Trooper McDermott died on May 14, 1995, from injuries suffered when his vehicle left the roadway and overturned. He began his career with the agency on Dec. 7, 1977, and was stationed in Marshall.
Highway Patrol Trooper Roel Garcia
Trooper Garcia was killed on March 26, 1997, when his patrol car collided with a truck. Garcia began his career with the agency on June 10, 1981. He was stationed at Falfurrias.

Highway Patrol Trooper Terry Miller
Trooper Miller was shot and killed October 12, 1999, as he responded to the scene of a phony 911 call near Pleasanton in Atascosa County. Two other law enforcement officers were killed in the ambush. Miller began his career with the agency in July 1997. He was stationed in Pleasanton.

Highway Patrol Trooper Randall W. Vetter
Trooper Vetter died August 7, 2000, from wounds he suffered during a traffic stop near Kyle, Texas on August 3. Vetter began his career with the agency on December 6, 1994. He was stationed in San Marcos.

Vehicle Inspection Trooper Richard Dale Cottle
Trooper Cottle died May 9, 2001, after a four-vehicle wreck in McLennan County. Cottle began his career with the agency on October 6, 1971. He was stationed in Waco.
Highway Patrol Trooper Kurt David Knapp
Trooper Knapp died May 8, 2004, after he collided with another vehicle while on patrol. Knapp began his career with the agency in October 1998. He was stationed in Fredericksburg.

Highway Patrol Trooper Jimmy Ray Carty Jr.
Trooper Carty died on May 26, 2005, from injuries he sustained during a training drill during recruit school.

Highway Patrol Trooper Billy J. Zachary
Trooper Zachary died January 1, 2006, when he was struck by a pickup truck while conducting a traffic stop. He had been with the DPS since February 2004. Trooper Zachary was stationed in Monahans.

Highway Patrol Trooper Matthew D. Myrick
Trooper Myrick died January 20, 2006 after a one-vehicle crash. Trooper Myrick, who was stationed in Hereford, had been with the DPS since 2004.
Highway Patrol Trooper Eduardo Chavez
Trooper Chavez died May 2, 2006, in a one-vehicle crash near the Hidalgo/Starr county line. He was responding to a call for assistance from a fellow trooper. Trooper Chavez was stationed at Palmview and had been with the DPS since 2003.

Highway Patrol Trooper Todd Dylan Holmes
Trooper Holmes died March 14, 2007, in a two-vehicle crash 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 had been with the DPS since 2005. He was stationed in Gilmer.

Highway Patrol Trooper James Scott Burns
Trooper Burns was shot and killed on April 29, 2008, after stopping a subject for a traffic violation. Trooper Burns had been with the DPS since 2003. He was stationed in Jefferson.

Highway Patrol Corporal David Ralph Slaton
Corporal Slaton was killed in a two-vehicle traffic crash on September 20, 2010. Corporal Slaton had been with the DPS since 1974. He was stationed in Bowie.
Highway Patrol  
**Trooper Jonathan Thomas McDonald**

Trooper McDonald was killed in a one-vehicle traffic crash on November 15, 2010. Trooper McDonald had been with the DPS since 2008. He was stationed in Post.

Public Safety Communications  
**Howard “Lee” Lombard**

Mobile Command Technical Specialist Lombard was killed in an on-duty accident on April 4, 2011, preparing the “Texas Command” communications trailer for a Ranger Recon deployment. Lombard had been with the DPS since 2008.